

# Taxonomy and Morphology of *Cactoblastis cactorum* and other *Opuntia*-feeding Lepidoptera in the U.S.

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# Native Lepidoptera on *Opuntia*

## Tineidae

*Dyotopasta yumaella* Kft. (Tineidae)

## Gracillaridae

*Marmara opuntiella* (cladole miner)

## Scythrididae

*Scythris mixaula*

## Crambidae

*Dicymolomia julianalis* (stems)

*Dicymolomia opuntialis*

*Loxomorpha flavidissimalis*

*Pseudoschinia elautalia*

## Pyralidae

*Erelieva quantulella* (flowers/seeds)

*Sosipatra anthophila* (flowers)

*Eurythmia hospitella* (polyphagous)

*Homoeosoma electellum*  
(polyphagous)

*Laetilia coccivora* (scales on cactus)

## Pyralidae (species related to *Cactoblastis*)

*Melitara dentata* (cladoles)

*Melitara prodenialis* (cladoles)

*Melitara apicigrammella* (?)

*Melitara texana* (?)

*Melitara doddalis* (cladoles)

*Melitara junctolineella*  
(cladoles)

*Melitara subumbrella*  
(stems/fruit)

*Ozamia fuscomaculella* (fruit)

*Ozamia lucidalis* (?)

*Ozamia clarefacta*  
(flowers/fruit)

(Neunzig, 1997; Robinson et al, 2002)

*Dyotopasta yumaella* (Tineidae)  
on *Opuntia engelmannii* (TX)



# *Cactoblastis cactorum*



# *Melitara prodenialis*



# *Melitara* in Western U.S.



# *Melitara* species on *Opuntia engelmannii* (AZ)



# *Melitara* species on *Opuntia phaecantha* (AZ)



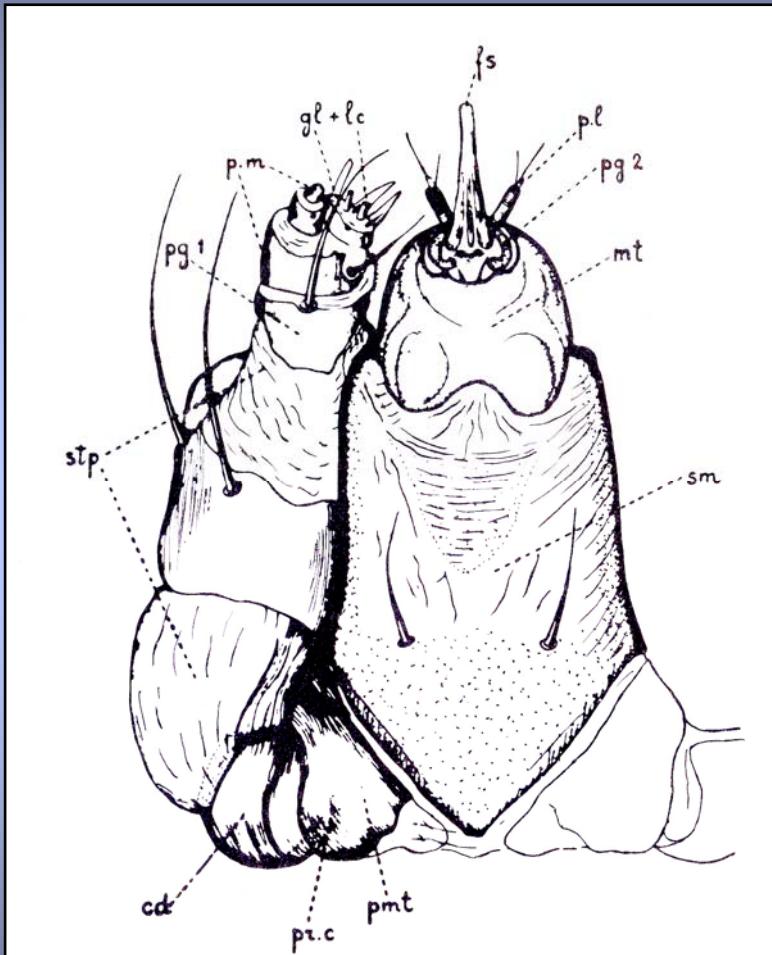
# *Melitara* species on *Opuntia macrorhiza* (NM)



# How do these larvae differ beyond the superficial?



# Sensory Structures of Larvae



Dampf, 1910

# Sensory Structures of Lepidoptera Larvae

## EM Studies

Tortricidae: *Olethreutes cespitana* (Baker & Chan 1987) (A, M)\*

Pyralidae: *Galleria melonella* (Schoonhoven & Dethier 1966) (A, M)

Sphingidae: *Manduca sexta* (Schoonhoven & Dethier 1966) (A, M)

Saturniidae: *Philosamia cynthia* (Schoonhoven & Dethier 1966) (A, M)  
*Hyalophora gloveri* (Schoonhoven & Dethier 1966) (A, M)

Noctuidae: *Euxoa messoria* (Devitt & Smith 1982 (M)  
*Mamestra brassicae* (Gaffal 1979) (M)  
*Mamestra configurata* (Schields 1994) (M)  
*Heliothis zea* (Baker et al 1986) (M)  
*Heliothis virescens* (Baker et al 1986) (M)

(see Hallberg et al, 2003)

\*Antenna (A); Mouthparts (M)

# Functions and Types of Sensilla

- Chemoreceptors
  - pored
- Mechanoreceptors
  - poreless

- Trichoid - mechanosensory and/or chemosensory
- Basiconic - olfactory
- Styloconic - gustatory
- Plate - unknown
- Thick-walled - gustatory

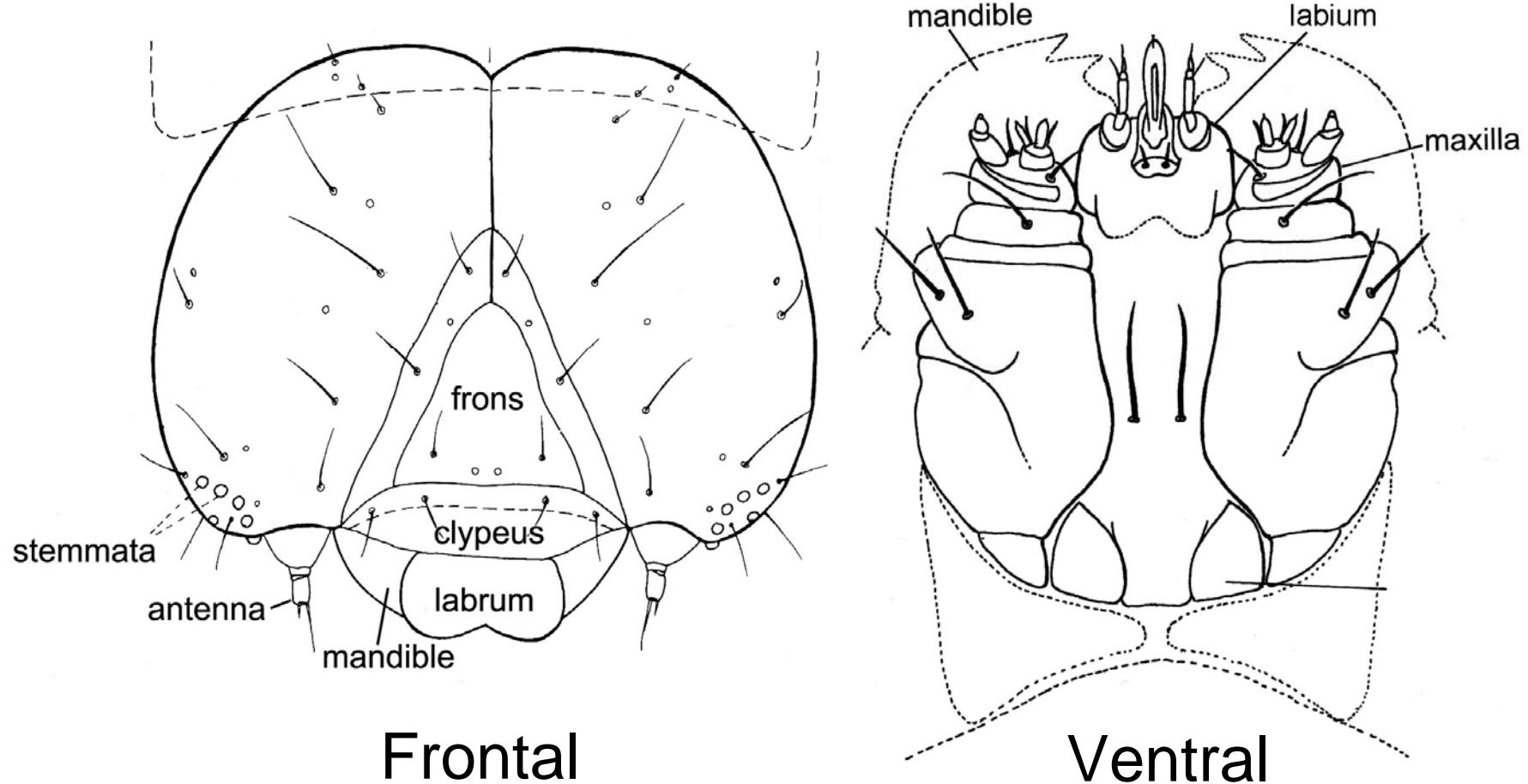
# Larval Sensilla - SEM Methods

1. Fixed in ETOH-Bouin's fixative or Bouin-Hollande fixative
2. Washed in distilled H<sub>2</sub>O, placed in detergent for 2-4 hours, sonicated, and washed in H<sub>2</sub>O.
3. Placed in 2% osmium tetroxide overnight
4. Washed in distilled H<sub>2</sub>O and dehydrated in graded series of ETOH or Acetone
5. Air dried from HMDS
6. Mounted on aluminum stubs with carbon tape
7. Coated with gold-palladium
8. Examined with JEOL-JSM6500F SEM

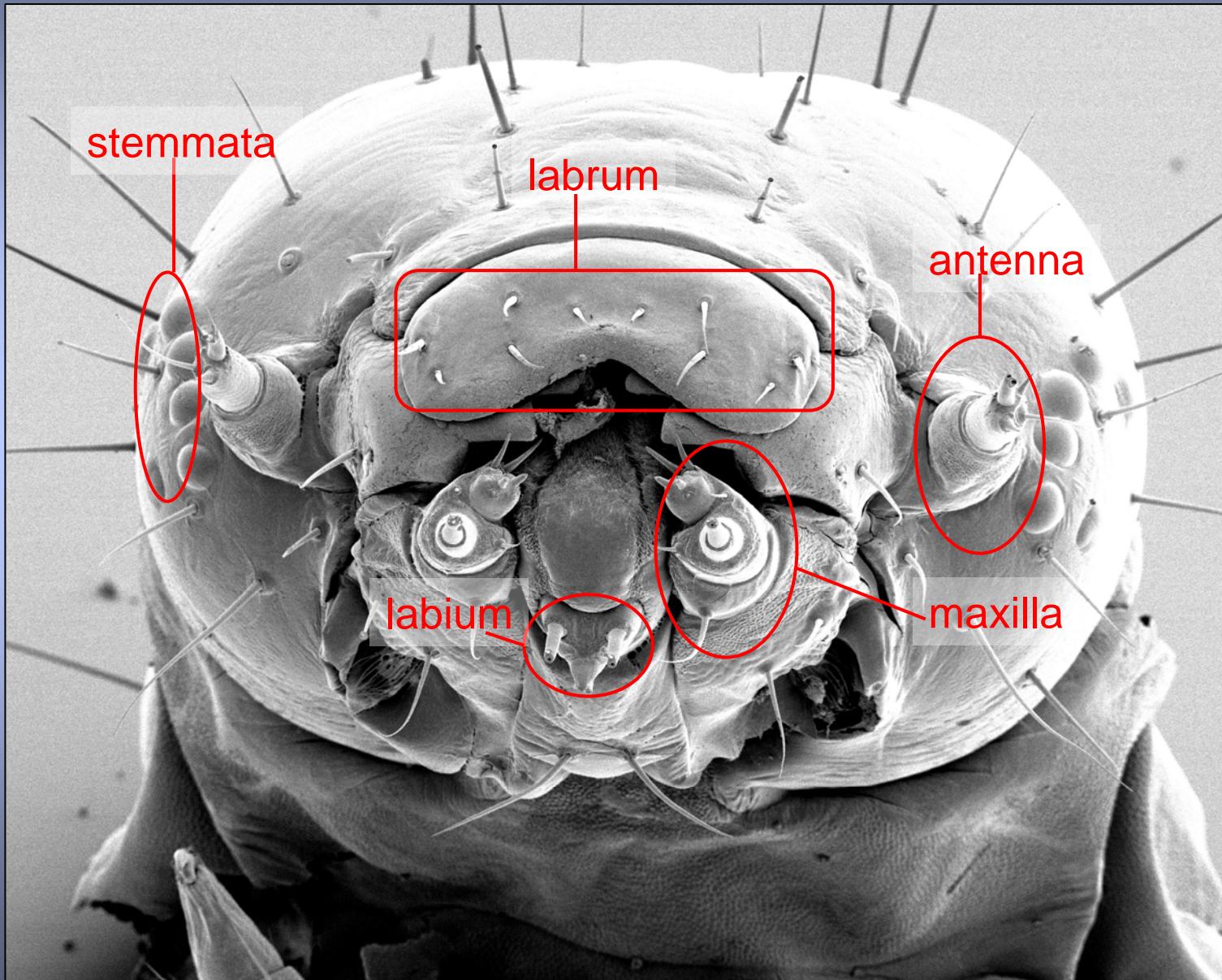
# Larval Sensilla - Staining Methods

1. Two heads of each species from ETOH-Bouin's fixative washed in distilled H<sub>2</sub>O
2. Stained with crystal violet by Slifer 1960) technique to show if sensilla were pored or poreless

