

NOTES ON A COLLECTING TRIP
TO MASON STATE FOREST, MASON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
WITH COMMENTS ON SOME STAPHYLINIDAE 131.
CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF STENINAE¹

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On August 13th 1970 my dear colleague, Dr. Milton W. Sanderson and I collected for several hours in Mason State Forest, Mason Co., Illinois.

The State Forest includes about 5,500 acres of land; half of the area is in native timber consisting of Black Oak, Blackjack Oak and Hickory. The remainder has been planted to pine species and hardwoods. There are some small ponds in the forest with duckweed (Lemnaceae) and other aquatic vegetation. At the muddy edge of one pond closest to the Forest Headquarters I collected about 65 species of beetles belonging to 12 families. Next to the carabids, the Staphylinidae were the most numerous beetles present. Species of the following genera were found: *Carpelimus*, *Stenus*, *Euaesthetus*, cf. *Lathrobium*, *Lathrobium*, *Scopaeus*, *Medon*, *Philonthus*, *Gabrius*, *Erichsonius*, *Philonthini* gen. sp. *Acylophorus*, *Myllaena*, and *Aleocharinae* gen. sp.

I could identify only the *Stenus*, *Euaesthetus*, and *Acylophorus*. The following species were found:

Stenus femoratus Say

3 males

Widespread over the eastern half of the U.S.; known to me from the following states (numerous new state records!): Me., Mass., N.Y., N.J., Ind., Ill., Mich., Minn., Iowa, Kans., Md., D.C., Va., Miss., La., Tex., Man., Ont.

Stenus virginiae Casey

1 female

A southeastern species; known to me from the following states (numerous new state records!): Ind., Ill., Mo., Iowa, Md., Va., N.C., Tenn., Tex. The Mason State Forest specimen is the first state record for Illinois.

Stenus colonus Erichson

29 males, 17 females

Widespread over the eastern half of the U.S.; known to me from the following states: N.H., Vt., Mass., N.Y., N.J., Pa., Ind., Ill., Mich., Wis., Iowa, S.D., Nebr., Kans., Del., Md., D.C., Va.; Que., Ont.

Stenus alacer Casey

2 males, 1 female

This species has been recorded from Southern Illinois (CASEY, 1884). Mason Co. presently is the northern-most record for the U.S.

