

***Amblycerus schwarzi* Kingsolver (Coleoptera: Bruchidae)
recorded new for North America**

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In 1986, L. Leblanc collected two females of *Amblycerus schwarzi* in Watson's Hammock, Big Pine Key, Florida, but they remained unidentified until Stewart Peck reared 10 specimens including males and matching females from the drupaceous fruits of *Hippomane mancinella* L. (manchineel) (Euphorbiaceae) from Big Pine Key. One collection of *A. schwarzi* from Baracoa, Oriente Prov., Cuba, part of the original type series, was also reared from this host (Kingsolver, 1970:478).

The manchineel tree, found throughout the Caribbean region, is rather small (6m in height) with grey-brown bark and simple, rounded leaves with serrate margins. The green to reddish brown drupe contains an irregularly shaped stone. The sap of the foliage is highly irritating to skin and eyes, with temporary blindness being common. Consumption of the fruit causes abdominal pain, vomiting, and bleeding of the digestive tract (Tampion, 1977, p. 97).

Data for the two North American collections are: Florida, Monroe Co., Big Pine Key, Watson's Hammock, 25-VIII-1986, Leblanc, beating in hammock forests, 2♀; Big Pine Key, Watson's Hammock, 29-VIII-1995, manchineel nuts, S. Peck, #95-64.

Amblycerus spondiae Kingsolver (1980:239) described from Costa Rica, also reared from manchineel, is in a different species group from *A. schwarzi*. Its range extends from Jalisco state, Mexico, to Panama.

I thank Stewart B. Peck for his generous loan of specimens.

References

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