

A FALSE POWDER-POST BEETLE NEW TO THE UNITED STATES
(COLEOPTERA:BOSTRICHIDAE)^{1/}

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INTRODUCTION: *Xylopsocus capucinus* (Fabricius) has previously been intercepted at ports of entry into the U. S. on many occasions in a wide variety of plant materials. However, Fisher (1950) stated that it "has not become established in the United States." On 14 March 1978, specimens were collected from cassava branches at Homestead, Florida, by J. Peña, and subsequent surveys indicate that the species is definitely established as a part of the Florida fauna.

DESCRIPTION (Adult) fig. 1-2: Length 3-5.5 mm; width 1.4-1.7 mm. Shape cylindrical and similar in general appearance to other common species of the family Bostrichidae found in Florida. Because of this similarity, field identification is impractical, and specimens should be submitted to taxonomists for identification.

The body color is black or reddish (particularly the elytra, venter, antennae, and palpi). The apical elytral declivity is abruptly, obliquely deflexed, flattened, without tubercles or callosities. The lateral margins of the declivity (fig. 2) are strongly elevated, crenulate toward top, and completely enclose the declivity. This arrangement is distinctive from other U. S. Bostrichidae.

The larva has been described and illustrated by Gardner (1933).

BIOLOGY: Beeson and Bhatia (1937) indicated that it was not common in India, but it emerged mainly between May and November without marked peaks of abundance. The life cycle there is apparently annual but may extend

