

HOST PLANT OF *PSEUDOLAMPSIS GUTTATA*
(LECONTE) (COLEOPTERA: CHRYSOMELIDAE)¹

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The flea beetle *Pseudolamprosis guttata* (LeConte), which is extremely rare in collections (Blake 1943), has been the subject of two relatively recent papers. Balsbaugh and Kirk (1968) reported *P. guttata* from South Carolina, extending its known range eastward from Louisiana and Alabama. Subsequently, Balsbaugh (1969) concluded that *Distigmoptera darwini* Scherer, described from Uruguay, is conspecific with *P. guttata*, and he also reported specimens from Mato Grosso, Brazil. If true, this would extend the range throughout much of South America and confirm that *P. guttata* is a tropical and subtropical beetle (Blake 1943).

The host plant has remained unknown. On 20-VII-72 and 4-VII-72, I collected the beetle on watervelvet (Atlantic azolla: *Azolla caroliniana* Willd.) at a small pond on state road S-23 south of Gainesville, Alachua Co., Florida. Subsequently, in greenhouse pools, I observed both adults and larvae feeding on watervelvet collected from the pond. Pupation occurs in a brown oval cocoon spun on the upper surface of watervelvet.

More recently, *P. guttata* larvae were collected from this host in N. Ft. Myers, Lee County, Florida by Dr. E. S. Del Fosse on 27-VI-77 in Powell Creek at Bayshore Road, and on 25-VII-77 in Ten Mile Canal at Colonial Blvd.

Watervelvet, a small floating plant which forms dense mats on the water surface, is common in Florida and occurs throughout eastern United States. The association of this beetle with watervelvet may explain its rarity in collections. Most collecting is done by sweeping, a technique that would miss insects 1-2 mm above the water surface.

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