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1997

185

INDIANA RECORD FOR ONTHOPHAGUS TAURUS (COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE): NORTHWESTWARD RANGE EXTENSION

Adrienne E. Smith¹

The scarab, Onthophagus taurus Schreber, was introduced from Europe, although the details of its introduction are unknown (Fincher and Woodruff 1975). It was first collected in the Florida panhandle in 1971 (Fincher and Woodruff 1975); by 1974 its range had extended into Georgia, and by 1980 it had reached South and North Carolina (Fincher et al. 1983). Hoebeke and Beucke (1997) reported additional distributional records of O. taurus from Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and West Virginia. This species also has been released in California, New Jersey, and Texas primarily for biological control of dung (Hoebeke and Beucke 1997).

Eight specimens of Onthophagus taurus were recovered at Wolf Park, approximately 5 km from Battle Ground, in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. One male and seven females were hand collected in bison dung in a pasture-land habitat on 20 and 26 July 1996. Previously, bovine dung has been successful in attracting O. taurus (Fincher et al. 1983). This species is easily separated from all other Onthophagus species by two long, curved horns on the vertex of the major male (Fig. 14 & 15, Hoebeke and Beucke 1997). Females lack horns, and like other female Onthophagus spp., have a transverse, elevated clypeofrontal carina (Fig. 17, Hoebeke and Beucke 1997). Voucher specimens are held in The Ohio State University Collection of Insects and Spiders, and The Center for Arthropod Diversity Studies at Michigan State University. T. K. Philips confirmed the identification.

There are no *O. taurus* in the Department of Entomology Collection at Purdue University from Indiana (A. Provonsha, pers. comm.). The present new Indiana record extends the known range of this scarab north and west

into the upper midwestern United States.

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THE GREAT LAKES ENTOMOLOGIST

Vol. 30, No. 4

186

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