# Larval Head

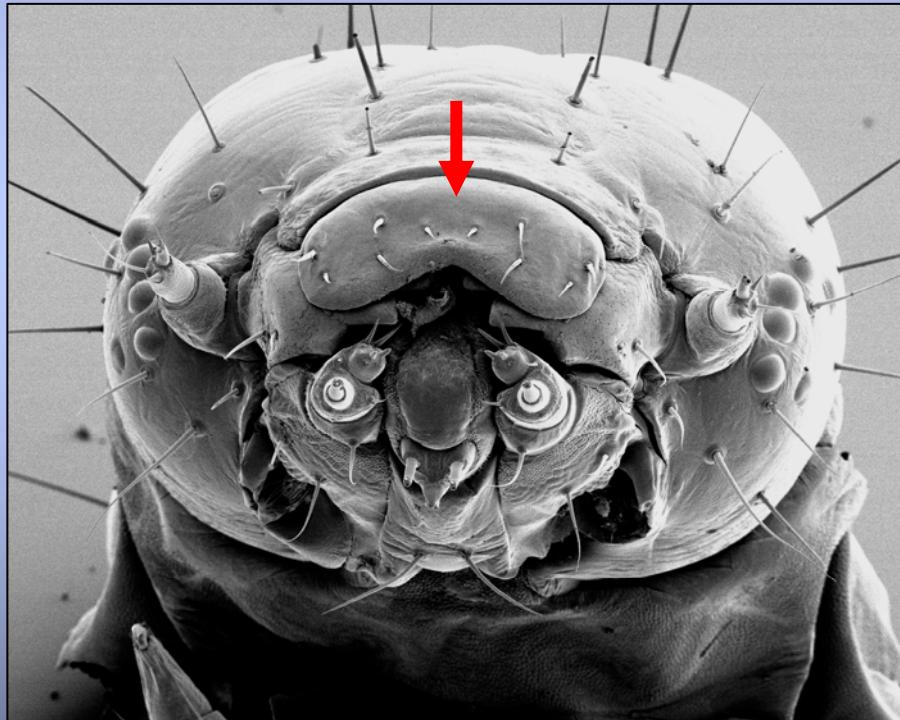


# *Cactoblastis cactorum* - frontal view

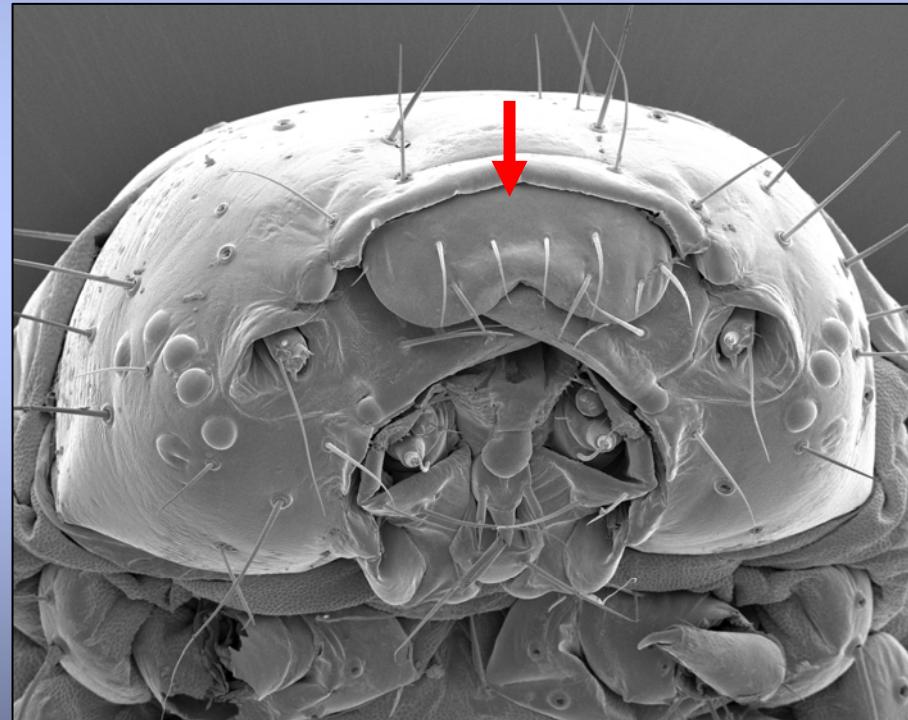


# Head -frontal

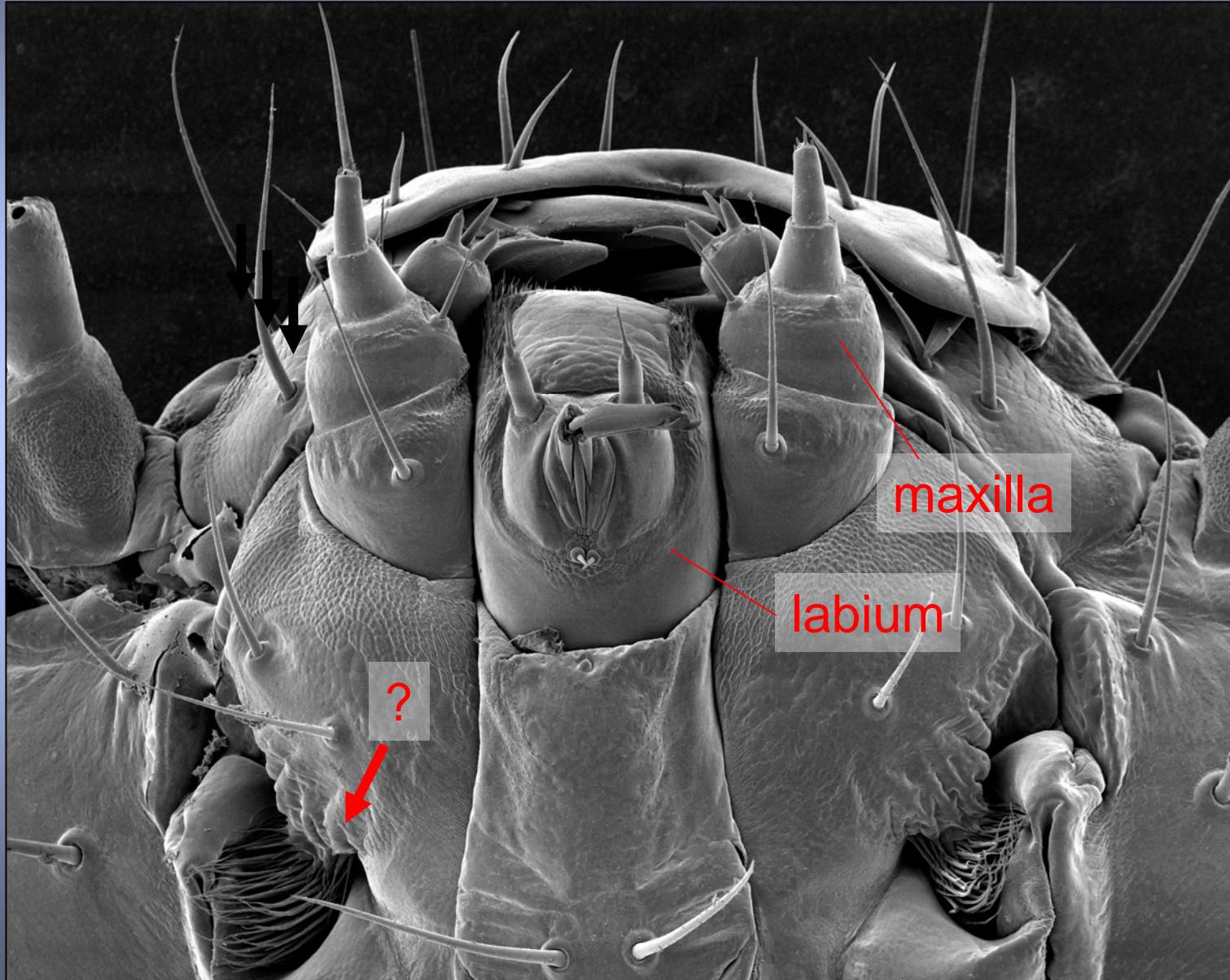
*Cactoblastis cactorum*



*Melitara prodenialis*

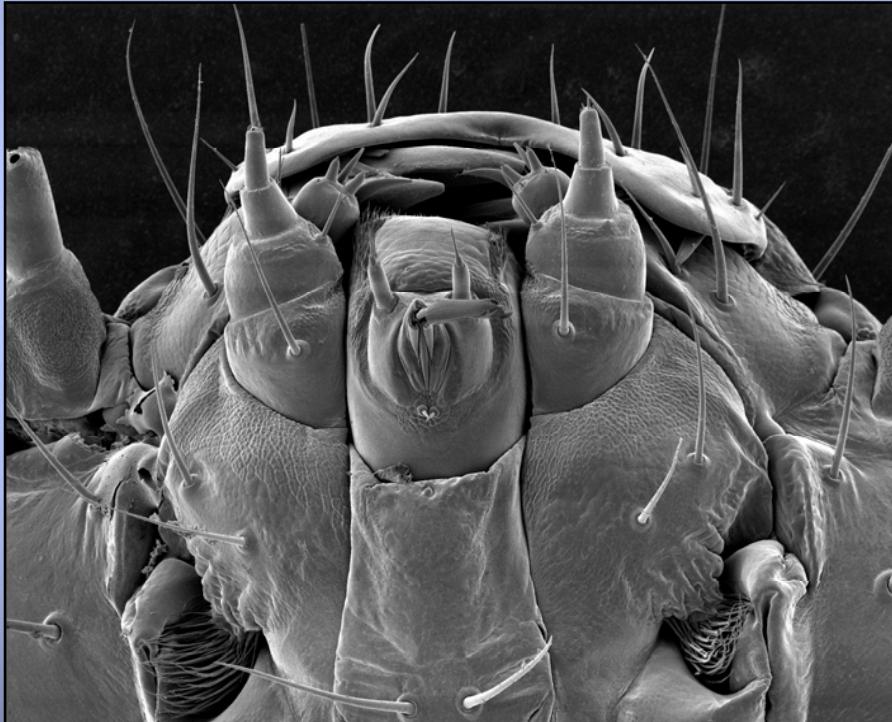


