



4-5-2012

# The plateau giant tiger beetle, *Amblycheila picolomini* Reiche, 1839, in Utah: new state record (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Cicindelinae)

Frank-Thorsten Krell

Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Denver, CO, frank.krell@dmns.org

Jack O. Brookhart

Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Denver, CO, joipbroo@comcast.net

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/wnan>

 Part of the [Anatomy Commons](#), [Botany Commons](#), [Physiology Commons](#), and the [Zoology Commons](#)

### Recommended Citation

Krell, Frank-Thorsten and Brookhart, Jack O. (2012) "The plateau giant tiger beetle, *Amblycheila picolomini* Reiche, 1839, in Utah: new state record (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Cicindelinae)," *Western North American Naturalist*: Vol. 72 : No. 1 , Article 15.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/wnan/vol72/iss1/15>

This Note is brought to you for free and open access by the Western North American Naturalist Publications at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Western North American Naturalist by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

THE PLATEAU GIANT TIGER BEETLE, *AMBLYCHEILA PICOLOMINII* REICHE, 1839, IN UTAH: NEW STATE RECORD  
(COLEOPTERA: CARABIDAE: CICINDELINAE)

Frank-Thorsten Krell<sup>1,2</sup> and Jack O. Brookhart<sup>1</sup>

ABSTRACT.—The plateau giant tiger beetle, *Amblycheila picolomini*, Reiche, 1839, is recorded from Utah for the first time. This is the northernmost record of the species.

RESUMEN.—Se documenta por primera vez en el estado de Utah el descubrimiento del escarabajo tigre gigante de meseta, *Amblycheila picolomini*, Reiche, 1839. Este es el registro más boreal de esta especie.

The 7 species of giant tiger beetles of the genus *Amblycheila* have relatively limited ranges in southwestern North America. Being flightless, nocturnal, and not attracted to light, they are mainly collected by pitfall trapping or hand-collecting. All species are apparently allopatric, but the relatively few records (Hoback and Riggins 2001, Pearson et al. 2006) indicate that the extent of their ranges might not be fully known. The plateau giant tiger beetle, *Amblycheila picolomini* Reiche, 1839, is known from northeastern Arizona, southwestern Colorado, southern New Mexico and south Texas (Vaurie 1955, Pearson et al. 1997, Freitag 1999, Hoback and Riggins 2001, Pearson et al. 2006). From Utah, only one *Amblycheila* species has been known, the Mojave giant tiger beetle, *Amblycheila schwarzi* Horn, 1903, which is confined to the Mojave desert (Tanner 1929, Pearson et al. 2006) and differs from *A. picolomini* by sparser punctures on the elytral disk, arranged in only 3 or 4 rows between the carinae (Vaurie 1955).

A specimen of *A. picolomini* was found in pitfall traps set in San Juan County, southeastern Utah, in an area of Great Basin conifer woodland as seen in Brown (1994):

UTAH, San Juan Co., 4 mi. S Blanding, County Road 210 / Highway 191, 37°33'02"N, 109°29'26"W, alt. 1726 m, pitfall trap, leg. J. & I.P. Brookhart, trap open 10.vi.–26.vii.2000, 1 spm. in Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

The predominant vegetation was widely spaced junipers (*Juniperus* sp.) with scattered

tufts of grass (probably *Bouteloua* sp.), snake-weed (*Gutierrezia* sp.), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* sp.), and yucca (*Yucca* sp.). A thin layer of soil covered the mostly rocky subsurface. The area had evidence of grazing cattle.

This is the first record from Utah and the northernmost record for this species, extending its range northward from the Arizona records and westward from the 2 Colorado records from Mesa Verde National Park (Kippenhan 1994). Very little is known about the ecology of *A. picolomini*. Cazier's (1939) note that 4 adults "were taken in dry, open, rocky country at dusk" is the only published information (Kippenhan 1994). The current find extends the record to open juniper woodland.

LITERATURE CITED

- BROWN, D.E. 1994. Great Basin conifer woodland. Pages 52–57 in D.E. Brown, editor, Biotic communities: southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, UT.
- CAZIER, M.A. 1939. Notes on the genus *Amblycheila* (Coleoptera – Cicindelidae). Pan-Pacific Entomologist 15:110.
- FREITAG, R. 1999. Catalogue of the tiger beetles of Canada and the United States. NRC Research Press, Ottawa, Canada.
- HOBACK, W.W., AND J.J. RIGGINS. 2001. Tiger beetles of the United States [online]. Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, ND [cited 7 July 2011; version 12DEC2003]. Available from: <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/insects/tigb/index.htm>
- KIPPENHAN, M.G. 1994. The tiger beetles (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae) of Colorado. Transactions of the American Entomological Society 120:1–86.

<sup>1</sup>Department of Zoology, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO 80205-5798.

<sup>2</sup>E-mail: frank.krell@dmns.org

- PEARSON, D.L., T.G. BARRACLOUGH, AND A.P. VOGLER. 1997. Distributional maps for North American species of tiger beetles (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae). *Cicindela* 29:33–84.
- PEARSON, D.L., C.B. KNISLEY, AND C.J. KAZILEK. 2006. A field guide to the tiger beetles of the United States and Canada. Oxford University Press, New York, NY.
- TANNER, V.M. 1929. The Coleoptera of Utah – Cicindelidae. *Pan-Pacific Entomologist* 6:78–87.
- VAURIE, P. 1955. A review of the North American genus *Amblycheila* (Coleoptera, Cicindelidae). *American Museum Novitates* 1724:1–26. Available from: <http://digitallibrary.amnh.org/dspace/bitstream/handle/2246/2441/v2/dspace/ingest/pdfSource/nov/N1724.pdf?sequence=1>

*Received 15 July 2011*  
*Accepted 10 October 2011*