Two Beetles New to Virginia
(Coleoptera: Cantharidae, Erotylidae)

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ABSTRACT

Malaise traps set along Little Hunting Creek in 2017 and 2018 on lands managed by the National Park Service as part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway captured two beetle species (Cryptophilus obliteratus and Tyosphinx erythrocephala) previously undocumented from Virginia. Specimens are deposited in the collection maintained at the Turkey Run Park Headquarters in McLean, Virginia. These two captures are discussed below.

Keywords: Fairfax County, Little Hunting Creek, Malaise trap, national park, new state record.

VIRGINIA

Typhonix erythrocephala (Fabricius) – Fairfax Co.: Little Hunting Creek, Malaise trap, 20–30 June 2017, B. Steury, C. Davis & C. Acosta (George Washington Memorial Parkway [GWMP], 2); same location, 14–28 June 2018, B. Steury & C. Davis (GWMP, 3). NEW STATE RECORD.

There are few published records for this soldier beetle (Cantharidae). Downie & Arnett (1996) report records from Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Ulke (1902) adds a record from the District of Columbia. The Maryland Biodiversity Project (2018) which contains 2,226 coleopteran records does not include any documentation for this beetle from Maryland. Pelletier & Hébert (2014) did not include Typhonix in their survey of northeastern North American cantharids. However, its range is apparently broader than published records indicate. BugGuide (2018) includes images attributed to this distinctive beetle from Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. Ramsdale (2002) states that nothing is known about the ecology of Typhonix. These four specimens were captured in mature forest dominated by broadleaf hardwoods, especially oaks (Quercus sp.), hickory (Carya sp.), and American beech (Fagus grandifolia Ehr.), and some Virginia pine (Pinus virginiana Mill.). The understory is strongly ericaceous and dominated by blueberry and deerberry (Vaccinium sp.) and huckleberry (Gaylussacia sp.). A narrow band of shrubby marsh is found along the bank of Little Hunting Creek approximately 20 m from the Malaise trap. The cantharid beetle Malthisus occipitalis LeConte was also captured at this site. The capture of T. erythrocephala increases the number of cantharid beetles documented from GWMP to 39 species (Steyr, 2018b; Steury et al., 2018).

Cryptophilus obliteratus Reitter (Fig. 1) – Fairfax Co.: Little Hunting Creek, Malaise trap, 1 March–11 April 2018, B. Steury & C. Davis (GWMP, 1). NEW STATE RECORD.

Fig. 1. Cryptophilus obliteratus Reitter, Little Hunting Creek, Fairfax County, Virginia, Malaise trap, 1 March – 11 April 2018. Length 2.5 mm. Collectors, Brent Steury & Colin Davis.
This pleasing fungus beetle (Erotylidae) was introduced from the Palearctic Region (Esser, 2017) sometime before 1924 (Casey, 1924). Cryptophilus seriolus Casey, described from the Nearctic Region, is a junior synonym of C. obliteratus (Esser, 2017). In North America, this species has been reported on the East Coast from Maine to Pennsylvania and Maryland, west to Iowa (Lawrence & Vaurie, 1983; Esser, 2017). The Little Hunting Creek specimen was captured in deciduous woodland dominated by American beech and oaks, with deep leaf litter and large rotting logs. This record increases the number of erotylicid beetles known from the GWMP to 21 species and one subspecies (Steury, 2018a).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Appreciation is extended to bug lab volunteers Ann Kelly and Jerry Taylor for finding these beetles in the Malaise trap samples. Steve Roble, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage, and two anonymous reviewers provided helpful comments on the draft manuscript.

LITERATURE CITED


