

NEW RECORDS FOR *PHYLLOPHAGA* (COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE) IN MISSISSIPPI¹

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ABSTRACT: The ranges of *Phyllophaga balia* (Say), *P. incuria* Sanderson, *P. marginalis* (LeConte), *P. (Phytalus) omani* Sanderson and *P. (Phytalus) obsoleta vanalleri* (Schaeffer) are extended to include Mississippi. The subgenus *Phytalus* is reported from the state for the first time. *P. marginalis insolita* Cartwright is reported for the first time since its description.

Langston (1927) treated the *Phyllophaga* of Mississippi and recorded 46 species from the state. During subsequent years, few additional species were reported from the state, probably due to the thoroughness of Langstons' work and the lack of collecting activity. Luginbill and Painter (1953) added but two species to the Mississippi list.

In 1976 a general survey of the Scarabaeidae of Mississippi was begun. Collecting activities associated with this survey, along with the examination of specimens from the insect collections at the University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University and Louisiana State University, has revealed the presence of five species of *Phyllophaga* not previously known to occur in Mississippi. Of the five species, two are in the subgenus *Phytalus* and represent the first records of this subgenus in the state. A total of 53 species of *Phyllophaga* are now known from Mississippi.

With the exception of the specimen of *P. (Phytalus) omani* Sanderson, which is in the LSU collection, representatives of all species reported here are contained in the University of Mississippi insect collection.

NEW RECORDS

Phyllophaga balia (Say).. Lafayette Co., Oxford. 6-IV-1978. P.K. Lago, at blacklight, 1♂.

Although principally north central in distribution, *P. balia* has been recorded from Arkansas, Tennessee and Alabama (Luginbill and Painter, 1953) and its presence in Mississippi is not surprising.

Phyllophaga incuria Sanderson. Hancock Co., Gainesville, 10-V through 15-VI-1966, H.R. Hepburn, 9♂; Waveland, 14-VI-1966, H.R. Hepburn, 1♀. Luginbill and Painter (1953) record *P. incuria* from Oklahoma and Texas. The above records represent a considerable range extension for the species.

Phyllophaga marginalis (LeConte). Lafayette Co., 8 mi. NE Oxford, 20-IV-1977, P.K.

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Lago, 6♂, at light. *Neshoba Co.*, 1.5 mi. N Dixon, 9-V-1979, P.K. Lago, 1♀, on *Sassafras albidum* (Nutt.) Nees. *Oktibbeha Co.*, Ag. Coll. Ms. (Mississippi State University), 20-IV-1928, W.S. McClellan, 1♂. *Wilkinson Co.*, T3N-R1W-Sec. 7, 21-IV-1979, A.E. Zuccaro, 2♂. These records indicate that *P. marginalis* is widely distributed in the state, however specimens are seldom encountered. The presence of *P. marginalis* in Mississippi was expected in light of its known range.

Phyllophaga marginalis insolita Cartwright. *Tishomingo Co.*, Tishomingo St. Park, 17-VI-1977, P.K. Lago, 1♂. This pubescent form of *P. marginalis* has been reported only from the type material collected in Alabama (Cartwright, 1944; Luginbill and Painter, 1953).

Phyllophaga (Phytalus) obsoleta vanalleri (Schaeffer). *Adams Co.*, Natchez, 12-VI-1978, 11-VII-1978, A.E. Zuccaro, 2♂; Homochitto Nat. For., 19-VI-1979, P.D. Hartfield, 1♂. *Harrison Co.*, Gulfport, 4-VI-1927, F.P. Amsley, 1♂. *Holmes Co.*, Durant, 8-VI-1927, G.R. Williams, 9♂. *Lafayette Co.*, Oxford, six collection dates from I-VI through 11-VII (1977-1979), P.K. Lago and D.F. Stanford, 21♂, blacklight. *Lincoln Co.*, Brookhaven, 24-V-1927, N.D. Peets, 4♂. *Oktibbeha Co.*, Starkville, nine collection dates from 6-III through 23-VIII (1943-1976), W.H. Cross and W.D. Fancher, 11♂, blacklight. *Pearl River Co.*, Poplarville, 25-V-1927, J.E. Lee, 1♂. *Pontotoc Co.*, 1 mi. N Pontotoc, 21-VI-1977, R.B. Head, 2♂. *Scott Co.*, Golden Memorial St. Park, 21-VI-1978, S. Hurdle, 2♂. *Tishomingo Co.*, Tishomingo St. Park, five collection dates from 6-VI through 22-VII (1977-1978), P.K. Lago and F. Searcy, 12♂, blacklight, 2♀ from oak (*Quercus* sp.). *Warren Co.*, T14N-R3E-Sec. 30, 21-VI-1979, P.D. Hartfield, 1♂. Saylor (1939) reported this species from Texas, Louisiana and Alabama, thus its presence in Mississippi was predictable. Males are highly attracted to blacklight, however light traps yielded no females. The two females examined were collected from oak, which is apparently the first host recorded for this species.

Phyllophaga (Phytalus) omani Sanderson. *Harrison Co.*, Biloxi, 28-IX-1929, K.L. Cockerham, 1♂. Sanderson (1937) described this species from two specimens collected in Alabama and Georgia. Saylor (1939) reported having one specimen in his collection from "North America" and Sanderson (1939) reported another specimen from Georgia, bringing the number of known specimens of *P. (Phytalus) omani* to four (3♂ and 1♀). The above Mississippi record represents the fifth reported specimen of this apparently rare species.

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