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Jordan D. Marche II
none (retired), jdmarcheii@gmail.com

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Cover Page Footnote

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Two New Coleopteran Records from Wisconsin

Jordan D. Marché II
5415 Lost Woods Court, Oregon, WI 53575 (e-mail: jdmarcheii@gmail.com)

Abstract

Specimens of two different species of beetles, representing that many separate families of Coleoptera, are herein reported as new to Wisconsin. These species occur respectively within the following families: Zopheridae and Trogossitidae.

Keywords: beetles, Wisconsin

Previously unrecorded species of native Coleoptera, from two separate families, have been captured in recent years at the author's residence in the town of Oregon, Dane County, Wisconsin. All were attracted to UV lights. These species occur respectively within the following families: Zopheridae and Trogossitidae. Each represents a **new state record**.

Zopheridae

Synchita parvula Guérin-Méneville, 1844. – On 28 May 2018, a single specimen of the zopherid beetle *S. parvula* was collected at a UV light at the author's residence (42° 54′ 14.75″, –89° 25′ 25.52″). A second specimen was taken at the same locality by identical means on 5 June 2019. Both display a prominent, somewhat X-shaped pattern of orangish elytral pubescence on an otherwise piceous background. Previously, this species was classified as a member of the family Colydiidae Erichson 1845 and regarded as belonging to the genus *Microsicus* Sharp 1894 as *M. parvulus* (Ivie 2002: Figure 24.103, p. 451; 452), although other authorities (Slipinski and Lawrence 1999) had already suggested moving genera of the subfamily Colydiinae to the family Zopheridae Solier 1834. These nomenclatural issues were at last resolved by Ivie et al. (2016: 761), which (among other acts) synonymized *Microsicus* and *Synchita* Hellwig *in* Schneider 1792, thereby returning the taxon's original form to its previous combination as *S. parvulus*. In this newer taxonomic scheme, 10 New World species are currently recognized under the genus *Synchita* (Ivie et al. 2016: 782). Formerly, *S. parvula* had a known distribution that included 14 states, including IN and IA in the Midwestern USA (Downie and Arnett 1996: 1129); thus, its occurrence in WI is not unexpected. The large tribe Synchitini is associated with rotting wood and bark; larvae and adults are believed to be consumers of fungi.

Trogossitidae

Corticotomus parallelus (Melsheimer, 1844). – On 6 July 2020, a single specimen of this bark-gnawing beetle was collected at the author's residence. A second specimen was taken at the same locality by identical means on 6 April 2021. The elongate, parallel-sided form of this genus superficially resembles that of some cylindrical bark beetles (Colydiinae in Zopheridae; see Ivie et al. 2016) but it may be distinguished from that family by an antenna with 11 antennomeres, segments 9–11 forming an asymmetrical club, and 5-5-5 tarsi (Leschen 2002: 263–264). Within America north of Mexico, 6 species belong to the genus *Corticotomus* Sharp 1891. Formerly, *C. parallelus* had a known distribution of 12 states, including IL, IN, MI, and OH in the Midwestern USA (Downie and Arnett 1996: 936); thus, its occurrence in Wisconsin is not unexpected. The elytral bases of *C. parallelus* are frequently reddish-orange on an otherwise purplish-brown background (Evans 2014: 261). Most trogossitids are predaceous and are found under bark within the galleries of other wood-boring beetles (Leschen 2002: 264). Possibly, the narrow, cylindrical shape of *Corticotomus* is a result of convergence, enabling adults to more easily penetrate the tunnels created by such prey organisms.

Voucher specimens of each species have been deposited in the University of Wisconsin Insect Research Collection (WIRC); remaining specimens are retained in the author's personal collection (JDMC).

Acknowledgments

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