# *Cactoblastis cactorum* - ventral

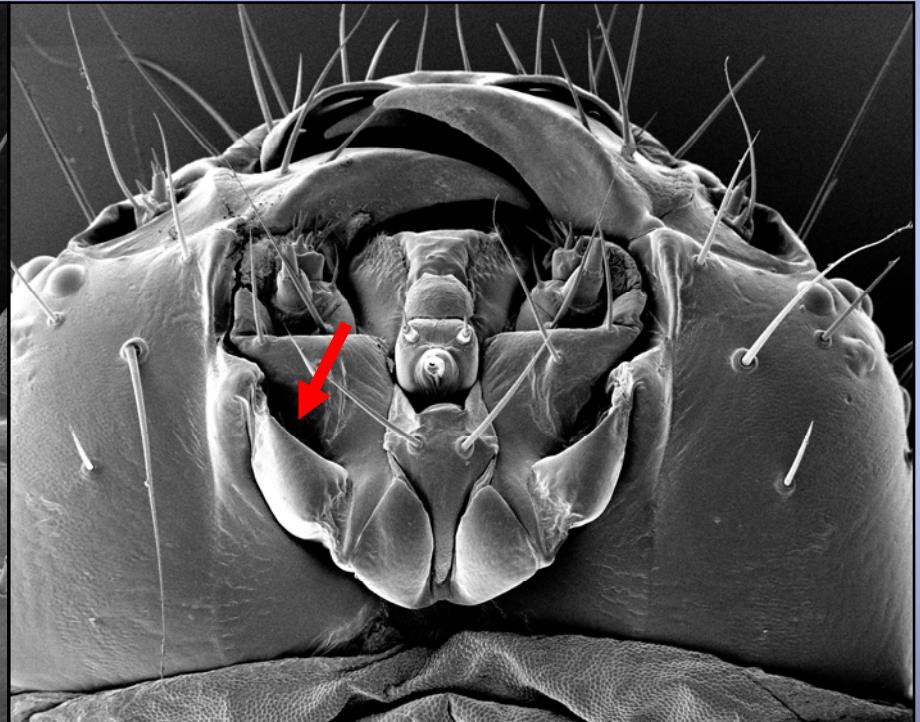


# Head - ventral

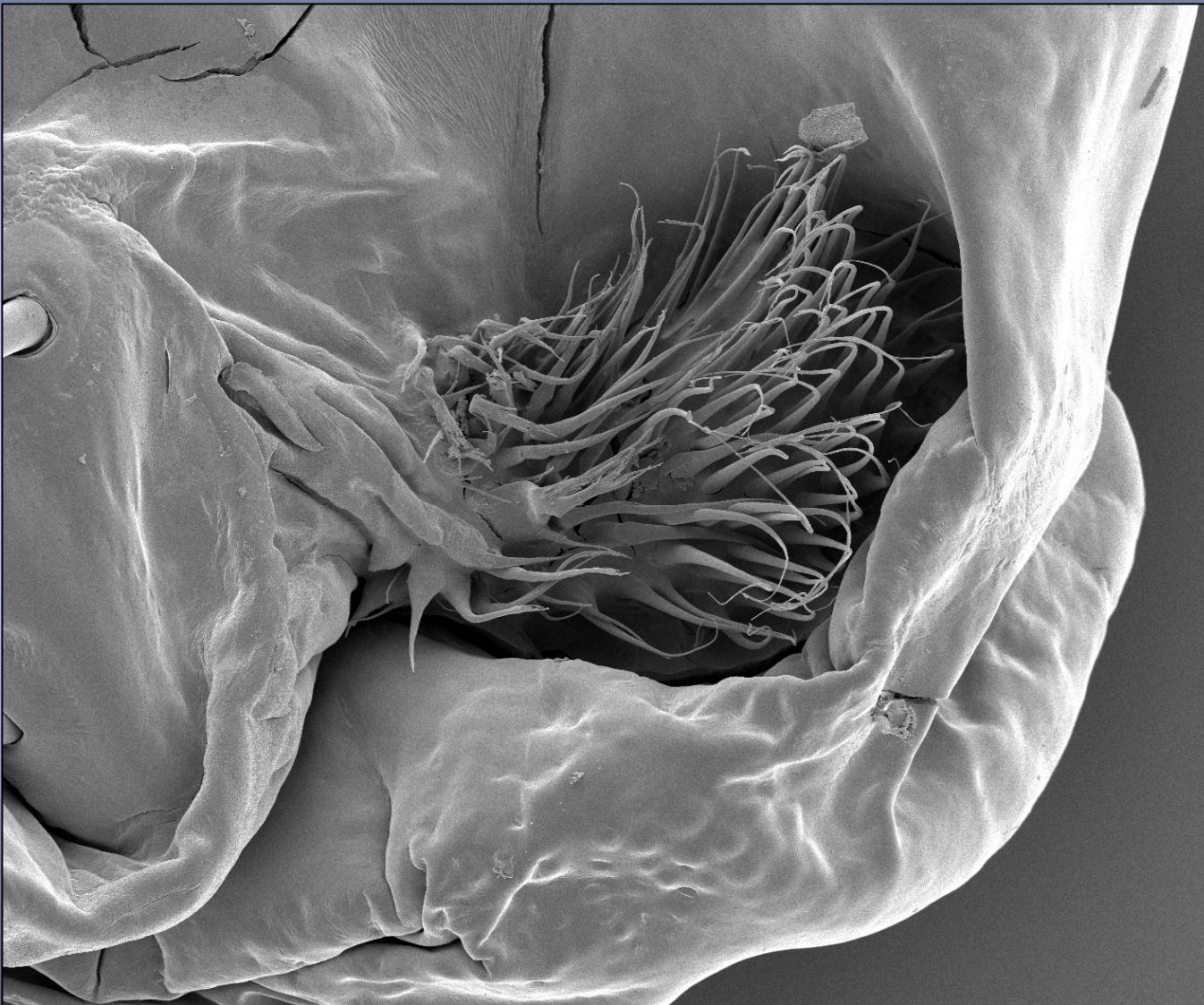
*Cactoblastis cactorum*



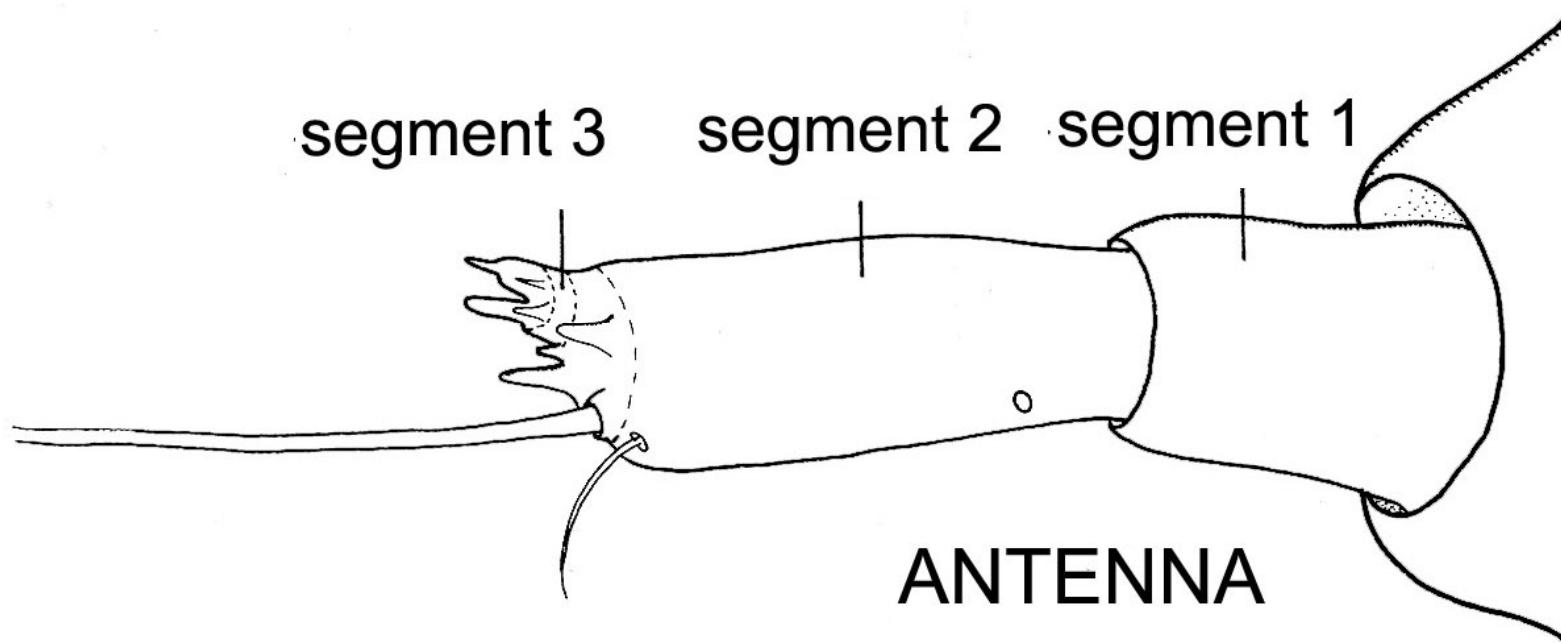
*Melitara prodenialis*



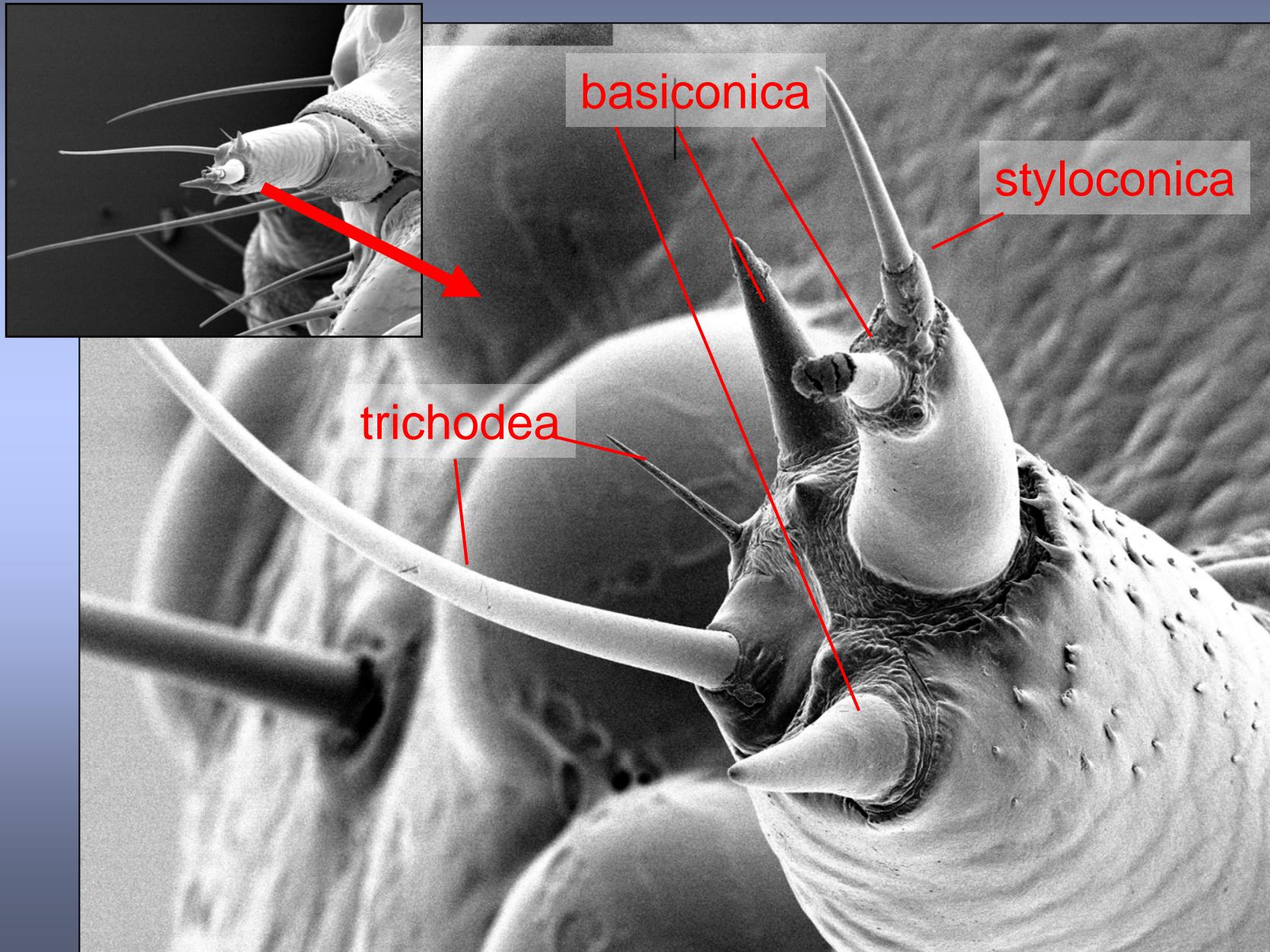
# Basistipal Fimbria



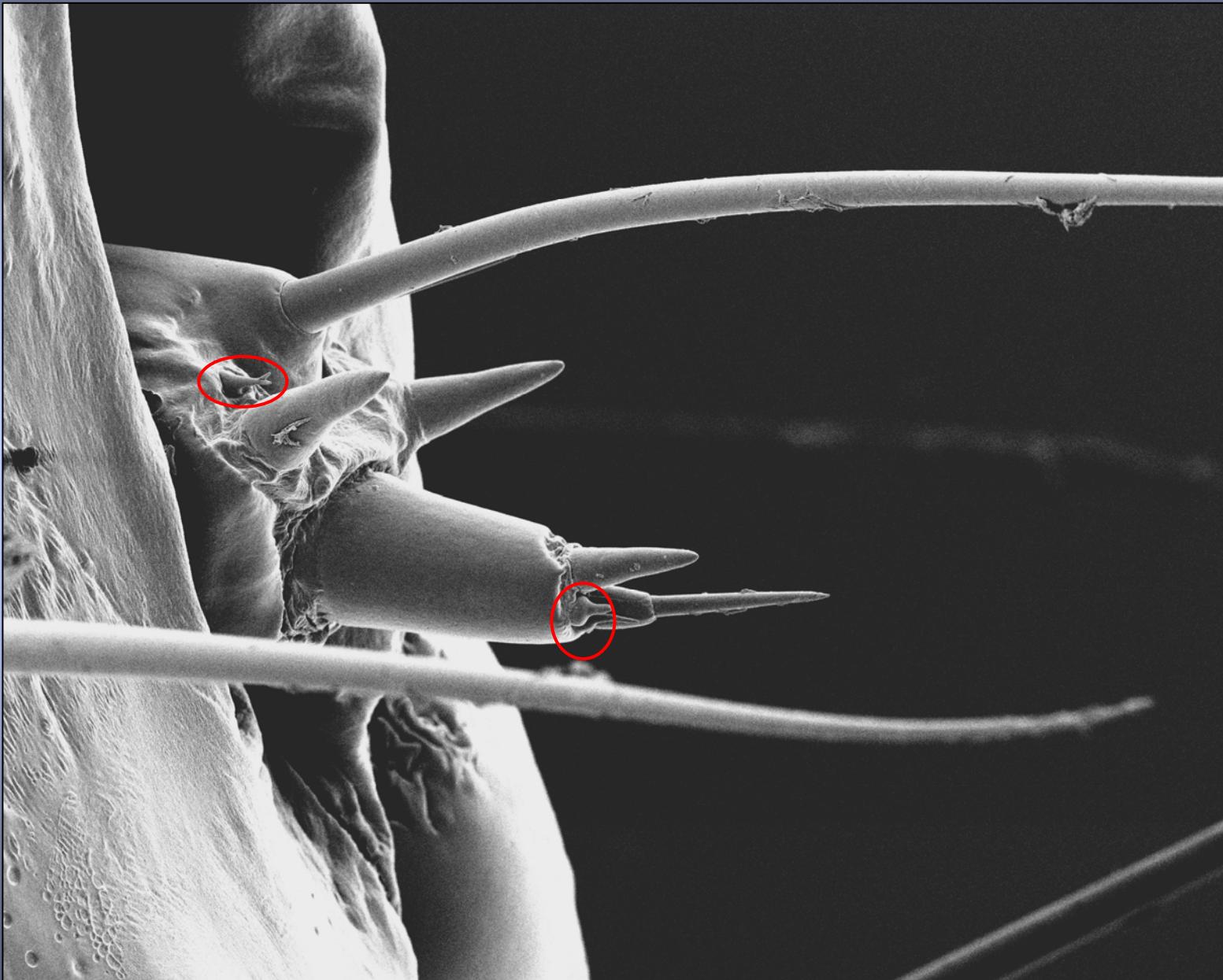
