

ECOLOGICAL NOTES ON *CRYPTOGLOSSA BICOSTATA*
SOLIER (COLEOPTERA:TENEBRIONIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

The second known specimen of *C. bicostata* Solier is recorded from Yagul, Oaxaca, Mexico, at an elevation of 5,500 ft., on July 7, 1970.

In 1964, the senior author published a synopsis of the genus *Cryptoglossa* Solier. At that time, *C. bicostata* Solier (1836), the type species of the genus, was known only from the type specimen which lacked antennae and had no more specific locality data than "du Mexique." The terminal 2 antennal segments are necessary in distinguishing between *Cryptoglossa* and the very similar genus *Centrioptera* Mannerheim. It is possible that the 2 genera will ultimately prove synonymous so that the status of *C. bicostata* is obviously very important, especially since *Cryptoglossa* is the older name.

Recently the junior author sent to the senior author what is apparently the second specimen of *C. bicostata* known to science. It is in good condition except that all but the left anterior tarsal segments are broken off and, ironically, the antennae have the important terminal segments missing. It is a little larger and more slender (28mm long; 10mm wide) than the Solier type (27mm long; 11mm wide). Although the specimen cannot clarify the status of generic relationships, it is accompanied by detailed ecological data which may enable someone collecting in the area to obtain more specimens.

Label data on the specimen are as follows: Yagul, Hwy 190, 15 mi. so. Oaxaca, Oax., Mexico, 7-VII-1970, David E. Bixler.

The Yagul ruins site is at an elevation of 5500 feet and is dominated by semi-arid shrubs including various oaks, mesquite, acacias, *Opuntia*, and columnar cacti of the ribbed *Cereus* group. The soil is poorly developed, compact, and rocky. The area was relatively undisturbed until 1959 when the ruins were discovered, although most of the surrounding area has had a long history of agriculture. The specimen was collected by sweeping semi-arid scrub vegetation along the parking area at the ruins. The specimen is deposited in the Ohio State University Collection of Insects and Spiders.

A can-trapping (pitfall) operation in the Yagul area might yield interesting results since this collecting technique has captured enormous numbers of *Centrioptera* and other ground-dwelling tenebrionids in Arizona, California, Texas and elsewhere. Many of these have been considered about as rare as *C. bicostata*.

LITERATURE CITED

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