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 Cyllodini, 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: Cyllodes Erichson, Pallodes Erichson, and Psilopyga LeConte. Camptodes can be readily recognized from the above genera and other Cyllodini 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 Cyllodini 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 Sharpe 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 punctuation 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 punctuation variability both between the sexes and between different populations.

Camptodes communis is a moderately 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 indentate (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 ferrugineus (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 ferrugineus 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
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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