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#### FLUID RECYCLING IN AGATHYMUS ARYXNA (MEGATHYMIDAE)

On 2 October 1965, while observing large numbers of *Agathymus aryxna* (Dyar) drinking at a stream in Ramsey Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains of southeastern Arizona, I observed an unusual behavioral phenomenon. On at least six occasions a male *A. aryxna* was observed to alight on a dry rock, curl its abdomen anteroventrally, and emit a drop of fluid from the anus. The megathymid then proceeded to siphon the fluid from the rock surface with its proboscis. On some occasions the drop of fluid was placed directly on the posteroventrally directed proboscis and on other occasions the drop was smeared on the rock face as the insect moved backward to bring the proboscis in contact with the fluid. The frequency with which this behavior was observed suggests that perhaps this is not an uncommon behavioral pattern for this species.

Feeding at water appears to be a well-documented behavioral characteristic for several species of *Agathymus*.<sup>1,2</sup> Roever reports "pumping" behavior of males but does not record recycling of the excreta. However, Roever (personal communication, 1965) reports that he has also observed the recycling behavior on occasion.

An analysis of the excreta might provide an explanation for the recycling behavior. Unfortunately, I did not obtain samples of the excreted fluid.

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<sup>1</sup> C. Brown & J. Creelman, 1935. Habits of *Megathymus stephensi* Skin. and notes on other *Megathymus* (Lepid.: Hesperioidea). Ent. News, 46: 175-177.

<sup>2</sup> K. Roever, 1964. Bionomics of *Agathymus* (Megathymidae). Jour. Res. Lepid., 3: 103-120.