A New Locality Record for Zopherus angulicollis Champion, with Ecological Notes (Coleoptera: Zopheridae)

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SCIENTIFIC NOTE

A NEW LOCALITY RECORD FOR ZOPHERUS ANGULICOLLIS CHAMPION, WITH ECOLOGICAL NOTES (COLEOPTERA: ZOPHERIDAE)

When the genus Zopherus was reviewed by the senior author (Triplehorn 1972), only two specimens of Z. angulicollis Champion were studied. The type [British Museum (Natural History)] is from Piños Altos, Chihuahua, Mexico. That locality was cited by Selander and Vaurie (1962) as follows: "Mining town in extreme western Chihuahua, 238 km. west of the city of Chihuahua and 322 km. south of Nueva Casas Grandes; 7900 feet; approximately 18°15', 108°15'."

The only other previously known specimen is labelled "Tres Rios, Chihuahua, Mexico, 29 June, 1958, Tanner-Robinson" (in collection of Dr. Vasco M. Tanner, Brigham Young University). Tres Rios is an area of western Chihuahua and eastern Sonora where three streams, Chuhuichupa Creek, Trout Creek and Black Canyon Creek, flow northwest to form Bavispe Creek (Tanner 1985). The only town mentioned by Tanner is Chuhuichupa, which is very near the Sonora border, WNW of Gomez Farias. It is impossible to pinpoint the site where the specimen was collected but it could be reasonably close to the type locality.

Because of the scarcity of this species in collections, it is noteworthy that four additional specimens were recently collected by the junior author in the Mexican state of Sonora, Rancho Madroio, Mt. Huachinera, 2,200 m. Three were collected 25 June 1981, McCleve and Jump, and the other on 3 August 1982, S. McCleve, G. E. and K. E. Ball. The size range (18.2–19.5 mm long; 6.2–6.6 mm wide) is very close to that of the two other known specimens. Specimens are in the collections of the authors.

The new collection site is near an old cabin high in the Sierra Huachinera, a somewhat isolated range near the northwest end of the Sierra Madre Occidental. All four specimens were collected in the immediate vicinity of the cabin, under boards or on the foundation. The plant association is pine-oak forest, mixed with juniper and madrone (Arbutus arizonica).

We have both observed that many species of Zopherus are commonly found near human habitation. A large series of Z. tristis LeConte was taken on old fence posts in the Baboquivari Mountains, Arizona, and a sizeable number of Z. concolor LeConte was collected on walls of newly constructed cabins at Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico. Most of the specimens of Z. xestus Triplehorn were collected in the basin area of the Chisos Mountains, Big Bend National Park, Texas, which is intensely used by campers. Likewise, we have noticed that Z. gracilis Horn shows the same predilection for human constructions (sheds, corrals, fence posts, etc.).

LITERATURE CITED


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