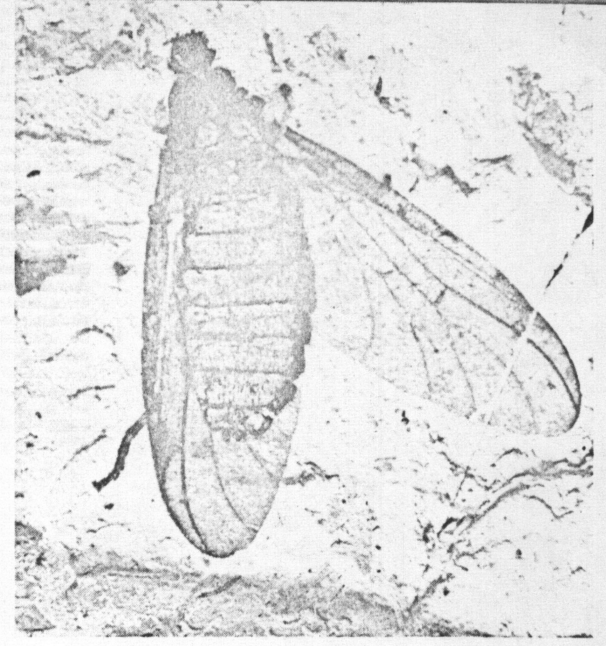
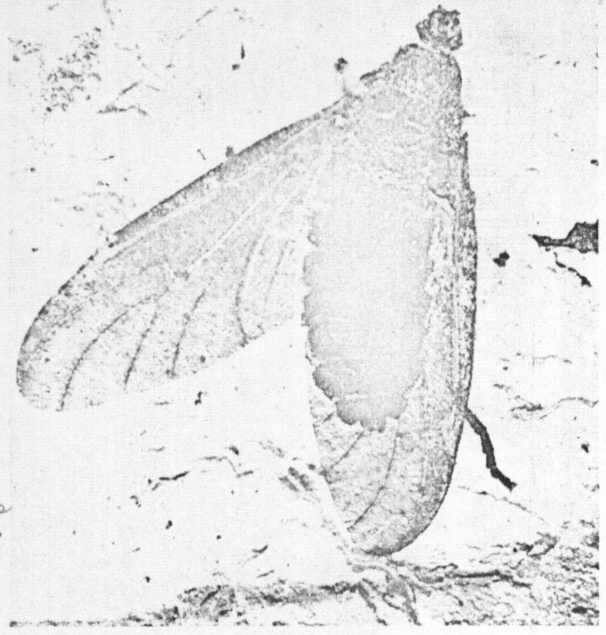


Marsh fly,  
*Plecia rhenana*.  
 Length (head to  
 wing-tip) 19 mm.  
 The actual  
 insect is to  
 the left;  
 to the right is  
 a natural cast  
 or negative  
 impression.

