

Two leaf beetles new to Florida (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)

Michael C. Thomas
Florida State Collection of Arthropods
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
P.O. Box 14700
Gainesville, FL 32614-7100

Edward G. Riley
Department of Entomology
Texas A & M University
College Station, TX 77843

and

Shawn Clark
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East
Charleston, WV 25305-0191.

Specimens recently submitted to the first author for identification turned out to represent two species of leaf beetles previously unknown from Florida, one of which is new to the eastern United States and the other new to the continental United States.

Asphaera lustrans (Crotch)

Two specimens of this Texas species were collected at separate localities during the summer of 1999 as follows: Alachua Co., Gainesville, 26-VI-1999, A. Tergas, and Volusia Co., Deltona, 8-VIII-1999, C. Murphy. It has been recorded from Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Iowa, as well as from Mexico. No Florida host information was recorded, but it is known to attack species of *Scutellaria* in Texas.

Asphaera lustrans is yellow-orange with metallic blue elytra; the antennae, mouthparts, and tarsi are piceous, the tibiae and metasternum are infuscate. In Texas specimens, there is usually a dark

transverse mark between the eyes; this is absent in the two Florida specimens. *Asphaera lustrans* is similar to some species of *Kuschelina* and *Disonycha* in Florida, but differs in the structure of the last tarsomere of the hind legs. In *Asphaera* this is slightly enlarged; in *Disonycha* it is not enlarged at all, while in *Kuschelina* it is greatly inflated.

Cryptocephalus nigrocinctus Suffrian

Series of this species were collected at two localities in Broward Co. as follows: Ft. Lauderdale, 19-XI-1999, and Davie, 1-XII-1999, both series collected by W.A. Thiel, Jr., on silver buttonwood, *Conocarpus erectus* L. var. *sericeus* DC. *Cryptocephalus nigrocinctus* is native to Puerto Rico. It is easily distinguished from all other Florida species of *Cryptocephalus* by its coloration, which is metallic blue (with a purplish undertone in some specimens), often with yellowish-orange markings on the pronotum and elytra.