

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

NEW SYNONYMIES AND RANGE EXTENSION FOR NORTH AMERICAN *THORACOPHORUS* MOTSCHULSKY (COLEOPTERA: STAPHYLINIDAE: OSORIINAE)

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The first author became interested in the genus *Thoracophorus* Motschulsky after collecting and curating 882 specimens during research (Ferro and Carlton 2011) associated with the Coleoptera component of the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory that took place in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Carlton and Bayless 2007). All of the specimens were identified as *Thoracophorus costalis* (Erichson) based on illustrations and descriptions (Horn 1871; Irmeler 1985) and comparison to authoritatively identified specimens. However, obtaining materials representing other nominal species of North American *Thoracophorus* proved difficult.

No key to the species of *Thoracophorus* in North America exists. Horn (1871) provided a diagnosis and illustrations to differentiate *T. costalis* from his *Thoracophorus brevicristatus*, which he described under the genus *Glyptoma* Erichson. Two other species have been described from America north of Mexico, *Thoracophorus longicollis* Motschulsky, 1860 from “Nouvelle-Orléans” (=New Orleans, Louisiana) and *Thoracophorus fletcheri* Wendeler, 1927 from Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota (Fletcher 1930).

We examined the type series of *T. longicollis* housed in the Zoological Museum of Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia (ZMUM). The type series consists of four specimens glued to an elongate rectangular card. Motschulsky did not designate a holotype. We hereby designate the specimen furthest from the pin the **lectotype**, and a red dot was placed on the card next to this specimen. Motschulsky (1860) anticipated that this may be a southern variant of *T. costalis* within his description.

We also examined the holotype of *T. fletcheri* housed in the Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, Germany (ZMHB). Examination of the type material of *T. longicollis* and *T. fletcheri* revealed both to be indistinguishable from *T. costalis*. Details of the sculpturing of the head and pronotum (important for species recognition in the genus) and other aspects of external morphology are identical. Therefore, *Thoracophorus longicollis*

Motschulsky, 1860 and *Thoracophorus fletcheri* Wendeler, 1927 are **new junior synonyms** of *Thoracophorus costalis* (Erichson, 1840).

While examining specimens of *Thoracophorus* in the Louisiana State Arthropod Museum, we found two specimens of *T. brevicristatus* collected in Louisiana. Blackwelder (1943) listed this species as having been collected in Florida and Arizona in America north of Mexico. Here we report *T. brevicristatus* in Louisiana as a **new state record**. Specimen label information is as follows: **USA: LA:** East Baton Rouge Parish, Baton Rouge, 12 Dec 1990, M. Sean Strother, under bark of dead sugarberry *Celtis laevigata* Willd.; Assumption Parish, Pierre Part, n. Lake Verret, 30 Dec 1992, D. R. Ganaway, coll. in rotten log.

Thoracophorus brevicristatus is also found throughout the West Indies (Blackwelder 1943; Irmeler 1985), so the discovery of specimens midway between continental populations is not unexpected. Irmeler (2010) reported that *T. brevicristatus* is an inquiline of termites.

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