

CHAPTER 19

Listroscelinae: Predaceous Katydids

Members of this subfamily are formidable predators. The two U.S. species belong to the genus *Neobarrettia* (formerly *Rehnia*) and live in arid areas of the Southwest.

Neobarrettia: Arid-Land Katydids

Identification: (Fig. 19-1) (25-52 mm) Forewings well developed but shorter than abdomen. Forelegs adapted to seizing prey as evidenced by their being longer than the middle legs and having prominent spines along both lower edges of the femur and tibia (Fig. 19-2).

Remarks: These katydids do not necessarily retreat when molested and will assume a threatening pose with bright wings flared, mandibles opened wide, and spiny forelegs raised high. If given the opportunity, they may attack and draw blood—not your average katydid!

References: Cohn 1957*, 1965*.

GREATER ARID-LAND KATYDID *Neobarrettia spinosa* Map 19-1

Identification: (34-45 mm, males; 44-52 mm females) Front edge of pronotum black; femoral teeth black; center of hindwings translucent brown with lighter spots; length of forefemur 13-19 mm.

Habitat: Oak-juniper, mesquite, bushland, shrubby desert.

Season: June to October.

Song: (Song 19-1) A loud resonant phrase repeated continuously at ca. 1/sec., only at night.

LESSER ARID-LAND KATYDID *Neobarrettia victoria* Map 19-2

Identification: (Fig. 19-1) (25-32 mm, males; 31-37 mm females) Front edge of pronotum green; femoral teeth bicolored; center of hindwings jet black; length of forefemur 8-12 mm, males, 10-14 mm females.

Habitat: Mesquite, bushland, shrubby desert.

Season: Late June to October.

Song: (Song 19-2) A pulsating phrase repeated continuously at ca. 2/sec., mostly at night.

