

## *Amblycerus schwarzi* Kingsolver (Coleoptera: Bruchidae) recorded new for North America

John M. Kingsolver

Research Associate  
Florida State Collection of Arthropods<sup>1</sup>  
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
P.O. Box 147100  
Gainesville, Florida 32614-7100

In 1986, L. Leblanc collected two females of *Amblycerus schwarzi* in Watson's Hammock, Big Pine Key, Florida, but they remained unidentified until Stewart Peck reared 10 specimens including males and matching females from the drupaceous fruits of *Hippomane mancinella* L. (manchineel) (Euphorbiaceae) from Big Pine Key. One collection of *A. schwarzi* from Baracoa, Oriente Prov., Cuba, part of the original type series, was also reared from this host (Kingsolver, 1970:478).

The manchineel tree, found throughout the Caribbean region, is rather small (6m in height) with grey-brown bark and simple, rounded leaves with serrate margins. The green to reddish brown drupe contains an irregularly shaped stone. The sap of the foliage is highly irritating to skin and eyes, with temporary blindness being common. Consumption of the fruit causes abdominal pain, vomiting, and bleeding of the digestive tract (Tampion, 1977, p. 97).

Data for the two North American collections are: Florida, Monroe Co., Big Pine Key, Watson's Hammock, 25-VIII-1986, Leblanc, beating in hammock forests, 2♀; Big Pine Key, Watson's Hammock, 29-VIII-1995, manchineel nuts, S. Peck, #95-64.

*Amblycerus spondiae* Kingsolver (1980:239) described from Costa Rica, also reared from manchineel, is in a different species group from *A. schwarzi*. Its range extends from Jalisco state, Mexico, to Panama.

I thank Stewart B. Peck for his generous loan of specimens.

### References

- Kingsolver, J. M. 1970. A synopsis of the subfamily Amblycerinae Bridwell in the West Indies, with descriptions of new species (Coleoptera: Bruchidae). *Trans. American Entomol. Soc.* 96:469-497.
- Kingsolver, J. M. 1980. Eighteen new species of Bruchidae, principally from Costa Rica, with host records and distributional notes (*Insecta: Coleoptera*). *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington* 93:229-283.
- Tampion, J. 1977. *Dangerous plants*. Universe Books, New York. 176 p.

<sup>1</sup>This is Entomology Contribution No. 832 of the Bureau of Entomology, Nematology and Plant Pathology, Division of Plant Industry.