

## SCIENTIFIC NOTE

### RECORD OF TWO SPECIES OF HISTERIDAE NEW TO THE NORTH AMERICAN FAUNA, *HYPOCACCULUS METALLESCENS* (ERICHSON) AND *ATHOLUS CONFINIS* (ERICHSON), IN FLORIDA

Recent identifications of unsorted North American Histeridae from the Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA), Gainesville, revealed a long series of specimens belonging to the genus *Hypocacculus* Bickhardt, 1916. The genus was previously thought to be restricted to the Old World. This is the first record of its presence in North America. Following communications with Paul Skelley (FSCA), I was able to obtain additional specimens collected at the same locality from the original collector, Dave Almquist of Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee. In this sample, another new histerid species for the North American fauna was discovered. The two species represented are *Hypocacculus metallescens* (Erichson, 1834) and *Atholus confinis* (Erichson, 1834). They were collected in Florida, Alachua Co., Gainesville, University of Florida, Museum Road near Lake Alice, in March–July 2001 by pitfall traps set up under the Bat House. In total, 931 specimens of Histeridae from this collection event were studied, with 567 identified as *H. metallescens* and two as *A. confinis*. Later, in a sample of unsorted Histeridae from Texas Tech University on loan to Michael Caterino, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, I saw a specimen of *A. confinis* collected in Florida, Palm Beach Co., Belle Glade on 2 May 1997 by S. Sickerman from under a dead rabbit.

*Hypocacculus metallescens* is a widespread, common Palearctic species known from Western Europe to Central Asia (Penati and Vienna 1993; Mazur 1997). In the key to North American genera of Histeridae (Kovarik and Caterino 2001), it will run to the genus *Hypocaccus* Thomson, 1867, but can be easily distinguished from all the *Hypocaccus* species by the thin frontal and supraorbital striae and simple frontal punctation. In *Hypocaccus*, the frontal and supraorbital striae are robust and carinate, and the frontal disc is smooth, with one or two strong, transverse, chevron-shaped striae. Penati and Vienna (1993, also references therein) provided excellent illustrations of external and male genitalic diagnostic characters for *H. metallescens*.

*Atholus confinis* is known from several Caribbean islands, Hawaii, and tropical Africa. This peculiar distribution is suspected to involve at least some introductions by humans (Mazur 1997). Although no species key is available for North American *Atholus* Thomson, 1862, *A. confinis* can be recognized by the following combination of characters: 5<sup>th</sup> dorsal

and sutural striae both long and united or nearly united at the elytral bases; outer subhumeral striae absent; inner subhumeral striae long, occupying posterior two-thirds of elytral length; anterior angles of pronotum with distinct punctate postocular foveae.

Since both species are apparently adventive to the continental United States and the major collecting locality is represented by an odd place ('Bat House'), a special effort was made to find out more about the collecting circumstances. The original assumption was that the 'Bat House' is a kind of bat zoo, where exotic bats and potentially some associated debris/litter were brought in, along with non-native beetles. However, I subsequently learned that the University of Florida Bat House was built to attract and accommodate a local colony of native free-tailed bats, *Tadarida brasiliensis* (Saint-Hilaire), previously occupying other university buildings (<http://www.afn.org/~ufbat/>, accessed March 2010). A fauna of local coprophilous and necrophilous beetles was attracted there to the accumulations of bat guano and dead animals. The histerid assemblage collected by pitfall traps at the Bat House, besides *H. metallescens* (61% of specimens), is composed primarily of one native species (9%), *Phelister subrotundus* (Say, 1825), and a cosmopolitan species (29%) of apparent New World origin (29%), *Carcinops pumilio* (Erichson, 1834). A few specimens of other typical native northern Florida species were also taken, e.g. *Acritus acaroides* Marseul, 1856, *Hypocaccus sparsus* (Casey, 1916), and *Saprinus pensylvanicus* (Paykull, 1811). No other specimens of either *A. confinis* or *H. metallescens* have been seen among several thousands of southeastern North American histerids I have identified in several collections during the past decade, so these Bat House records of two introduced species (especially in the case of the locally abundant *H. metallescens*) remain unexplained.

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## SCIENTIFIC NOTE

### ***RHODOBAENUS PUSTULOSUS* (GYLLENHAL) (COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE: DRYOPHTHORINAE) FOUND IN TEXAS**

The recent note by Anderson (2010) on the distribution of *Rhodobaenus pustulosus* (Gyllenhal) noted that there was no substantiated record for the state of Texas. In the collection of the senior author (CWOB) there are three specimens of this species, two from Arizona (AZ: Chiricahua Mountains, Entrance to National Monument, and AZ: Santa Cruz County, Sunnysdale Ranch) and a third specimen from West Texas (TX: Jeff Davis County, 12 miles west of Fort Davis, 6.VII.1980, W. H. Tyson). This latter record confirms Texas as part of the distribution of this species in the U.S.A.

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