

FIRST RECORD OF *CRYPTOLESTES DYBASI* (COLEOPTERA: CUCUJIDAE) OUTSIDE FLORIDA¹

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ABSTRACT: *Cryptolestes dybasi* was collected for the first time outside Florida on a sticky trap located at a grain storage site in South Carolina.

Thomas (1988) lists 19 species of *Cryptolestes* from North America. The genus includes six economically important pests of stored products in North America. The biology of the economically important species has been intensively studied; however, the biology of the non-economically important species is not well known.

Cryptolestes dybasi Thomas was described from specimens collected in January, 1980, from under the bark of a dead oak tree (unpublished collection information provided by M.C. Thomas) and in May, 1978, at a black light trap in Dixie Co. in the northwestern portion of peninsular Florida (Thomas 1988). There has been no further information published about this species. We report here the collection of this species from South Carolina.

The specimen was collected on a sticky trap (30 x 30 cm clear plexiglass coated on both sides with Tangle Trap⁴ and placed vertically oriented ca. 1.2 m above the ground on a wooden stake) on 2 September 1987 near Scotia, Hampton Co., in southwest South Carolina. Eight sticky traps were maintained and changed weekly at this site from 18 March 1987 to 6 April 1988. Only one *C. dybasi* (a male) was collected during this period, whereas 1,499 *C. pusillus* and 187 *C. ferrugineus* were trapped during the same period. *C. pusillus* and *C. ferrugineus* were particularly abundant the week *C. dybasi* was caught (192 and 36 specimens trapped, respectively). Similar trapping procedures at sites near Blackville (Barnwell Co.) and Ehrhardt (Bamberg Co.), SC, yielded no *C. dybasi* during the same one-year trapping period.

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⁴Names of products are included for the benefit of the reader and do not imply endorsement or preferential treatment by USDA.

The collection site was a grain storage area of four cylindrical metal bins, three of which contained corn and one which contained sunflower seeds for most of the trapping period. The site was bordered on the south side by a poorly maintained pecan grove of ca. 50 trees. The pecan grove and grain bins were bordered by soybean or corn fields on three sides and by a meadow on the east side. The nearest woods were ca. 80 m east of the bins. The trap on which the specimen was collected was positioned tangent to and ca. 0.6 m from the western edge of the westernmost grain bin. The weather during the collection week was hot (mean maximum - 33.7°C.; mean minimum - 22.8°C.) and moist (2.4 cm precipitation) (NOAA 1987).

Thomas (1988) reported that the non-economically important species of *Cryptolestes*, including *C. dybasi*, usually live under the bark of logs and are fungivorous or predaceous. It is most likely that this specimen was not associated with the stored grain at the site, but came from the pecan grove or surrounding wooded areas.

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