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**COREOPSIS TINCTORIA: AN UNRECORDED HOST PLANT OF
ADULT CALLIGRAPHA CALIFORNICA COREOPSIVORA
(COLEOPTERA: CHRYSOMELIDAE)**

Charles E. Williams¹

ABSTRACT

Adults of *Calligrapha californica coreopsivora* are recorded feeding upon cultivated *Coreopsis tinctoria* in southwestern Virginia. *Coreopsis tinctoria* is an unrecorded host plant of this beetle.

Adults and larvae of *Calligrapha californica coreopsivora* Brown are reported to feed upon plants in three genera of Asteraceae: *Ambrosia* (ragweeds), *Bidens* (beggar-ticks), and *Coreopsis* (tickseeds) (Brown 1945, Wilcox 1972). Recorded host plants for *C. c. coreopsivora* include *Bidens cernua*, *B. frondosa* (Brown 1945), and *Coreopsis lanceolata* (Britton 1902). Brown (1945) also mentioned this beetle feeding upon cultivated *Coreopsis* in Canada but did not list species names. At least 12 species of *Coreopsis* are cultivated in North America, most of which are native to the United States and Canada (Bailey 1951).

During late June and early July of 1987 and 1988 I collected adults of *C. c. coreopsivora* from *Coreopsis tinctoria* growing in a small wildflower garden in Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia. Beetles fed readily on leaves of plants but were present at low numbers both years and caused little damage. No eggs or larvae were observed. *Coreopsis tinctoria* is a previously unrecorded host of *C. c. coreopsivora*. Host plant and insect voucher specimens have been deposited in the herbarium and insect museum at VPI and SU.

Coreopsis tinctoria is an annual species primarily native to the central United States, usually occurring on roadside ditches, wet sandy soils and railroad embankments (Smith 1976). It is also widely naturalized in the U.S. (e.g., Jepson 1963, Harvill et al. 1986). The natural range of *Coreopsis tinctoria* lies within the range of *C. c. coreopsivora* (Brown 1945, Wilcox 1972), thus this plant may be a native host of *C. c. coreopsivora* in portions of the eastern and central U.S. as well as an adventitious host in other regions.

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