

A new sap beetle (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) to the United States with a revised key to the *Camptodes* Erichson occurring in America North of Mexico

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Abstract. A new beetle to the United States, *Camptodes communis* Erichson, is briefly described below. A diagnosis from the other *Camptodes* known to occur in the United States is provided. An updated key to the *Camptodes* of the United States is given.

Introduction

The nitidulid genus *Camptodes* Erichson is a New World endemic with approximately 160 species known from southern Texas and Arizona southward to Argentina (Erichson 1843, Sharp 1902, Blackwelder 1945). Parsons (1943) identified three species occurring in the United States, *C. texanus* Schaeffer, *C. gaumeri* Sharp, and *C. nigerrimus* Parsons. These three species were known only from small series from the Brownsville area of Texas (the two former species) and the southwestern corner of Arizona (the latter species). *Camptodes communis* Erichson is the first member of the genus known to occur in the eastern United States, as well as the only member of the subgenus *Camptodes* known to occur in the U.S.

Camptodes is a member of the nitiduline tribe Cylloдини, though its specific placement in the tribe remains enigmatic (Leschen 1999). The tribe can be recognized by a typically convex body with a glabrous, often shiny surface. Nearctic members of the tribe include: *Cylloides* Erichson, *Pallodes* Erichson, and *Psilopyga* LeConte. *Camptodes* can be readily recognized from the above genera and other Cylloдини by a spoon shaped prosternal process, strongly carinate mesosternum, and females with gonostyloids present at the apex of the ovipositor (Leschen 1999). Species of *Camptodes* are peculiar members of the Cylloдини due to their feeding habit, which is predominant on flowers and other vegetation rather than on the common tribal substrate of epi- and hypogean fungi.

Camptodes communis Erichson

Two specimens were identified from southern Florida with the following label data: FLA.: Dade County; Fuch's Hammock; Near Homestead; 25-26-IV-1980 / Terhune S. Dickel; & H.V. Weems, Jr.; Insect Flight Trap. Specimens were compared to the type of *C. communis* var. *villis* Sharp at the National Museum of Natural History, London as well as other identified material from the author's collection and

other collections from the U.S. Though somewhat variable in puncturation from Sharp's specimens, there are no significant external features to delimit the Florida specimens as a new species. Sharp (1902) recognized both color and puncturation variability both between the sexes and between different populations.

Camptodes communis is a moderate sized robust-bodied nitidulid (5.0mm long, 3.1mm wide). The body is light reddish brown with the elytra somewhat darker and the venter lighter (Figure 1). The labrum is deeply bilobed with the eyes large and somewhat bulging. The dorsum is glabrous and very convex. Tarsomeres 1-3 are broadly bilobed with thick setose pads beneath. The pygidium is densely faintly impressed with small punctures; the punctures are almost contiguous with narrow interspaces. The key below is revised from Parsons (1943) key.

Key to adults of U.S. species of *Camptodes*

1. Terminal antennomere with apex indented (subgenus *Camptodes*) (FL) *C. communis* Er.
2. Terminal antennomere with apex pointed (subgenus *Eucamptodes*) 3
3. Impunctate longitudinal line on scutellum, body jet-black with venter piceous to ferrugineous (AZ) *C. nigerrimus* Parsons
4. Scutellum evenly punctate, body not jet-black .. 5
5. Pygidium rufous to testaceous, pronotal and elytral punctures moderately impressed (TX) *C. texanus* Schaeffer
6. Pygidium ferrugineous to piceous, pronotal and elytral punctures faintly/obsoletely impressed (TX) *C. gaumeri* Sharp

Discussion

Camptodes communis is a rather cosmopolitan species with records from Central America, northern



Figure 1. Dorsal habitus of *C. communis* Erichson.

South America, and the Dominican Republic (Cline unpublished checklist). Central and Southern Florida have been areas of active new distribution records and new species of Nitidulidae (Parsons 1943, Perry and Howden 1975, Habeck *et al.* 1989, Ford 1996, Peck and Thomas 1998), and will likely continue to be an important region as more areas are sampled and specific microhabitats examined. The presence of *C. communis* in Florida is not unexpected and demonstrates the need for further collecting efforts in this area to fully document the beetle fauna of the United States.

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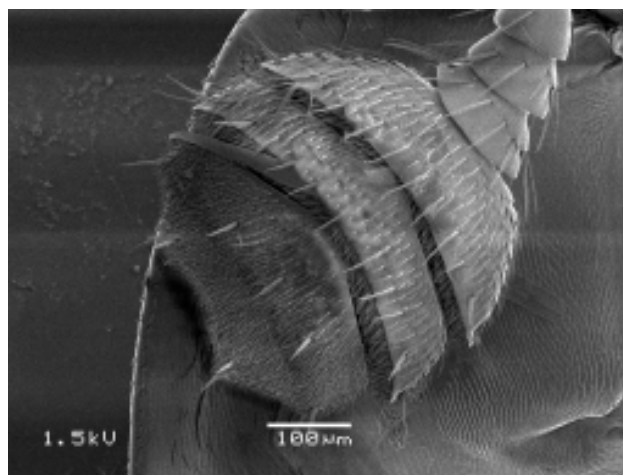


Figure 2. Close-up of terminal antennomere illustrating the indentate terminal antennomere.