# Antenna



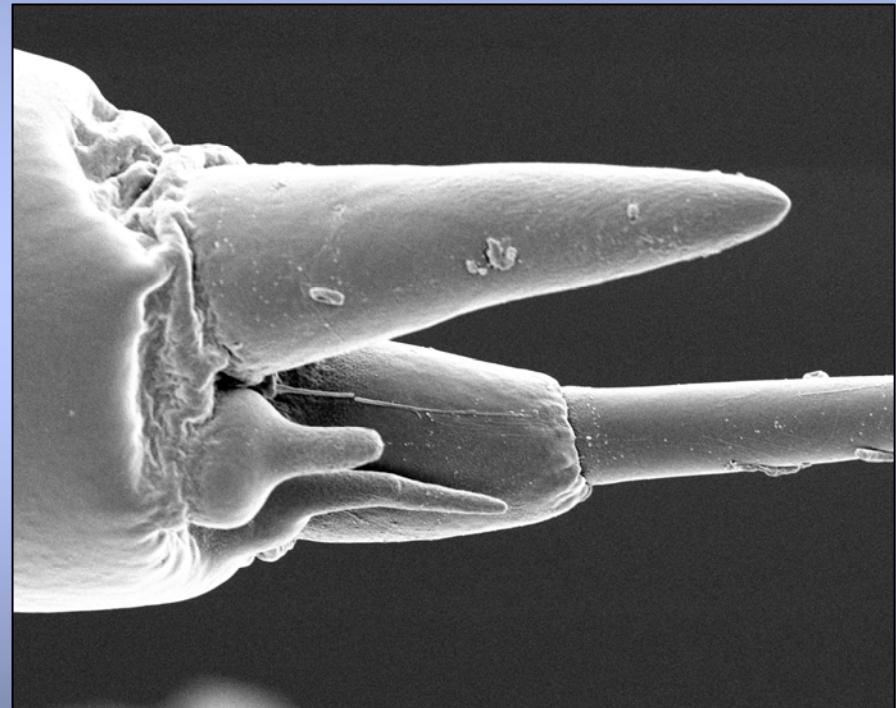
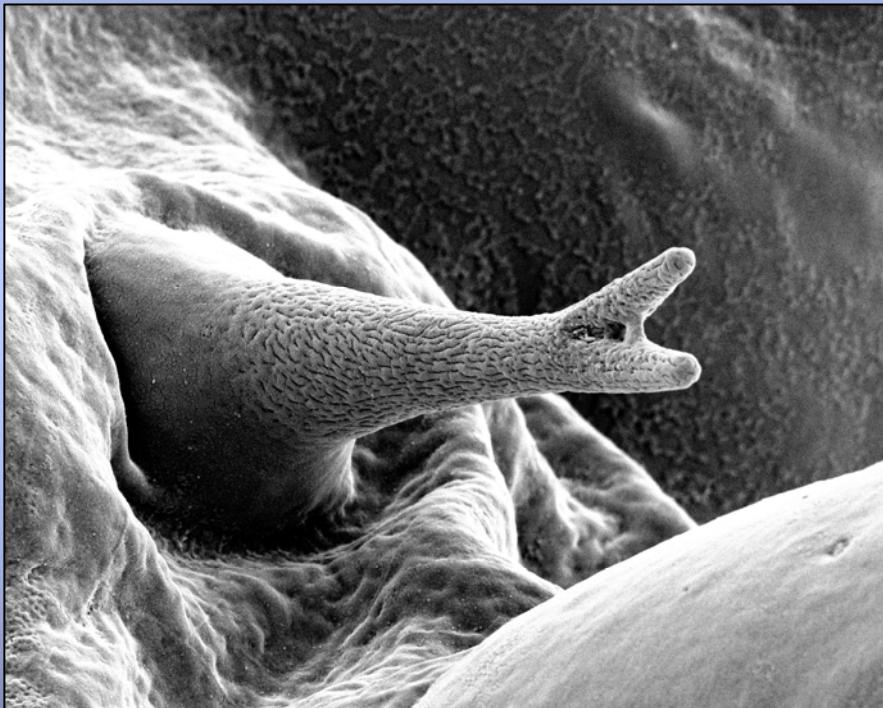
# *Cactoblastis* Antennal Sensilla



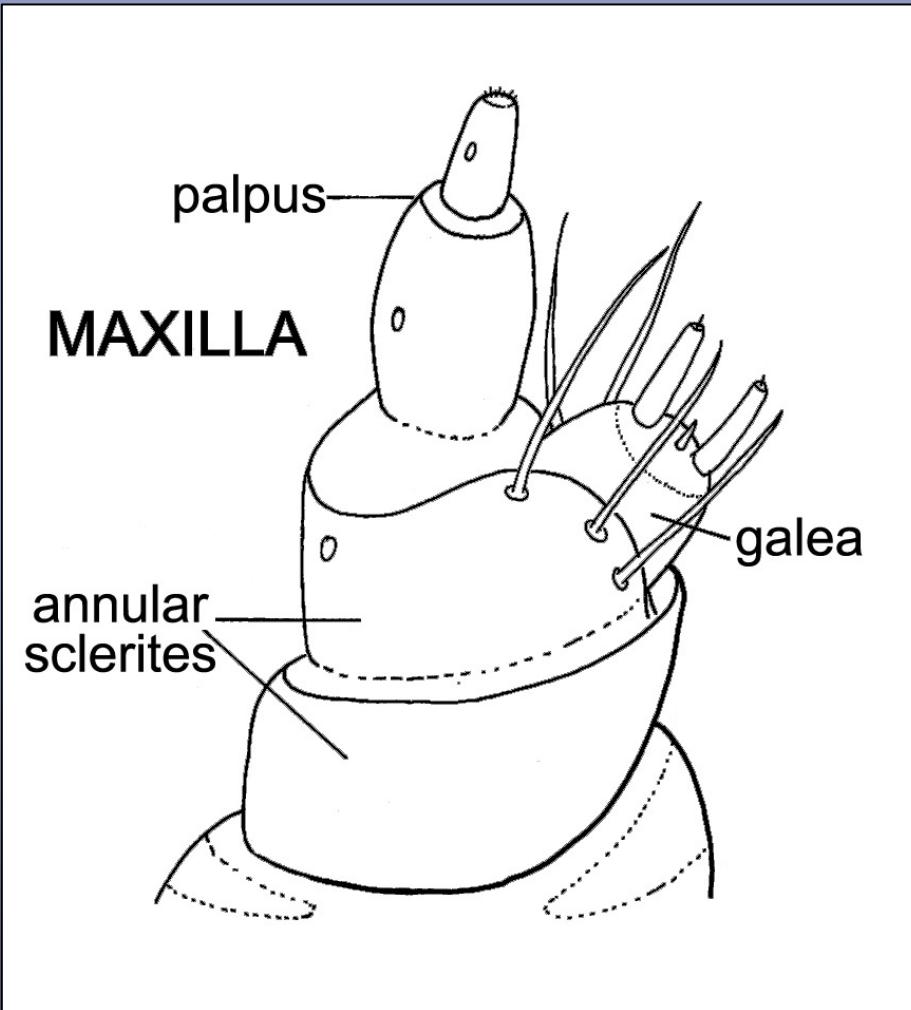
# *Melitara* Antenna



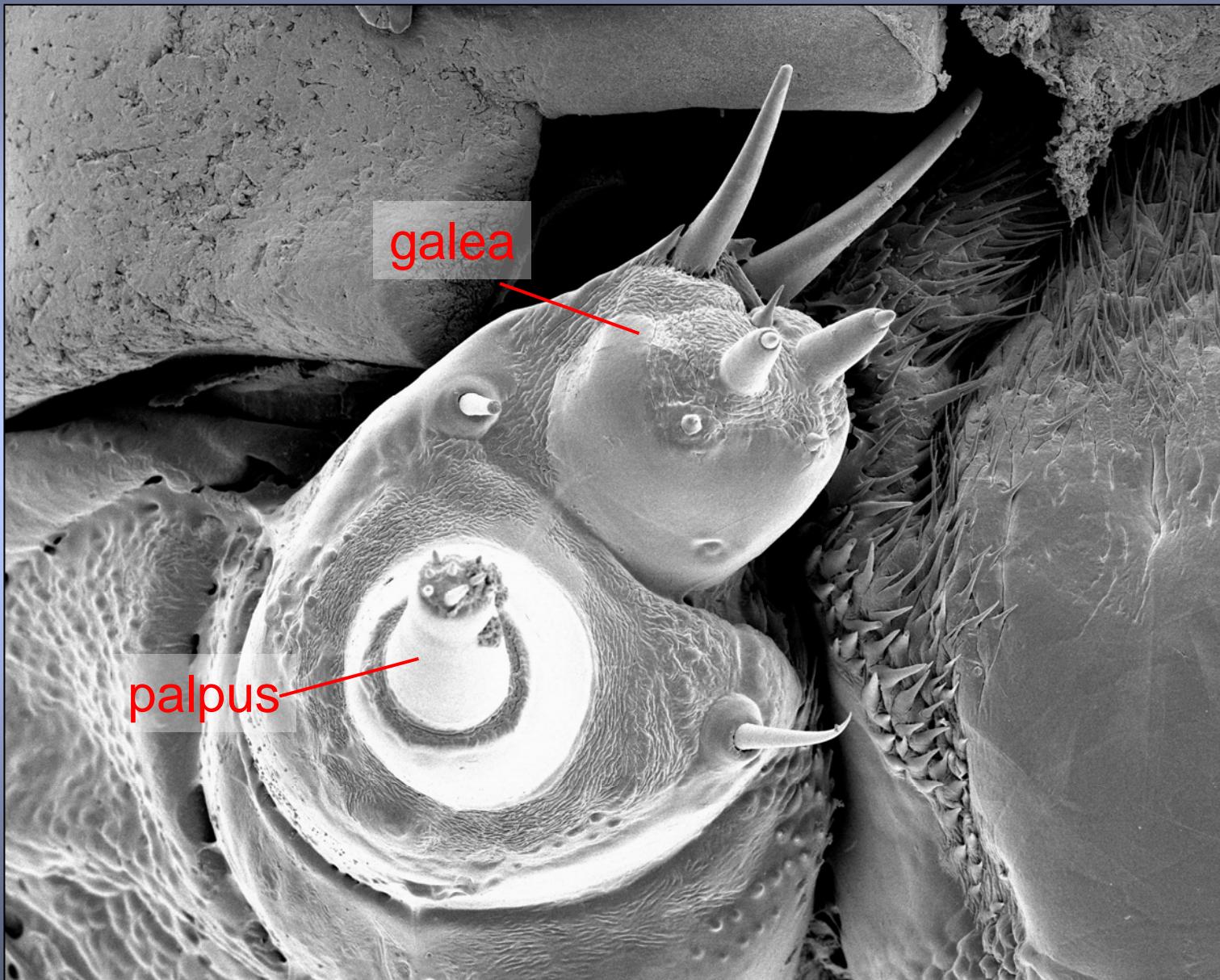
# Thick Walled Sensilla on *Melitara* Antenna



