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A NEW STATE RECORD FOR
CICINDELA NIGROCOERULEA NIGROCOERULEA LECONTE
(COLEOPTERA: CICINDELIDAE) IN NEVADA

Michael G. Kippenhan¹

Key words: tiger beetles, *Cicindela*, *Coleoptera*, Nevada.

Tiger beetles are a well-studied and popular family of Coleoptera. Adults occupy a large variety of habitats with individual species exhibiting microhabitat preferences and marked seasonal activity. Due to these specialization factors, tiger beetles have become an important element for assessing conservation planning (Cassola and Pearson 2000). Adults of the Holarctic genus *Cicindela* are represented in North America with 92 species (Freitag 1999), most of which exhibit attractive colors and markings as well as diurnal habits. The distribution of these species has been well documented and recorded throughout the United States (Pearson et al. 1997).

Cicindela nigrocoerulea LeConte (Fig. 1) is a species of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico, with 3 recognized subspecific forms (Freitag 1999). In the United States the nominate form is known to inhabit the largest geographic area, which comprises Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah (Freitag 1999). *Cicindela n. nigrocoerulea* exhibits a summer adult activity period and is associated with moist alkali soil of grasslands or along water edges.

On 17 and 18 August 2000, the author collected 9 specimens (4 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀) of this species along the Virgin River near Mesquite, Clark County, Nevada. The specimens were active along the edges of short grasses bordering muddy, alkali-encrusted patches on a wide sand bar in the channel of the river. Other cicindelids occurring in this habitat were *C. haemorrhagica arizonae* Wickham along the water's edge and *C. praetextata pallidofemora* Acciavatti on the muddy areas throughout the

sand bar. The sand bar was searched extensively and it was verified that *C. n. nigrocoerulea* could be located only in close proximity of the alkali encrustations.

This collection of *Cicindela n. nigrocoerulea* represents the first published record of this species from Nevada (Sumlin 1976, Pearson et al. 1997, Freitag 1999). Records from St. George, Utah (Tanner 1929), indicate that this species is an inhabitant of the upriver Virgin River system, and therefore it is surprising that it has not previously been recorded from Nevada.

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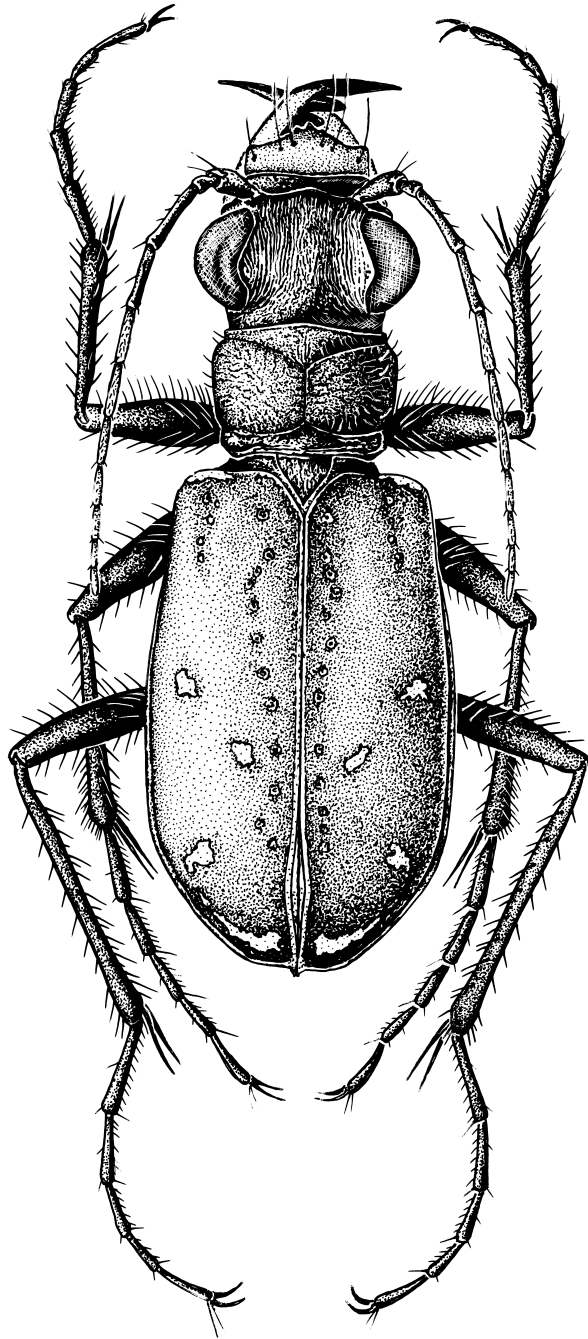


Fig. 1. *Cicindela n. nigrocoerulea* LeConte, male.