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First record of *Phaenops obtusa* (Horn)  
(Coleoptera: Buprestidae) in Massachusetts

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# First record of *Phaenops obtusa* (Horn) (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) in Massachusetts

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**Abstract.** *Phaenops obtusa* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) is reported from Massachusetts for the first time. Ecological and trapping information is also provided.

**Key words.** New record, wood boring.

**ZooBank registration.** urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:7E1831C1-3026-4279-B875-FEBD3EFCA5C6

## Introduction

The genus *Phaenops* Dejean, 1833 (Coleoptera: Buprestidae), sometimes treated as a subgenus of *Melanophila* Eschscholtz (e.g. Bright 1987), contains 15 species in North America, five which occur in the northeast (Nelson et al. 2008; Paiero et al. 2012). *Phaenops obtusa* (Horn) is primarily distributed in southeastern United States from Louisiana to Florida and South Carolina, with a disjunct occurrence reported from New York (Nelson et al. 2008). Presented here is the first record of *P. obtusa* from Massachusetts, extending its disjunct range in the northeast.

## Materials and Methods

A single female was collected in a 12-unit green Lindgren funnel hung on an oak (Fagales: Fagaceae: *Quercus* sp.) baited with Z3-hexanol (Synergy Semiochemicals, Burnaby, British Columbia). The sample was collected on August 18, 2020 in Barnstable County, Massachusetts at 41.665308°N, –70.591172°W by Joe Francese of the United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) Otis Laboratory during a trap efficacy study for Buprestidae (Fig. 1). The specimen is retained in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture’s collection [PADA].

## Results

In addition to *P. obtusa*, *P. fulvoguttata* (Harris) and *P. aeneola* (Melsheimer) are now known from Massachusetts (Paiero et al. 2012; Barringer 2020). *Phaenops abies* (Chaplain and Knull) and *P. drummondi* (Kirby) occur in neighboring states, and recent discoveries of *Phaenops* species in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont (Bohne et al. 2019) suggest that further discoveries are likely to be made in this region. *Phaenops* species are infrequently to rarely collected, which may possibly explain the unusual disjunct distribution of *P. obtusa* in New York and Massachusetts (Paiero et al. 2012).

*Phaenops obtusa* is most similar to *P. aeneola*, however, the latter has a coppery pronotum and venter rather than a metallic blue one. *Phaenops obtusa* and *P. aeneola* can be distinguished from the other three species known from northeastern North America in that they lack elytral maculae (Paiero et al. 2012). While the specimen reported here was caught in a trap placed on an oak tree, *Phaenops* larvae are only known to use coniferous trees as hosts (Paiero et al. 2012) so no host association should be assumed.



**Figure 1.** Specimen of *Phaenops obtusa*, dorsal habitus.

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