

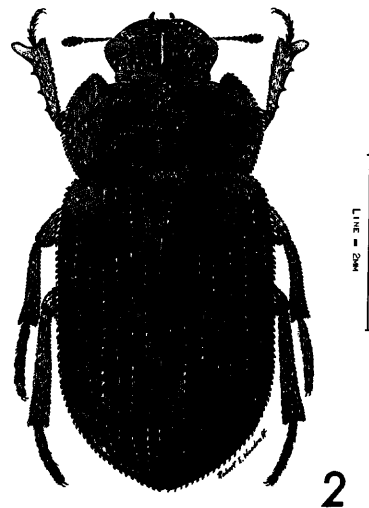
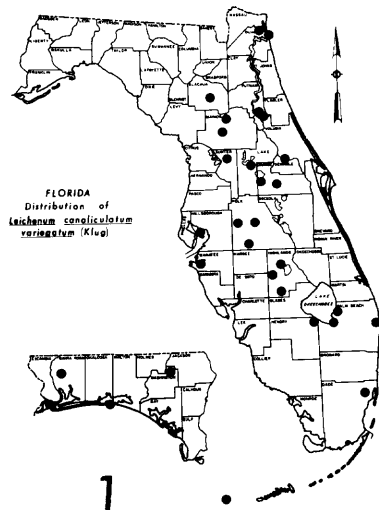
A MADAGASCAR BEETLE IN FLORIDA, LEICHENUM¹
CANALICULATUM VARIEGATUM (KLUG)
(COLEOPTERA: TENEBRIONIDAE)

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INTRODUCTION: LEICHENUM CANALICULATUM VARIEGATUM (KLUG), A NATIVE OF MADAGASCAR, WAS FIRST FOUND IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1906 AT MOBILE, ALABAMA AND HAS BEEN KNOWN TO BE IN FLORIDA SINCE 1920.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: WE HAVE NO DEFINITE RECORD OF DAMAGE BEING CAUSED BY THIS BEETLE, BUT IT HAS OFTEN BEEN INCRIMINATED BY ITS PRESENCE. BOTH ADULTS AND LARVAE ARE FOUND IN THE SOIL AND BOTH STAGES PROBABLY FEED ON ROOTS OF PLANTS. IT HAS BEEN RECORDED ON BERMUDA GRASS, SOIL AMONG TURNIPS AND RUTABAGAS, FEEDING ON NAP OF RUGS (?), AND ASSOCIATED WITH DAMAGED PEACH TREES AND AMARYLLIS BULBS. WE ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT IT AS A POTENTIAL PEST.

DISTRIBUTION: IN THE UNITED STATES THIS SPECIES HAS BEEN FOUND IN COASTAL AREAS OF ALABAMA, GEORGIA, MISSISSIPPI, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND IN FLORIDA IT HAS BEEN RECORDED FROM THE LOCALITIES SHOWN ON THE MAP IN FIG. 1. IT PROBABLY OCCURS THROUGHOUT THE STATE, ESPECIALLY IN SANDY SOILS.



HABITS & BIOLOGY: THE ADULT BEETLES ARE ATTRACTED TO LIGHT, AND THIS OFFERS A GOOD SURVEY PROCEDURE. THE BEETLE SEEMS TO OCCUR MORE COMMONLY IN SANDY AREAS AND HAS BEEN RECORDED FROM MARCH TO NOVEMBER, ALTHOUGH IT PROBABLY OCCURS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. THE LARVA HAS BEEN DESCRIBED TENTATIVELY (WITH QUESTION AS TO ITS IDENTITY).

DESCRIPTION: THE BEETLE DOES NOT RESEMBLE CLOSELY ANY OTHER SPECIES IN FLORIDA AND SHOULD BE READILY RECOGNIZED WHEN COMPARED TO FIG. 2. THE BODY APPEARS GRAY, ALTHOUGH ACTUALLY MOTTLED WITH BLACK, GRAY, BROWN, AND WHITISH SPATULA-SHAPED, SCALE-LIKE SETAE. THIS MOTTLING IS SOMETIMES VARIABLE, DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF THESE SCALE-LIKE SETAE WHICH HAVE BEEN RUBBED OFF. IT IS SLIGHTLY LESS THAN 1/4 INCH IN LENGTH. THE LARVA (ALTHOUGH IDENTIFIED ONLY TENTATIVELY) RESEMBLES A SMALL WIREWORM IN GENERAL APPEARANCE.

REFERENCES:

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