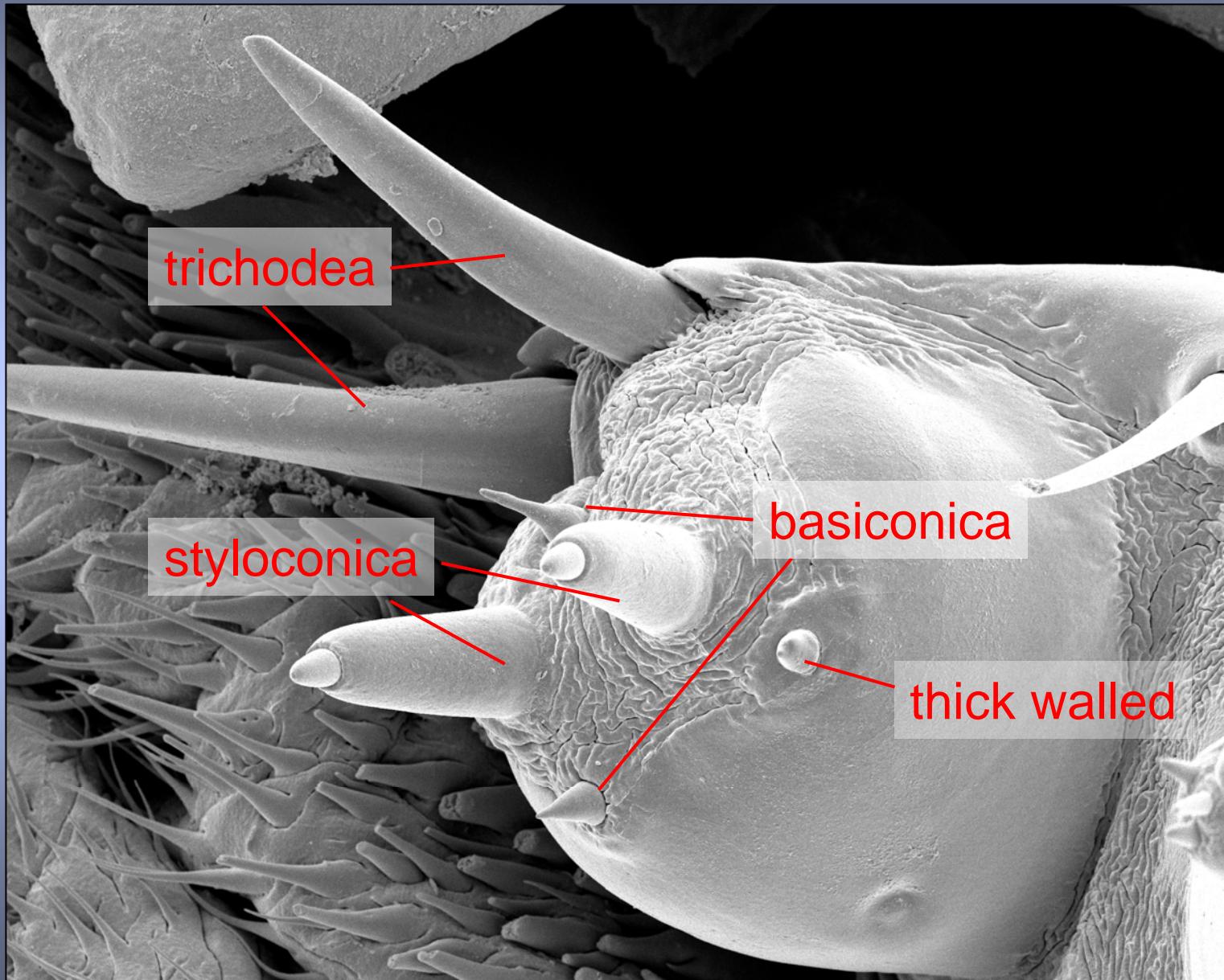
# Maxilla



# *Cactoblastis* Maxilla

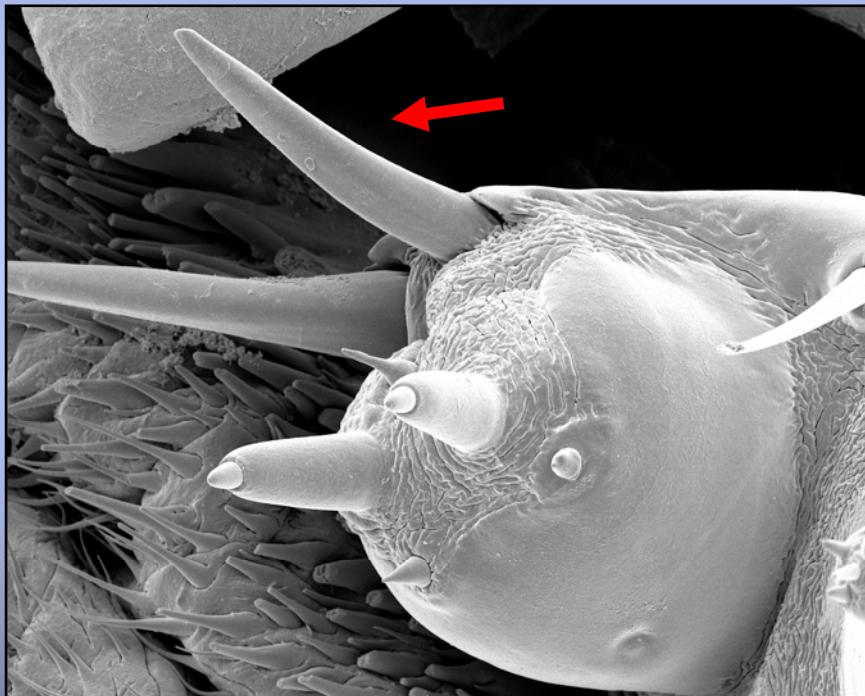


# *Cactoblastis Galea*

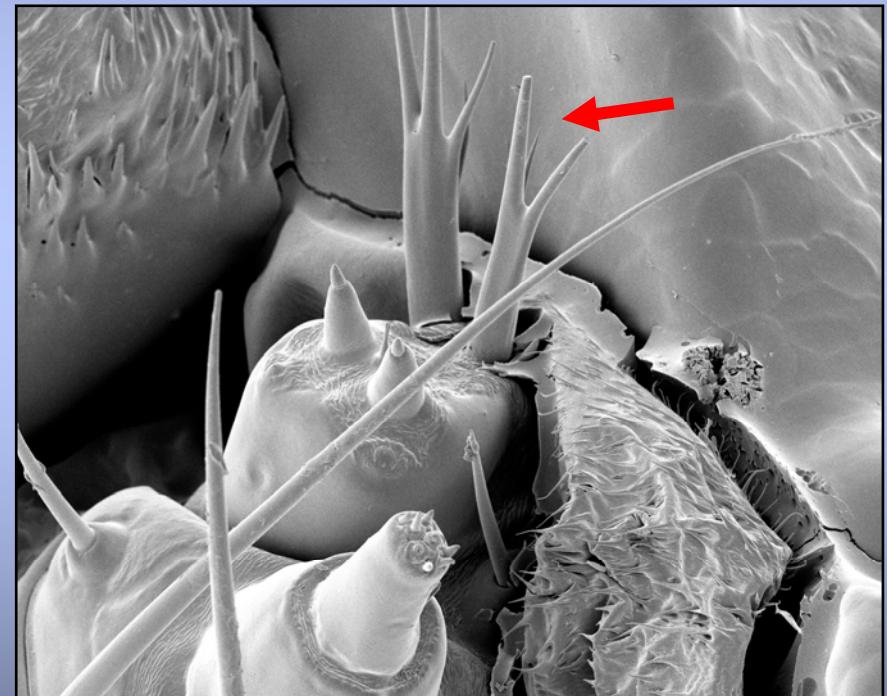


# Galea

*Cactoblastis cactorum*

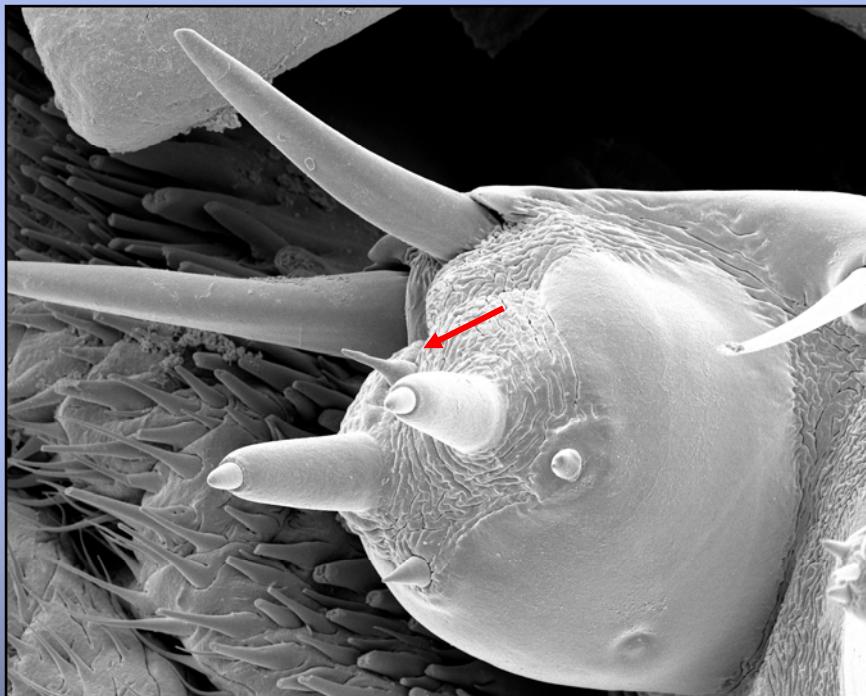


*Melitara prodenialis*

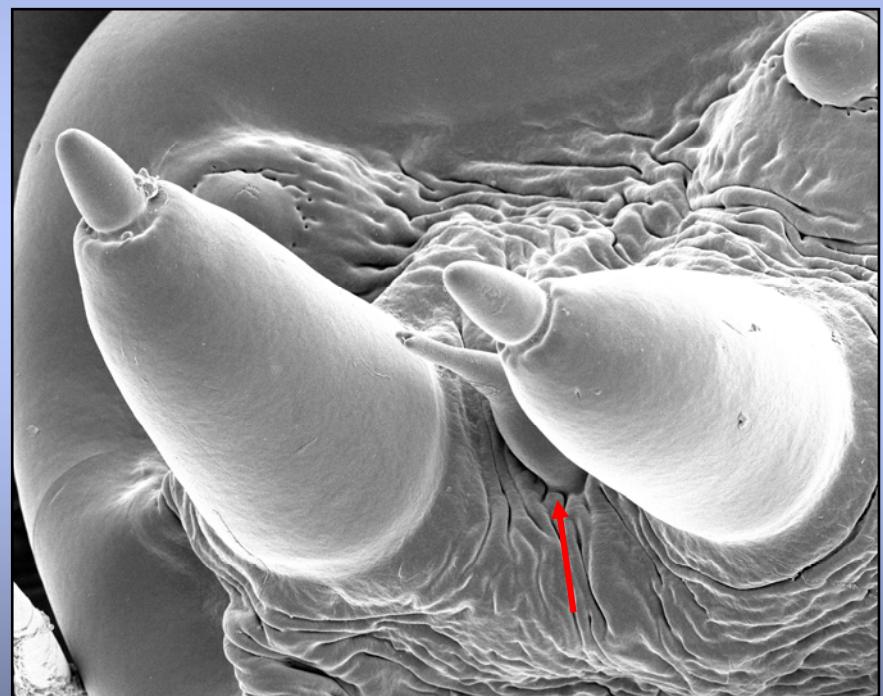


# Maxillary Galea

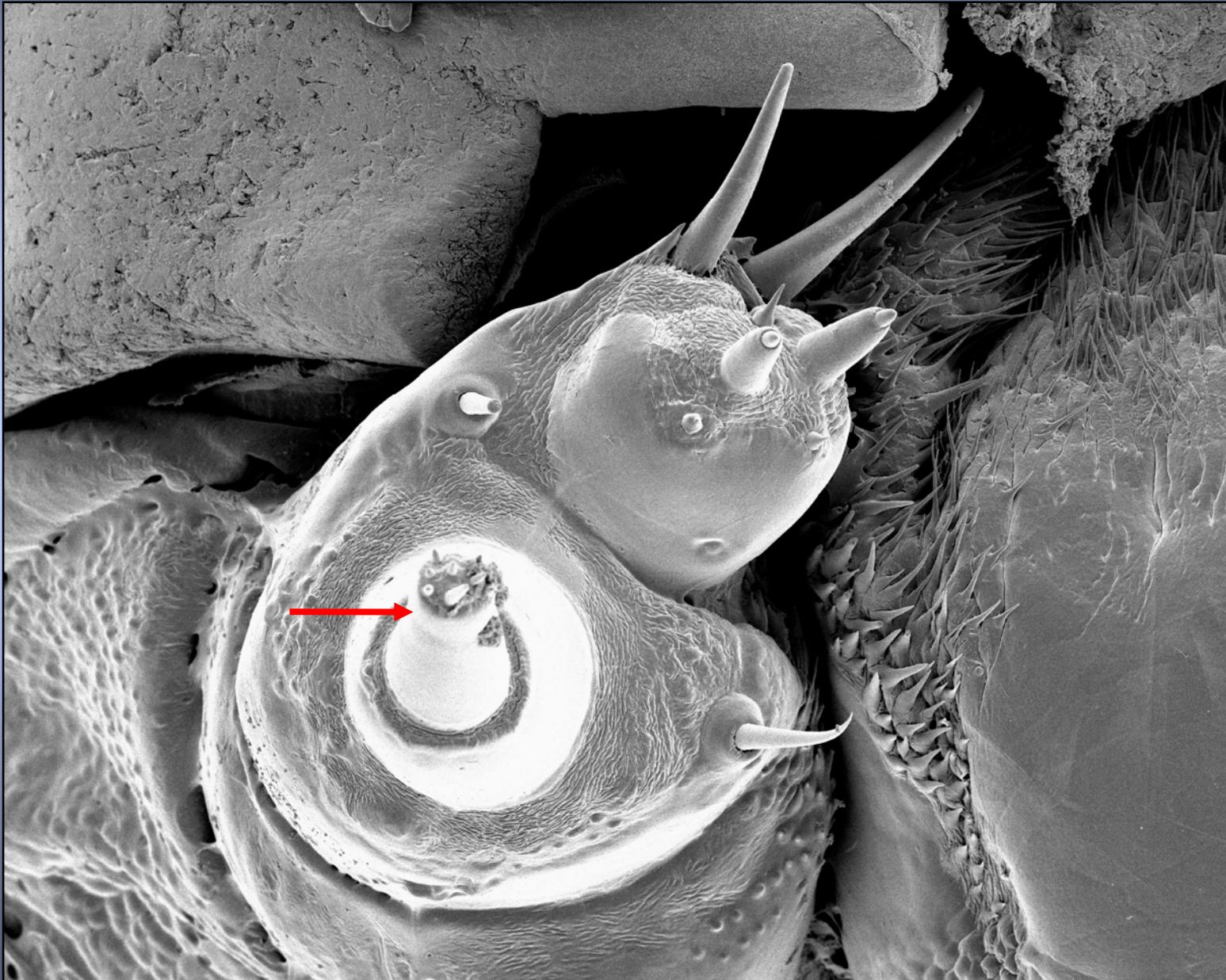
*Cactoblastis cactorum*



*Melitara prodenialis*

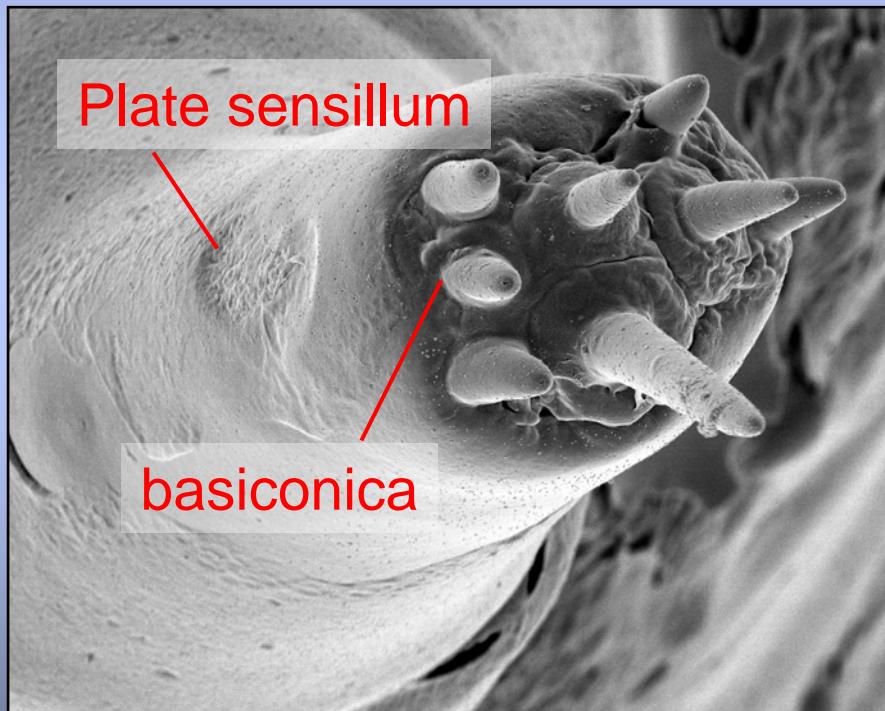


# *Cactoblastis* Maxillary Palpus

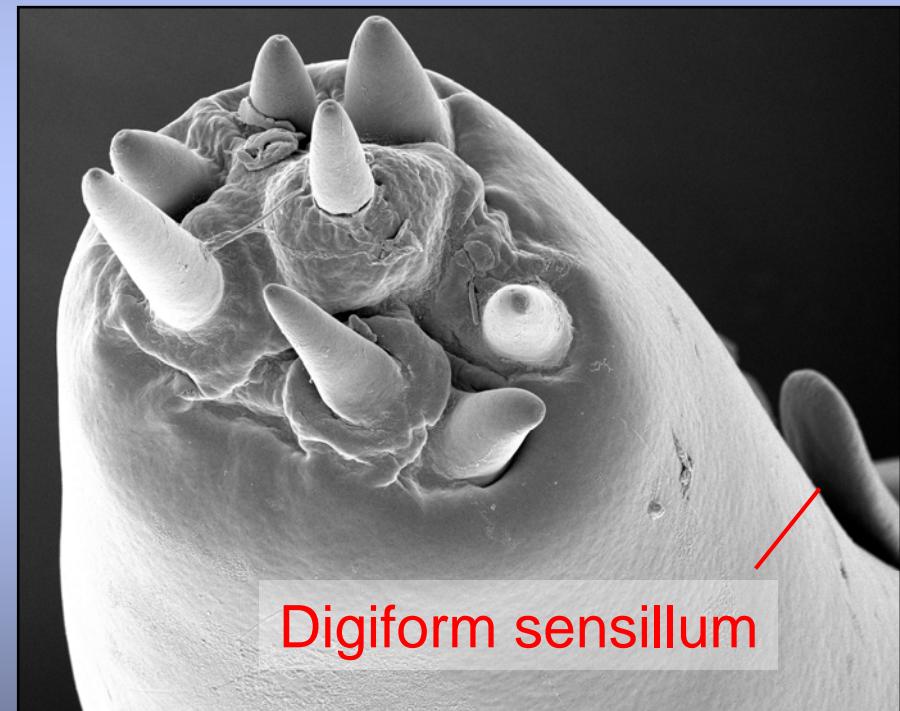


# Maxillary Palpus

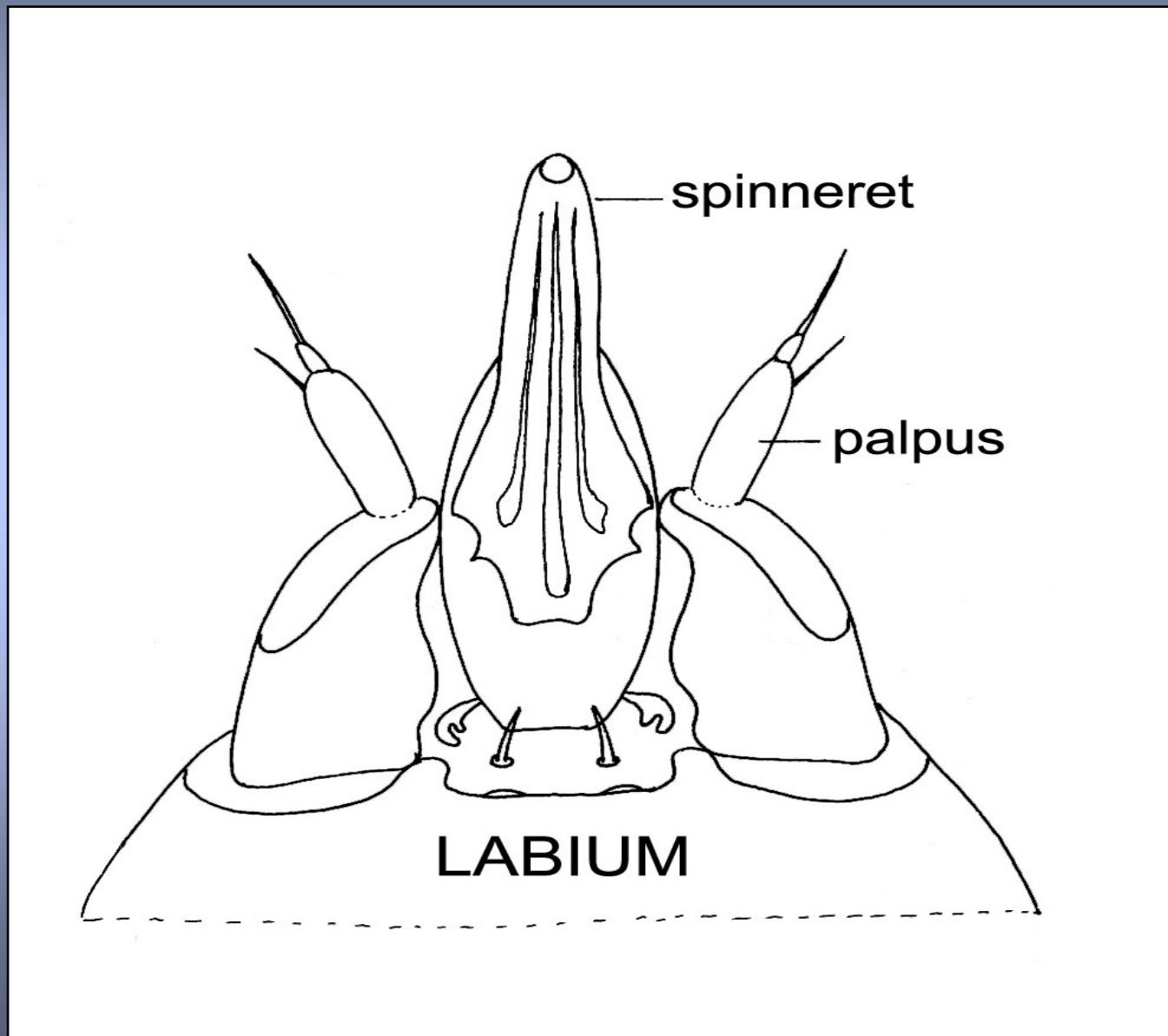