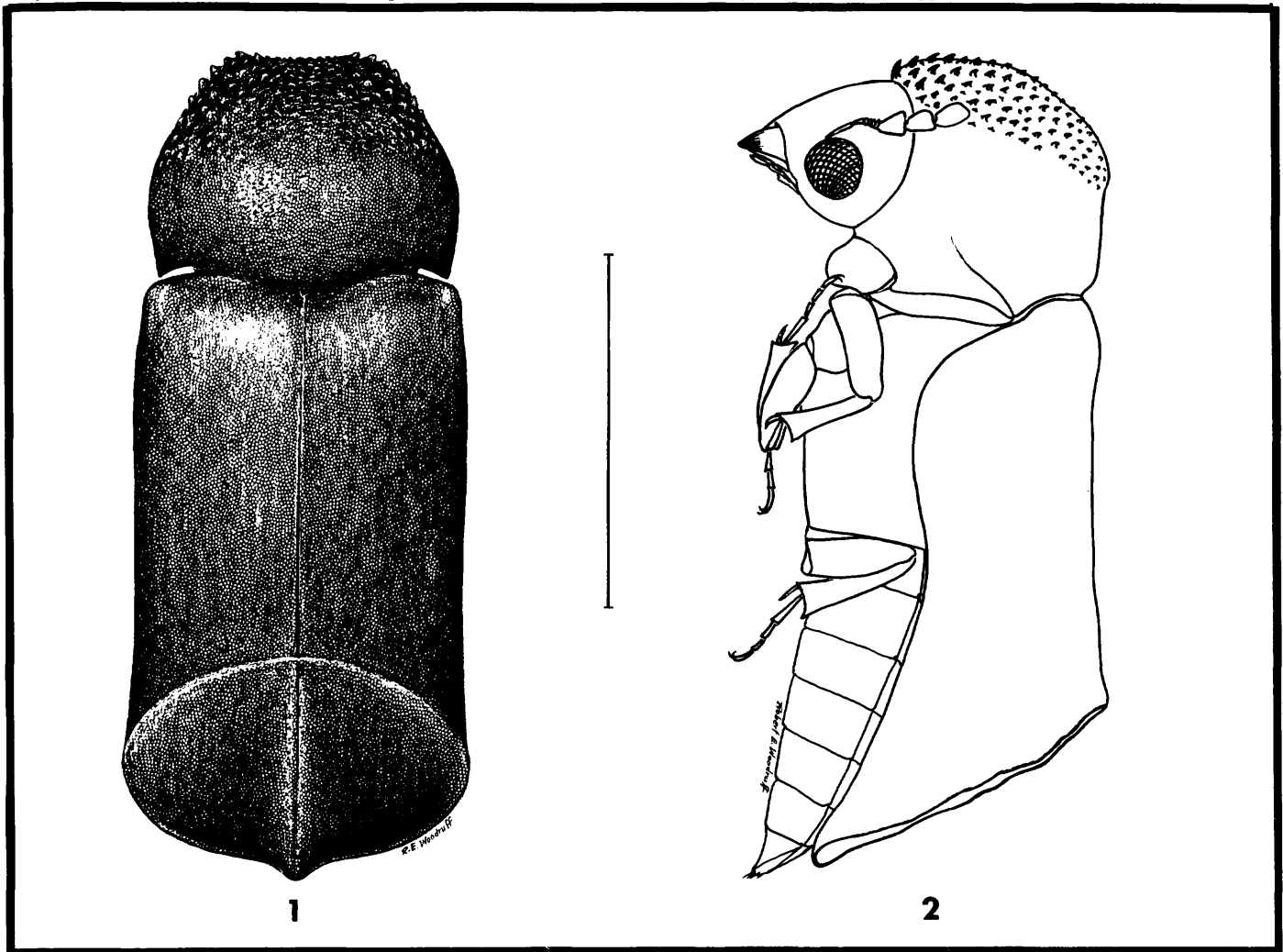


Fig. 1-2. Adult *Xylopsocus capucinus*: 1) dorsal; 2) ventral (scale line equals 2 mm).

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to 2 years, with stragglers in the third year. Additional biological data were given by Miller (1934), who stated that the life cycle is 8 weeks when the larva feeds in Derris roots. He also recorded a reduviid bug (Peregrinator biannulipes Montr. & Sign.) as a predator on X. capucinus.

Most damage appears to be caused to lumber or to plants already damaged by lightning, cold, or other insect injury. Kalshoven (1963b) listed it from piles of teak poles where the sapwood layer became honey-combed throughout. Most references mention dry branches and stems being most often infested. Marin Acosta (1975) listed it in unhealthy avocado trees and in stems of grape where its presence was shown by little masses of gum (in rolled strips) in their openings.

HOSTS: According to Fisher (1950), Lesne (1924) recorded this species living in the wood of Morus alba L. and in trunks of "Kimoungoue" in east Africa, in bamboo, litchi (Litchi chinensis Sonn.), and in grape (Vitis sp.) in Brazil. Miller (1934) recorded it attacking piquia (Caryocar villosum Pers.), rambutan (Nephelium lappaceum L.), rubber (Hevea brasiliensis (Willd. ex A. Juss) Muell. Arg.), Dipterocarpus sp., Derris sp., guava (Psidium guajava L.), Casuarina equisetifolia J. R. Forst. & G. Forst., Syzygium malaccensis (L.) Merrill & L. M. Perry, cinnamon (Cinnamomum zeylanicum Blume), Indigofera anil L., cashew nut (Anacardium occidentale L.), durian (Durio zibethinus J. Murr.), Tephrosia candida DC., Gardenia jasminoides Ellis, tamarind (Tamarindus indica L.), Hibiscus rosa-sinensis L., and mango (Mangifera indica L.). Beeson and Bhatia (1937) reported it as also attacking Artocarpus hirsutus Lam., Ficus sp., Mallotus philippiensis Muell. Arg., Delonix elata (L.) Gamble, Santalum album L., Shorea robusta Gaertn. f., Sindora wallichii Benth., Swietenia mahagoni (L.) Jacq., Tectona grandis L. f., Terminalia myriocarpa Heurck & Muell. Arg., and Vitex negundo L. Guagliumi (1967) recorded it in avocado seed and stems and branches of cotopriz (Talisia oliviformis Radlk.).

The Florida host has only been cassava, in dry branches (presumably cold killed).

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs throughout most of the tropical areas of the world. Lesne (1901:633) listed it from the Indomalayan area to the Madagascan region with specific locations as follows: Madagascar, Comores, Seychelles, Reunion, Mauritius, Sikkim, Coromandel, Nilghiri, Ceylon, Burma, Tonkin, Laos, Cambodia, Cochinchina, Nicobar, Sumatra, Java, Sumbawa, Borneo, Celebes, Philippines, Ternate, Batjan, Ceram, Amboine, Kei, Arou, New Guinea, Trobriand, Woodlark, d'Entrecasteaux, Louisiade, New Hebrides, Espiritu-Santo, New Caledonia, Sierra Leone, South America, (Guiana and eastern Brazil).

Fisher (1950:141) listed the following records: India, Ceylon, China, Siam, Indochina, Burma, Formosa, Philippines, nearly all Malaysian and Melanesian Islands, and Madagascar. He listed it as introduced into the eastern and western coasts of Africa, French Guiana, Venezuela, Trinidad, and Brazil.

In Florida it is presently known only from the area around Homestead (Dade County).

CONTROL: As presently known, the species does not appear to be a serious economic pest. Infested cassava branches were destroyed by burning. Chemical controls do not appear to be practical or required at the present time.

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