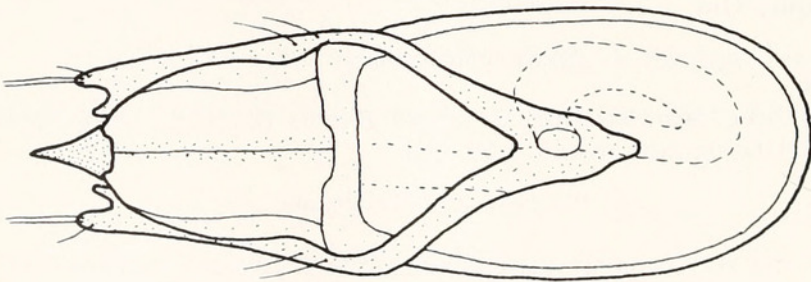
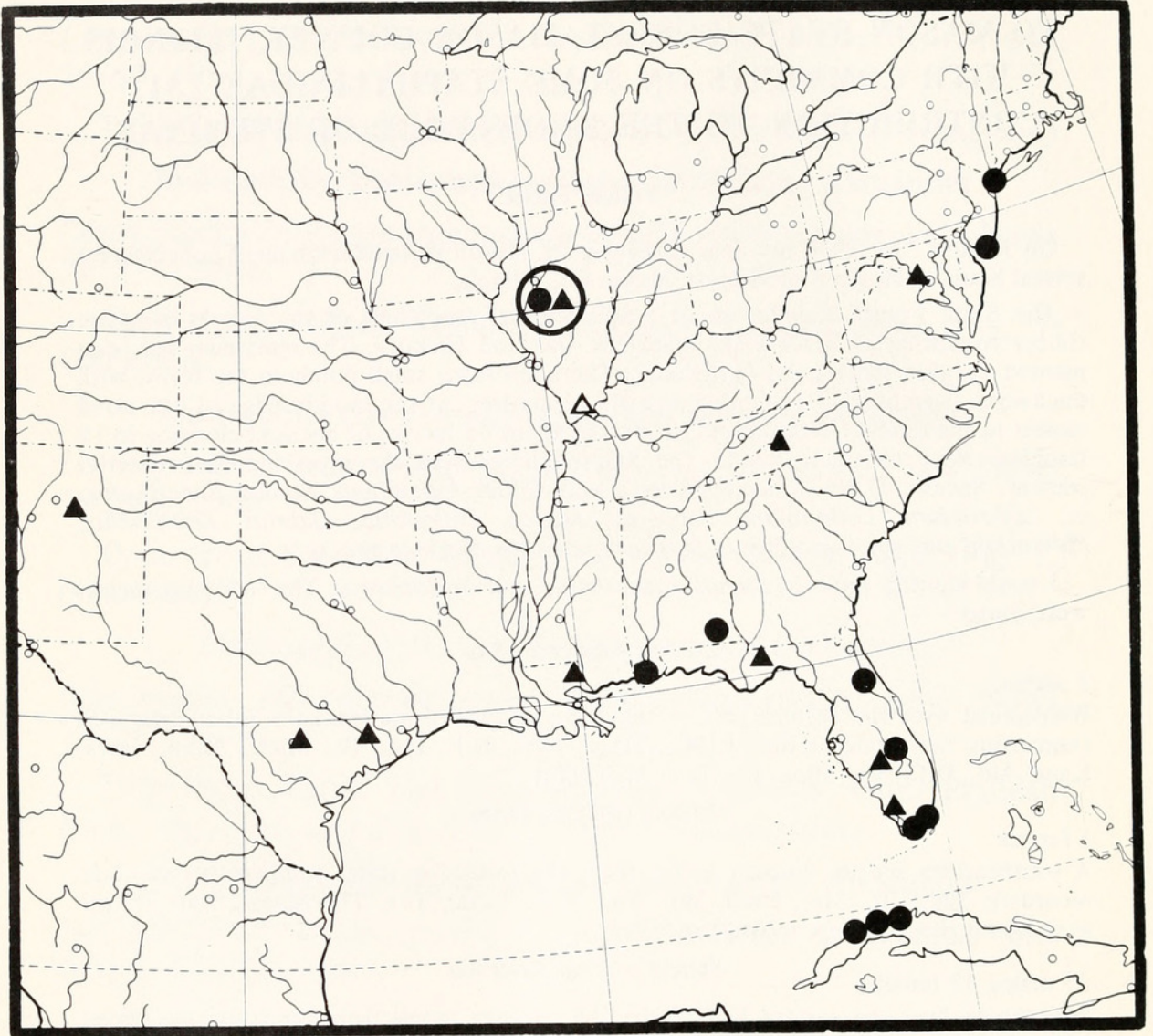
Stenus flavicornis Erichson

3 females

Very widespread and very common in North America. I have seen this species from the following states (including numerous new state records!): Me., N.H., Vt., Mass., Conn., N.Y., Pa., Ohio, Ind., Ill., Mich., Wisc., Minn., Iowa, Mo., Kans., Md., D.C., Va., N.C., Tex., Wyo., Calif.; Que., Ont., Man., B.C.

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LEGEND OF FIGURES:

- Fig. 1. Distribution of *Stenus cubensis* Bernhauer (●) and *Euaesthetus similis* Casey (▲, △ : female, Det.?). Large circle shows Mason State Forest, Illinois.
- Fig. 2. *Euaesthetus similis* Casey, Aedeagus (holotype of *E. neomexicanus* Fall) Scale = 0.1 mm.

