

Southern Wood Cricket, *Gryllus fultoni* (Alexander) (Insecta: Orthoptera: Gryllidae)¹

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The Featured Creatures collection provides in-depth profiles of insects, nematodes, arachnids, and other organisms relevant to Florida. These profiles are intended for the use of interested laypersons with some knowledge of biology as well as academic audiences.

Introduction

The southern wood cricket, *Gryllus fultoni*, is actually a field cricket even though it lives in the woods. However, a more precise nomenclature, say, 'southern woodland field cricket' would be too long and self-contradictory for a useful common name.

North American Crickets

Distribution

This species occurs throughout southeastern US except in south peninsular Florida.



Figure 1. Distribution of the Southern wood cricket throughout the United States.

Credit: UF/IFAS

Identification

In the southern wood cricket, the **color pattern of the forewings** lacks the well defined longitudinal stripe of the **southeastern field cricket** and the well-defined light veins

and crossveins of the **sand field cricket**. The forewings are not as short and usually not as dark as in the taciturn wood cricket. The stridulatory file has more widely spaced teeth than in the sand field cricket and the **taciturn wood cricket**. The ovipositor is less than 1.2 times the length of the hind femur. Long-winged individuals are not known from the field, but they occur occasionally in laboratory cultures.



Figure 2. Male southern wood cricket, *Gryllus fultoni* (Alexander).

Credit: Paul M. Choate, UF/IFAS



Figure 3. Female southern wood cricket, *Gryllus fultoni* (Alexander).

Credit: Paul M. Choate, UF/IFAS

Life Cycle

The southern wood cricket overwinters as a mid-sized juvenile and matures in spring. In Florida, some of the progeny of spring adults overwinter as juveniles and others mature in late summer and may produce additional overwintering juveniles. Farther north, this partial second generation is lacking.

Habitat

Found in upland pine, turkey oak, moist to dry broadleaf forest.

Song

The [calling song](#) (672 Kb wav file) is a series of fast-pulsed chirps, with a chirp rate of about two per second. Most chirps have three pulses, with the initial one being somewhat weaker than the rest ([graphs](#)).

Selected References

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