*Cactoblastis cactorum*



*Melitara prodenialis*

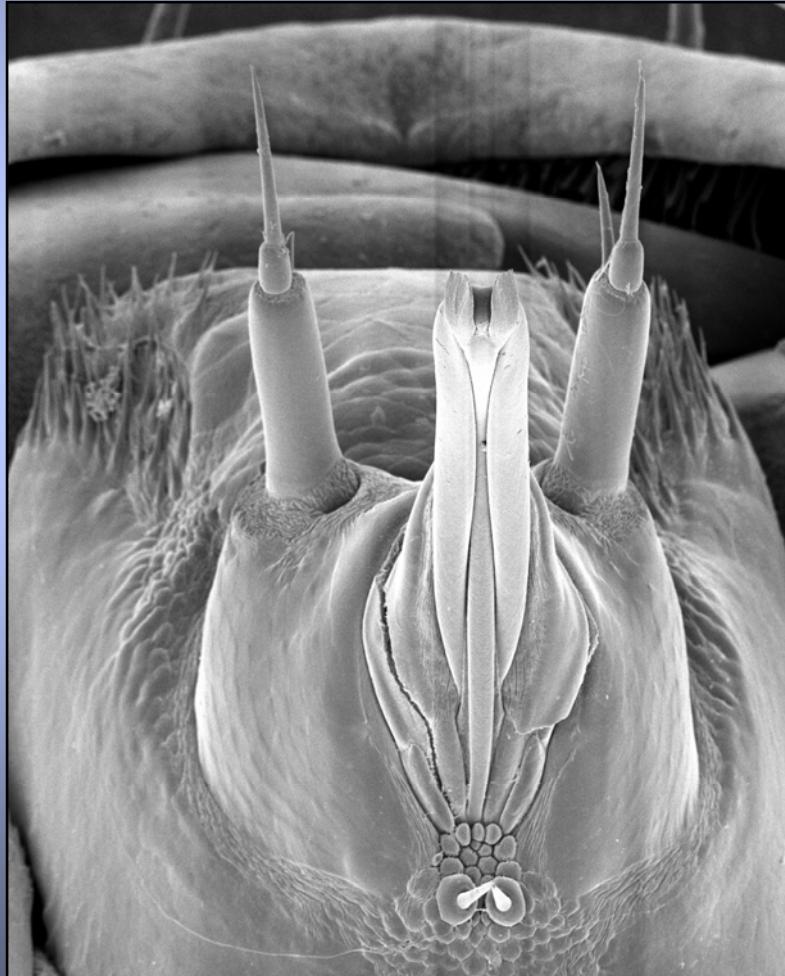


# Labium

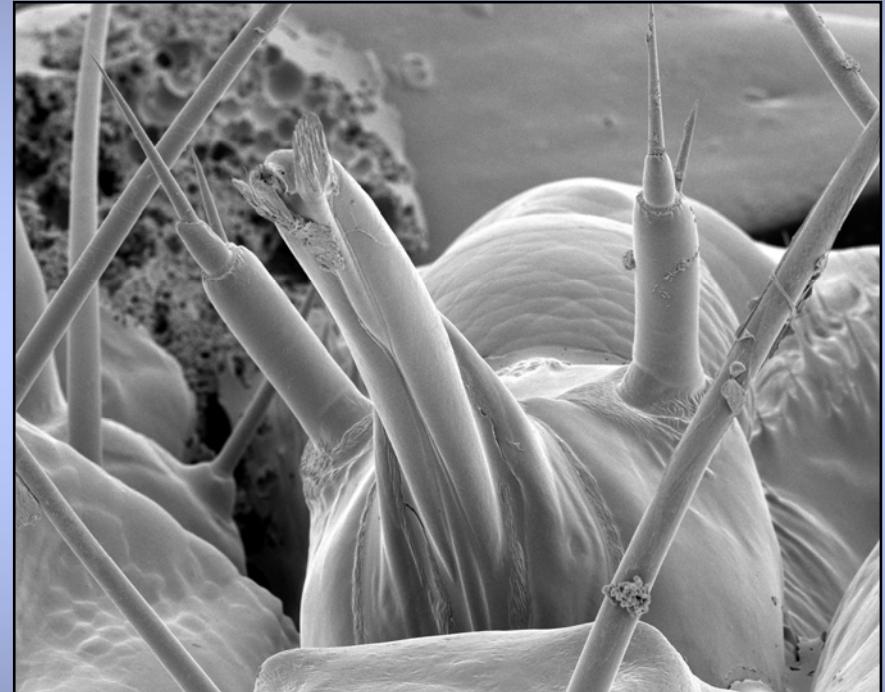


# Labium

*Cactoblastis cactorum*

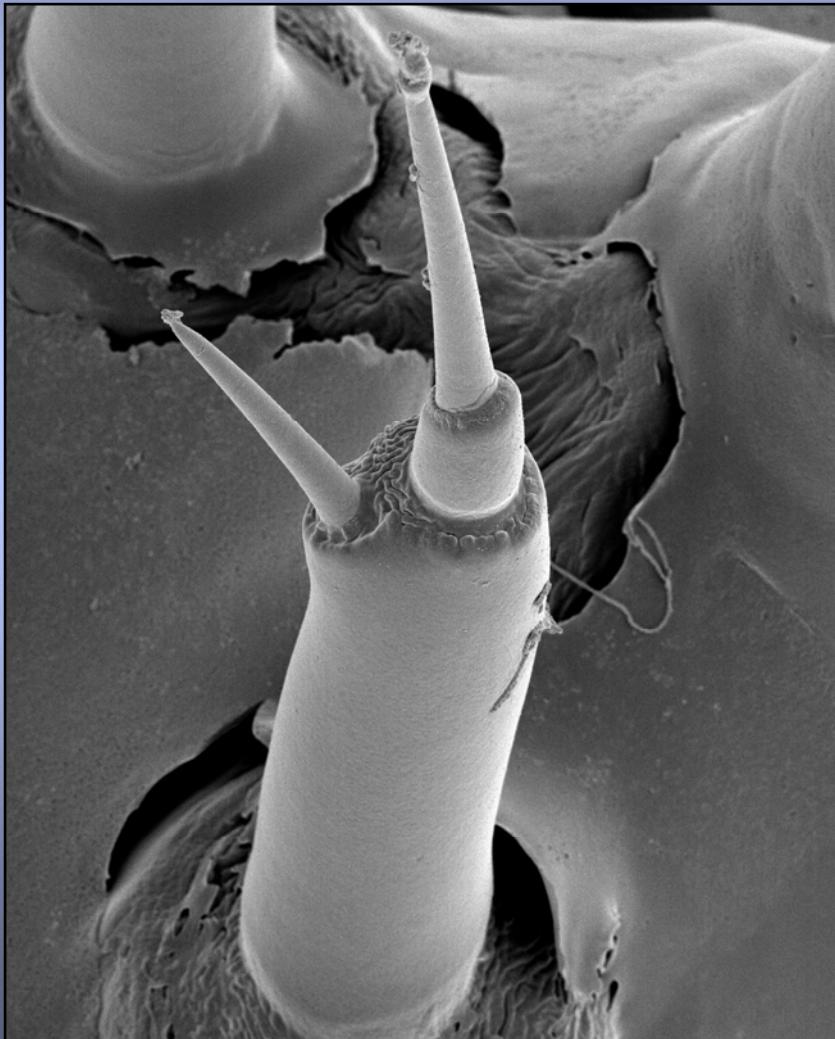


*Melitara prodenialis*

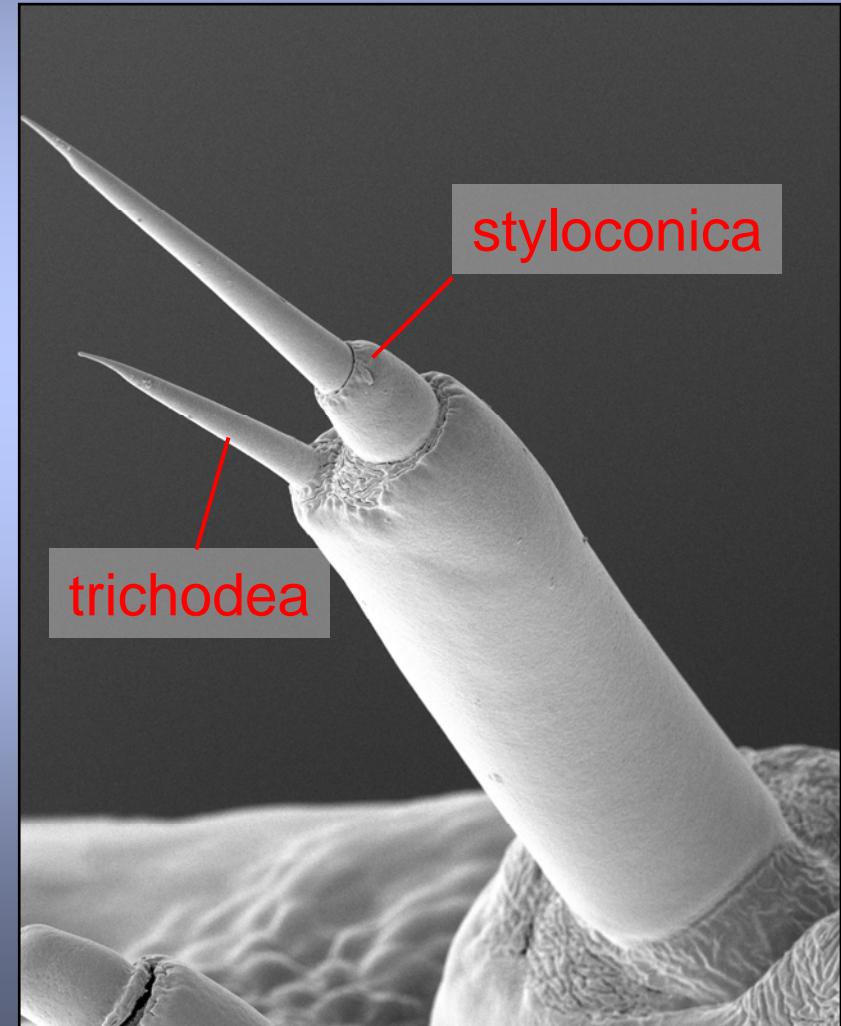


# Labial Palpus

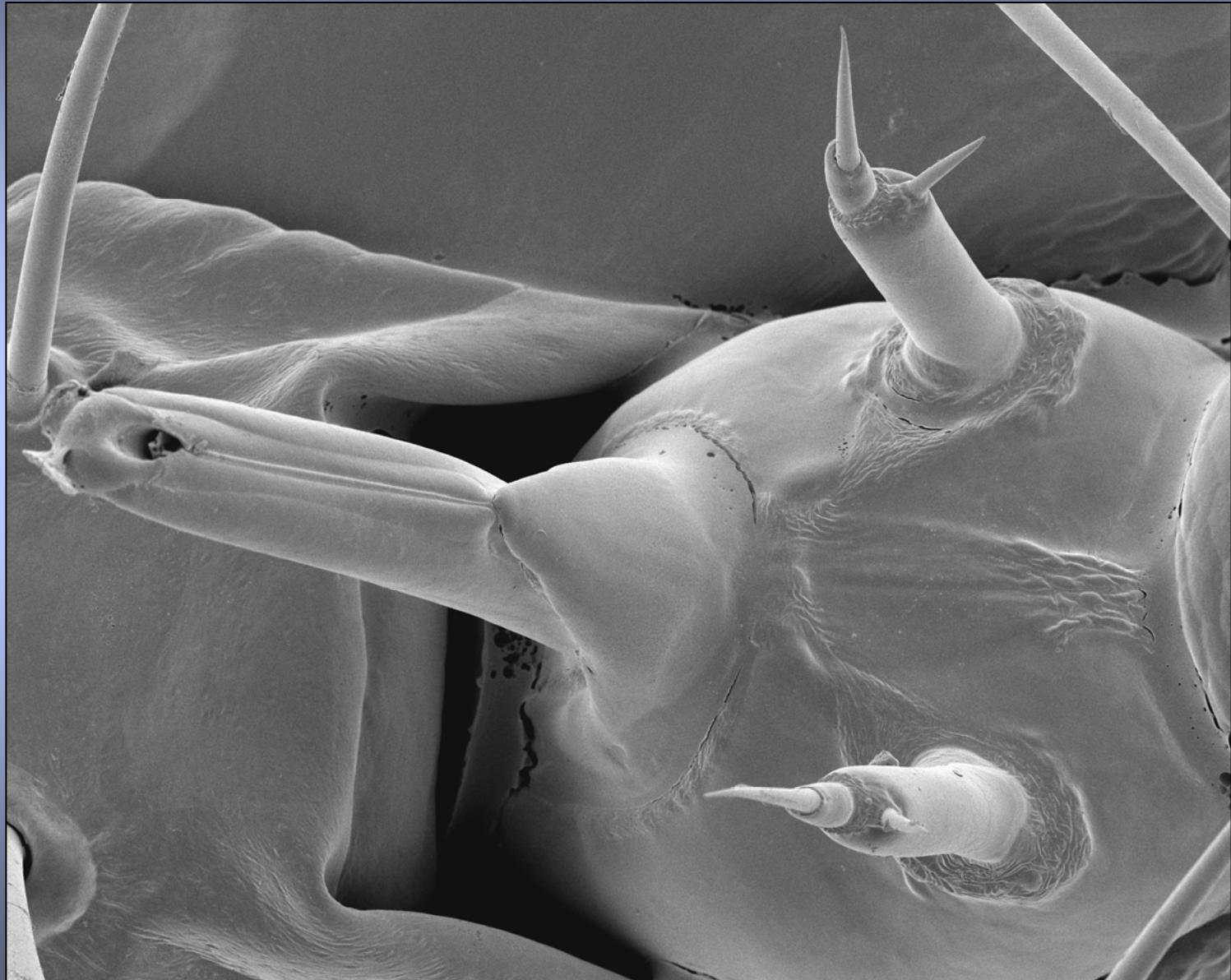
*Cactoblastis cactorum*



*Melitara prodenialis*



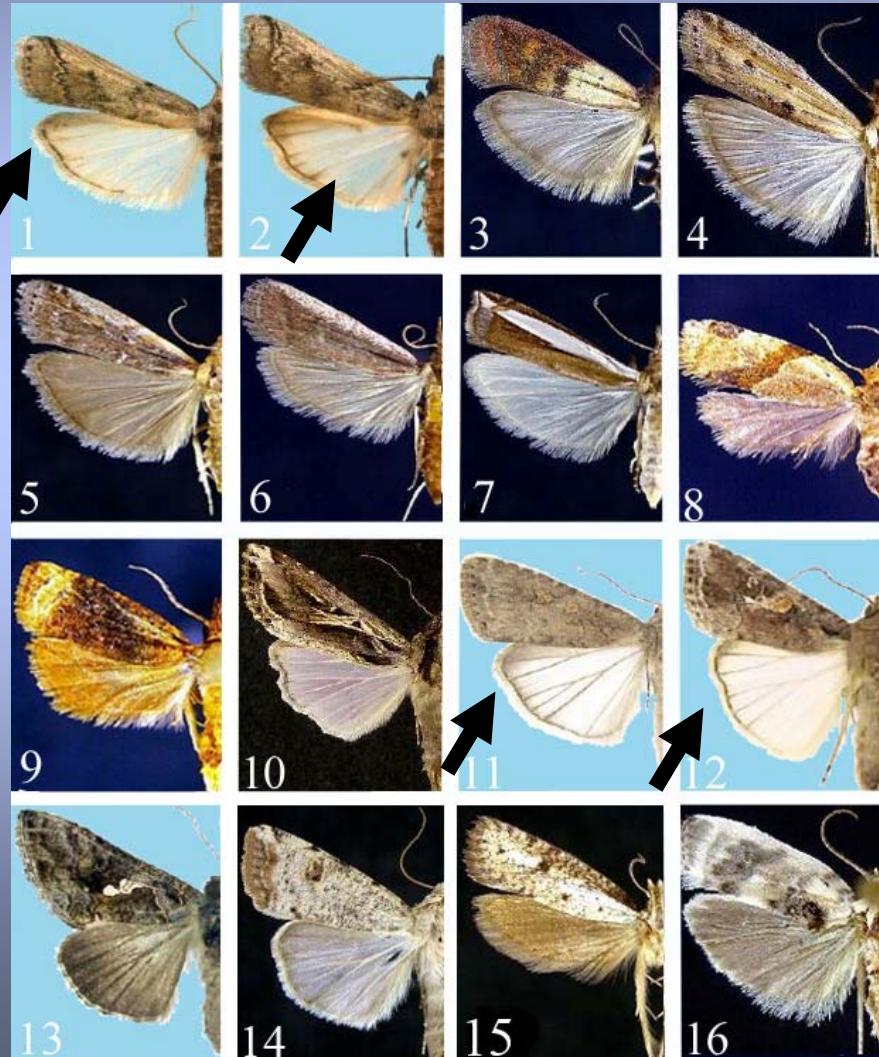
# *Melitara prodenialis* Spinneret - dorsal



# Pheromone trap identifications

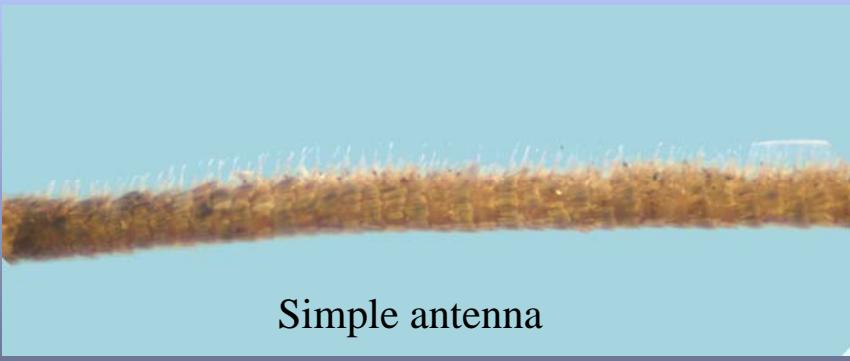