Stenus annularis Erichson

1 female

This species is also very widespread in North America but it is less common. than *flavicornis*. It is known to me from the following states (numerous new state records!): N.H., Vt., Mass., N.Y., N.J., Pa., Ill., Mich., Wis., Iowa, Mo., Nebr., Kans., Md., D.C., Va., Ky., Tex., Mont., Colo., Ariz., Wash.; Ont., B.C.

Stenus punctatus Erichson

8 males, 1 female

One of the most common species of the genus in North American and known to me from: Me., H.H., Mass., R.I., Conn., N.Y., N.J., Pa., Ohio, Ill., Mich., Wis., Iowa, Mo., Mebr., Kans., D.C., Va., N.C., S.C., Ga., Ky., Ala., Miss., Arl., La., Tex., Mont., Utah; Ont. (including numerous new state records!).

Stenus cubensis Bernhauer

Stenus cubensis Bernhauer 1910, Verh. zoo.-bot. Ges. Wien 60:364f.

Stenus cubensis.—Puthz, in press. Fieldiana Zool. figs.

1 female NEW FOR NORTH AMERICA!

One female of this remarkable species was found at the edge of a pond in Mason State Forest. Until now *Stenus cubensis* was known only from Cuba, but it is widely distributed in Eastern North America (see map, Fig. 1). The following records are known to me:

2 females: New York: N.Y. & vicinity, coll. Bowditch (MCZ, coll. m.).

1 female: New Jersey: Anglesea, coll. Hubbard & Schwarz (USNM).

1 female: Illinois: Mason Co., Mason State Forest, 13.8. 1970, Puthz (coll. m.): Florida:

1 female: Enterprise (cotype of *meridionalis* Casey)(coll. Casey, USNM): 1 female: Crescent City, 4.1908, Van Duzee (USNM); 1 male, 1 female: Paradise Key, Barber (USNM); 1 female: Biscayne, coll. Hubbard & Schwarz (USNM); 1 male, 2 females: Homestead, 6.1929, Darlington (MCZ); 1 male, 1 female: ibidem, 28.1.1968, Smetana (CNC); 1 female: Okeechobee Co., Brighton, 16.6.1929, Darlington (MCZ); 2 females: 1 mi. W. Brighton, 4.3.1968, Smetana (CNC); 1 male: Miami Beach, 3.1937, Bierig (FMNH).

1 male, 1 female:—North America (coll. Benick, FMch). In addition, I have seen the male holotype (FMNH) and 1 male, 5 females from various localities in Cuba (FMNH, coll. m.).

Stenus cubensis may be easily identified by its peculiar 10th tergum; seen from above it has the usual shape of those found in *S. punctatus* (Puthz, 1967, Fig. 41), *lugens* Casey, and *pueblanus* Bernhauer (Puthz, in press), but the apicomedial spine shows a toothlike ventral carina which is lacking in the other two species. Furthermore, *S. cubensis* may be distinguished from *S. punctatus* by its blackish lustre (*punctatus* mostly has an aeneous tint), less dense punctuation of frons, sparser abdominal punctuation, darker legs, and the genitalia (Puthz, 1967, Fig. 43), and from *S. lugens* Cas. at first glance by the larger elytra, which are much broader than head.

Euaesthetus similis Casey

Euaesthetus similis Casey 1884, Contr. I:2e f.

Euaesthetus texanus Casey 1884, l.c.: 26 f. nov. syn.

Euaesthetus neomexicanus Fall 1907, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. 33:219 f. nov. syn.

1 male, 3 females: new state record!

The following specimens of this species have been studied (see map, Fig. 1):

Female holotype and female paratype: Florida: Tallahassee (USNM); female holotype and 1 male, 1 female paratypes (of *texanus* Cas.): Texas: Columbus (USNM); male holotype (of *neomexicanus* