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NOTES ON THE HISTERIDAE (COLEOPTERA) KNOWN TO OCCUR IN NEVADA

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Twenty species of this distinctive family seem to be the sum total at present known from the State, only a small proportion of which have previously been recorded. The few species described from Nevada are mainly the result of Dr. Horn's pronounced interest in the little-known Western fauna in the middle decades of the last half of the 19th Century, at which time Nevada was so far removed from entomological notice that any specimens obtained from it were thought sufficiently placed as to locale by the mere mention of the State. Rarely is it possible, in these early papers, to find specific localities within the State mentioned by collectors. Undoubtedly the vast confines of Nevada were generally held by eastern workers to represent one ecological continuity in which place names were of little importance. The entire West was so regarded at one time, but the practice with regard to Nevada seemed to have endured longer than with surrounding states which became better known.

I am indebted to Dr. E. S. Ross for most of the determinations.

HOLOLEPTINAE

1. *Hololepta aequalis* Say 1825. Lincoln County (ALAMO, 17/1/41, el. 3800 ft—LaR); Washoe County (TRUCKEE MEADOWS, 5/XII/39, el. 4500 ft—LaR). This species is taken in large numbers beneath the bark of cottonwood trees (*Populus fremonti* and *P. trichocarpa*) which in Nevada are confined naturally to watercourses of the few major streams, largely at valley-floor elevation. The Truckee and Carson rivers often bear large stands of these trees, especially along their banks where meanders have created widened riverbottoms in their courses through desert areas. The species prefers recently-dead trees in which the bark is still tight enough for extensive bacterial decay, a situation to which its extremely flattened form admirably adapts it. Its associates are quite constant, and include *Cucujus clavipes puniceus*, another flat species, and the histerids *Platysoma lecontei* and *Paromalus aequalis*. This is the farthest western record of the species, it previously being unknown west of the Rockies. It undoubtedly occurs in Utah, but to my knowledge, has never been recorded from there. The fact that it has been found in two widely-separated localities in Nevada militates against the supposition that it may have been introduced originally with unbarked cottonwood logs from farther east. If it should prove an isolate in the Great Basin, its dis-

tribution here may shed some light on Pleistocene and Post-Pleistocene distribution of members of the genus *Populus*, which certainly enjoyed a wider and more uniform spread in the Great Basin than is apparent today. I have seen it feeding on *Cucujus clavipes puniceus* larvae in the vicinity of Reno.

HISTRINAE

HISTRINI

2. *Hister solaris* Carnochan 1915. Humboldt County (PARADISE VALLEY sand dunes, 18/VI/41, el. 4800 ft—LaR & C. C. Christensen); Washoe County (TRUCKEE MEADOWS, 23/III/41, 13/IX/41, el. 4500 ft—LaR). A species not uncommon under animal carcasses. The type locality is Wenatchee, Washington, and Carnochan also had specimens before him from Oregon, Wyoming and Nevada (no specific mention) when describing it.
3. *Hister militaris* Horn 1870. Washoe County (TRUCKEE MEADOWS, 18/IV/40, el. 4500 ft—LaR). Horn described the species from a single specimen collected at Ft. Yuma, California, and it was later recorded from Arizona. My present data indicate it to be an uncommon species. No previous record.
4. *Hister umbilicatus* Casey 1893. Washoe County (TRUCKEE MEADOWS, 11/II/40, el. 4500 ft—LaR). Originally described from California. No previous record.
5. *Hister bimaculatus* Linné 1758. Washoe County (TRUCKEE MEADOWS, 22-23/II/41, 19-26/IV/41, el. 4500 ft—LaR). This European species has long been known from most of the rest of the United States. No previous record.
6. *Teretrius placitus* Horn 1880. In his original description, Horn says: "Collected by Mr. H. K. Morrison, in western Nevada." It has since been found in southern California. I do not have the species.
7. *Platysoma lecontei* Marseul 1853. Washoe County (TRUCKEE MEADOWS, 5/XII/39, 2-15/III/41, el. 4500 ft—LaR). The locality given by the describer was "États-Unis, sous les écorces des arbres." See *Hololepta aequalis*. No previous records. It is generally distributed east of the Rockies, and has been taken in southern California.
8. *Platysoma punctigerum* LeConte 1861. Douglas County (LAKE TAHOE, 12/IV/41, el. 6300 ft—LaR & T. J. Trelease); Washoe County (TRUCKEE MEADOWS, 8-16/III/41, el. 4500 ft—LaR). Also known from California and Arizona. No previous records.
9. *Psiloscelis subopaca* LeConte 1863. Elko County (RUBY MOUNTAINS, Lamaille Canon, 25/VI/41, el. 7000 ft—LaR & G. C. Christensen). This distinctive species has been taken only in the eastern part of the State, where it was not uncommon at the single locality collected. It was taken in ant nests with *Cremastocheilus angularis montanus*: No previous records.
10. *Paromalus aequalis* Say 1825. Washoe County (TRUCKEE MEADOWS, 5/XII/39, 5/III/41, el. 4500 ft—LaR). The discussion of distribution under *Hololepta aequalis* seems to apply equally to this species, both occupying the same environment, and probably distributed by the same agencies. *Paromalus* is much smaller than *Hololepta*, and much more numerous where collected. To my knowledge, this is the westernmost record, and the first for the state. The species is well known east of the Rockies.
11. *Plegaderus fraternus* Horn 1870. Nevada is the type locality. Horn wrote at the time of describing: "two specimens from Nevada, from Mr. Wm. M.

Gabb." It has since been found in California and Arizona. I do not have the species.

12. *Plegaderus nitidus* Horn 1870. Also described from Nevada. "Three specimens from Nevada, one of which was sent me by Mr. Henry Edwards, of San Francisco" (Horn 1870). Now known from Oregon and California as well. I have no specimens.

SAPRININI

13. *Saprinus discoidalis* LeConte 1851. Washoe County (TRUCKEE MEADOWS, 9-23/III/41, el. 4500 ft—LaR). No previous records.
14. *Saprinus lugens* Erichson 1835. Douglas County (LAKE TAHOE, 12/VI/41, el. 6300 ft—T. J. Trelease); Elko County (ELKO, 30/VI/41, el. 5000 ft—LaR & G. C. Christensen); Humboldt County (DEXTO, 1 mile south of, 24/VI/41, el. 4500 ft—LaR & G. C. Christensen); Washoe County (TRUCKEE MEADOWS, 9/III/41, el. 4500 ft—LaR). The commonest large *Saprinus*, widely-distributed over the State under animal carcasses. No previous records.
15. *Saprinus oregonensis* LeConte 1845. Elko County (ELKO, 10/VI/39, el. 5000 ft—LaR); Humboldt County (PARADISE-NATIONAL SUMMIT, 21/VI/41, el. 7600 ft—LaR & G. C. Christensen); Washoe County (PEAVINE, 11/VIII/40, el. 5000 ft—LaR). Another very common species, also found in Arizona and southern California. No previous records.
16. *Saprinus ciliatoides* Fall 1917. Described by Fall from "Nevada, Las Vegas. One specimen." (Clark County). Apparently it has been found nowhere else. I do not have specimens of it.
17. *Saprinus scabriceps* Casey 1916. Described from Nevada. I have not seen the species.
18. *Saprinus lubricus plenus* LeConte 1851. Humboldt County (PARADISE-NATIONAL SUMMIT, 20/VI/41, el. 7600 ft—LaR & G. C. Christensen); Washoe County (TRUCKEE MEADOWS, 13/IX/40, 23/III/41, el. 4500 ft—LaR). Common and well-distributed. No previous records.
19. *Saprinus fimbriatus* LeConte 1851. Washoe County (TRUCKEE MEADOWS, 23/III/41, el. 4500 ft—LaR). A general southwest species. No previous records.
20. *Saprinus fraternus* Say 1823. Washoe County (TRUCKEE MEADOWS, 14/IX/40, el. 4500 ft—LaR). Predominantly an eastern species, this seems to be a considerable westward extension of its range. No previous records.

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