# Selected Species Collected in Pheromone Traps in Five States, 2005-2006

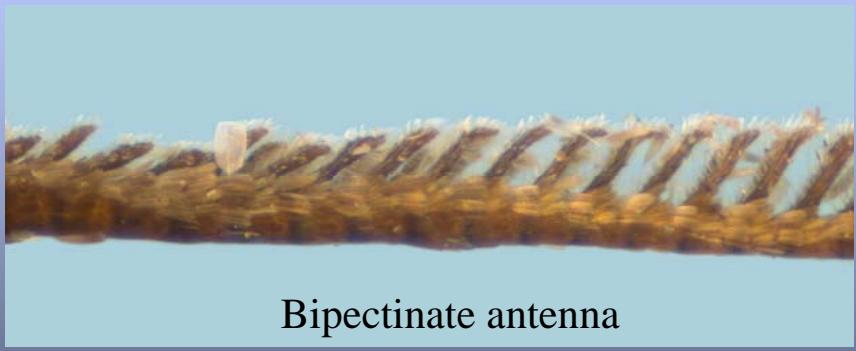


<i>Plodia interpunctella</i>	Fig. 3	1129
<i>Spodoptera exigua</i>	Fig. 11	706
<i>Melitara spp.</i>	Fig. 2	20
<i>Cactoblastis cactorum</i>	Fig. 1	16
<i>Platynota flavedana</i>	Fig. 9	12
<i>Ptycholoma peritana</i>	Fig. 8	11
<i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i>	Fig. 12	5
<i>Spodoptera dolichos</i>	Fig. 10	4
<i>Acrolophus sp.</i>	Fig. 15	2
<i>Atascosa glareosella</i>	Fig. 6	2
<i>Crambus quinquareatus</i>	Fig. 7	2
<i>Elasmopalpus lignosellus</i>	Fig. 4	2
<i>Pseudoplusia includens</i>	Fig. 13	2
