
**A Note on the Righting Action
of *Telamona westcotti* Goding (Homoptera, Membracidae)**

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The first observation was made at the Station campground on August 9, 1960. An active, rather soft-bodied, non-flying female *Telamona westcotti* Goding taken by hand from a bur oak, *Quercus macrocarpa* Michx., was repeatedly observed in efforts to right herself. No count was kept, but the righting action was studied many times during the hour she was under observation.

This insect has a large, long and apparently heavy pronotum which, however, lacks the high crest typical of most members of the genus. The crest is low, with a median longitudinal carina. In frontal aspect this treehopper approximates a rhombus, a shape rendering complete inversion impossible. When on its back it is really inclined about halfway.

The specimen was first placed on its back on a weathered board table top. The legs on the side closest to the table are designated "lower legs," those on the side farthest from the table, "upper legs." Upon being placed upside down the insect began a kicking action with its legs. This tended to move her in circles and occasionally flipped her over onto the other side of her back. The hind legs were used most often, but when possible, other, and sometimes all, legs were brought into play. The lower legs were used to get a grip in irregularities in the wood, and when successful she would pull on the legs to roll herself over. In addition, the upper legs were used to reach across her body for similar gripping and pulling

activity. After turning over she scrambled to her feet. Either the lower or the upper legs could accomplish the righting act.

She was unable to right herself on smooth paper or on smooth metal. On weathered fir plywood and on the upper surface of a bur oak leaf she could turn over with little difficulty. Righting was accomplished with ease on corky bark and on the under surface of a bur oak leaf.

At the Station campground on August 10, 1960, two normally sclerotized females righted themselves in a similar fashion and immediately flew away with the snap characteristic of treehoppers.