LACMIP  
 hypotype  
 3418

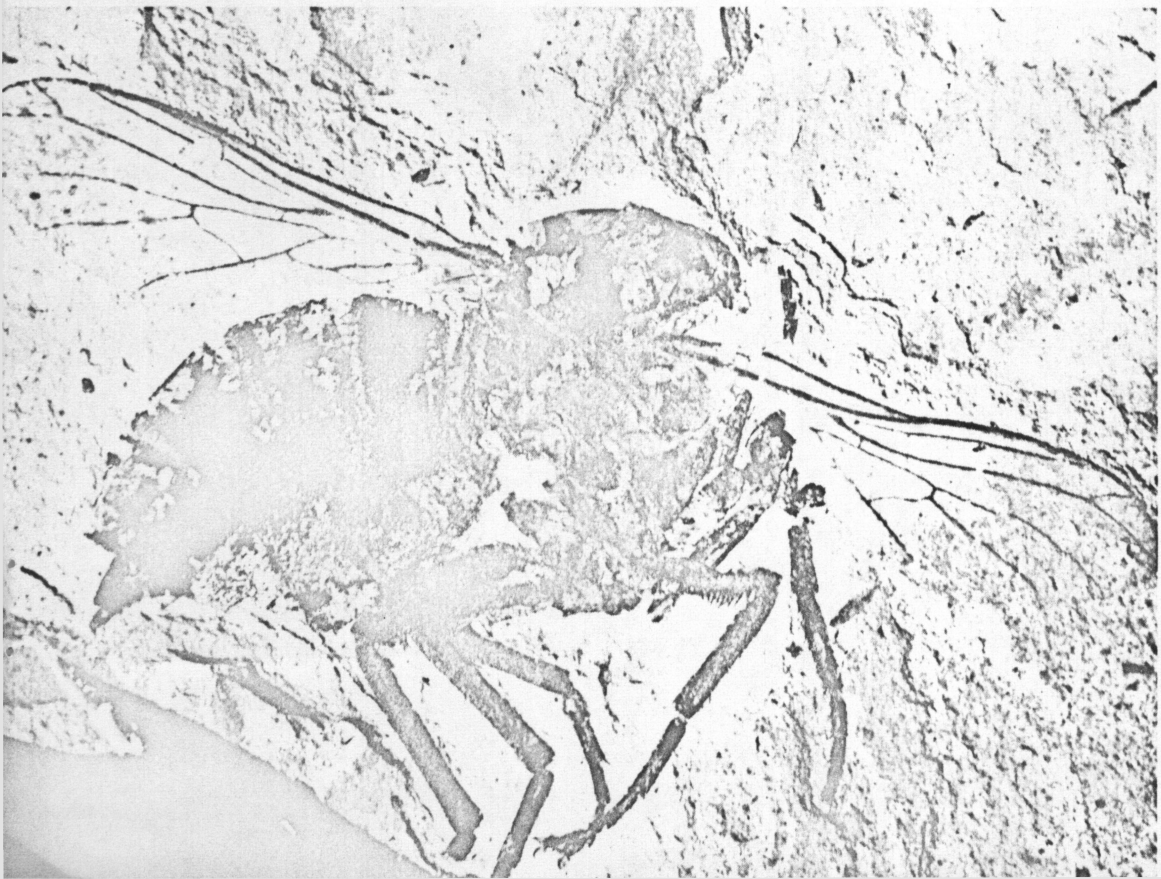


progress in science and society. But to recreate the life of the past and relate it to that of the present takes more than hard work and pure science. It takes imagination. As Dr. Fred Truxal, Los Angeles County Museum curator of entomology and now guardian of the Statz Collection, put it: "You could look at all those beautiful specimens, meticulously classified and described, and think, 'What a cold, scientific mind it must have taken to do all this painstaking work.' Nothing could be farther from the truth. To me, Statz was a poet."

Just how much of a poet is shown in every line of the Statz monographs. No matter how detailed and accurate his scientific descriptions, he always found

time to speculate on the lives of his ancient insects—the bees, buzzing from flower to flower in the Oligocene forests, without man there to take the fruits of their labor. To him, his specimens were no mere dead, cold fossils. They were, as he wrote in closing his monograph on the 35,000,000-year-old bees of the Rhineland lignite forest, almost alive:

"Even if during the lifetime of these children of the sun no man's eye or ear could feast itself on their busy labors, it is as though the beholder of their fossilized remains even today perceives, ever so gently as from a great distance, the humming of the bees, the rustling of the leaves, and the scent of the flowers of the lignite forests. . . ."



LACMIP holotype 3631  
 ← A small fly, *Empis spinifera*, closely related to our common house fly, shows even the minute leg hairs and delicate structure of wings. Length (head and body) 7 mm.

LACMIP hypotype 3203  
 → A water bug (a true bug), *Naucoris rottensis*, immature. Length (head and body) 9 mm.