<i>Adelphia petrella</i>	Fig. 5	1
<i>Anicla infecta</i>	Fig. 14	1
<i>Antaeotricha lucillana</i>	Fig. 16	1

# Identification of Adult Cactus Moths



Simple antenna

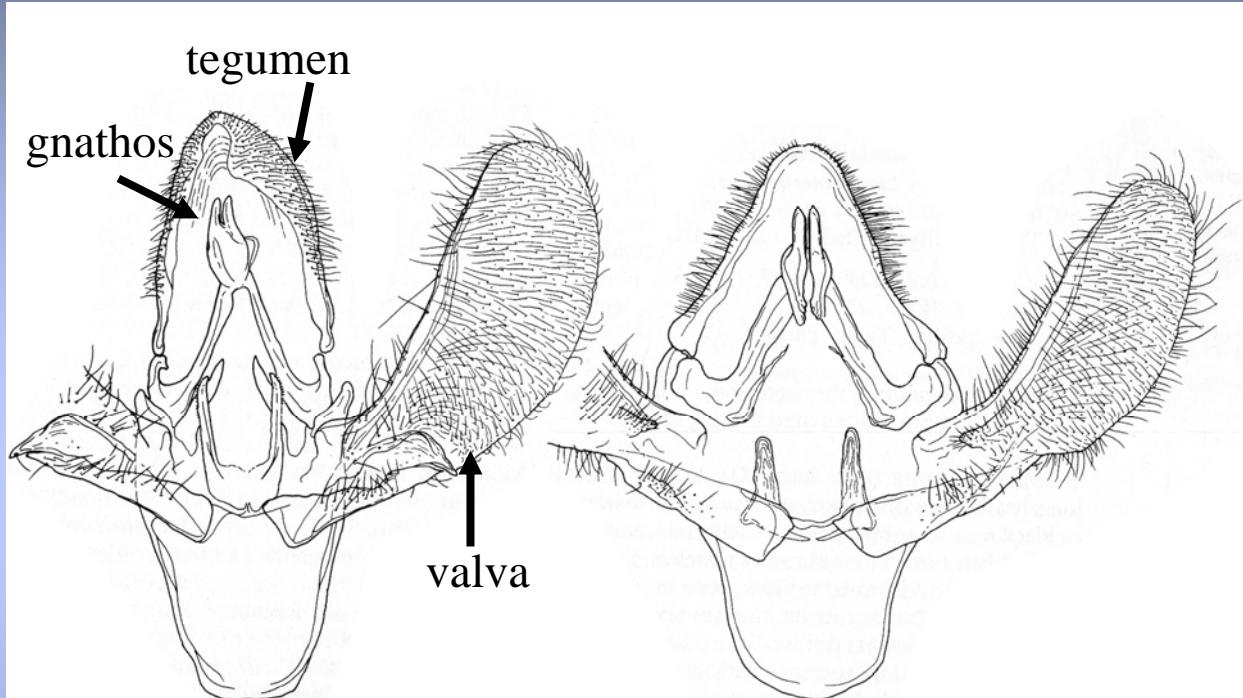


Bipectinate antenna

*Cactoblastis*

*Melitara*

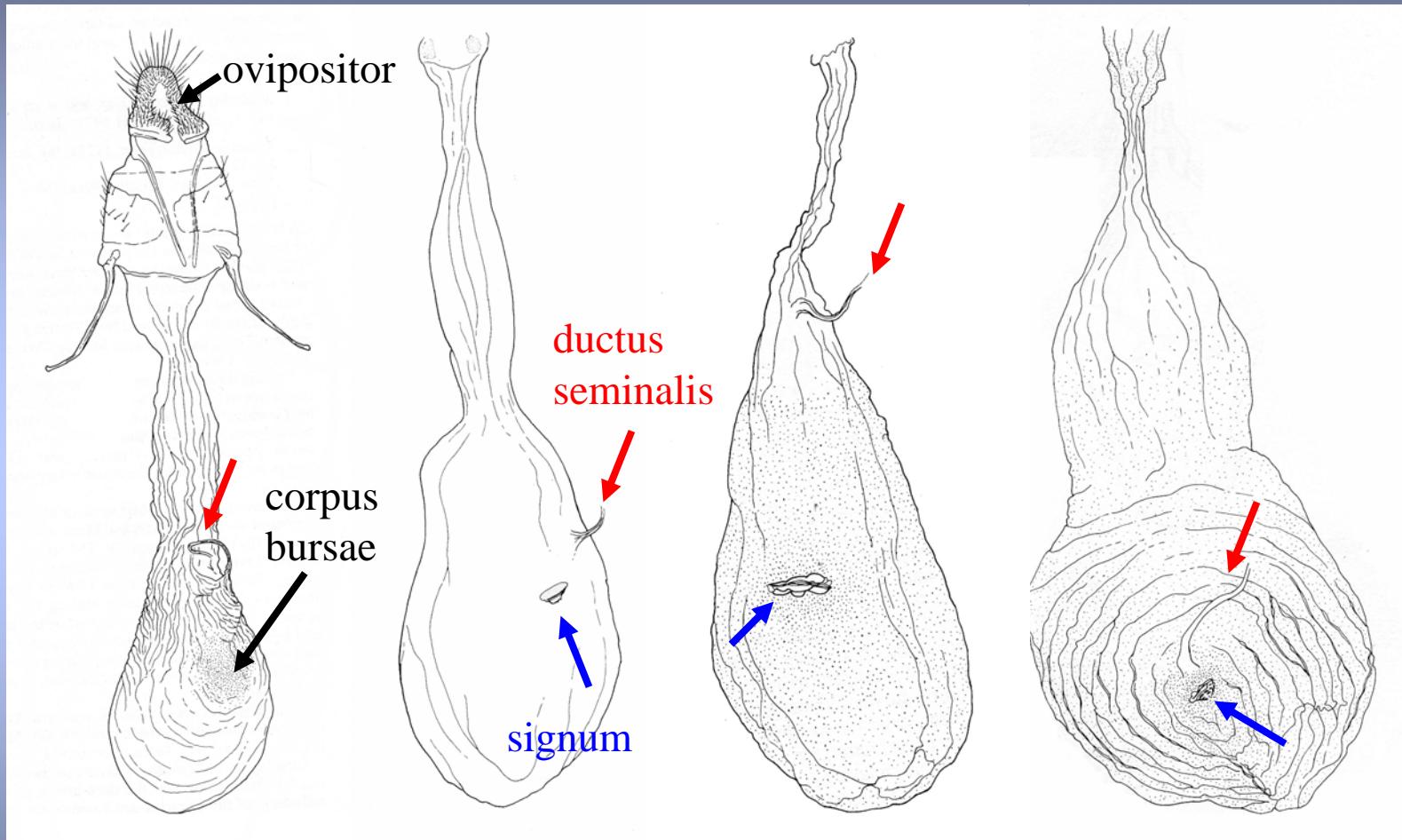
# Identification of Cactus Moths - Male Genitalia



*Cactoblastis*

*Melitara*

# Identification - Female Genitalia



Melitara texana

M. texana

Cactoblastis

Alberada

# Know the invader!



# Acknowledgements

- Stephen Hight, USDA-ARS, Tallahassee, FL
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