

DOES THE OLD WORLD FAMILY PLATASPIDAE (HEMIPTERA) OCCUR IN NORTH AMERICA?¹

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Evidence of two sorts leads to the posing of this question.

First: In the national insect collection at the Smithsonian Institution are three females of the Asian (India through Burma into Malaysia) species *Coptosoma duodecimpunctatum* (Germar) hand-labeled "Alaska. 40 yds E. of Kerai Lake Lodge, near Sterling Bay, VII-11-1954, R. Coleman." If this label is correct the exactness of the locality should enable interested persons in that area to concentrate collecting efforts to verify its presence there.

Coptosoma duodecimpunctatum would be easily recognized among North American Heteroptera: 5.9-7 mm in length; broadly rounded, appearing nearly as wide as long; scutellum much enlarged, almost reaching sides and apex of abdomen; dorsum shining black with 8 reddish-yellow elongate spots on pronotum and 4 similarly colored spots in a row across base of scutellum.

Second: In *Catalogus Insectorum Sinensium*, pages 256-257, Wu (1935) listed *Coptosoma biguttulum* Motschulsky from China, Japan, Korea and "America." Review of the reference listed by Wu and in works by other authors found no source for this "America" record. Perhaps "America" was an improper copy of "Amuria" listed by Oshanin (1906, Verz. Palaeark. Hemip., 1:3).

Until fresh records support these occurrences, probably neither species should be considered a member of the North American fauna.

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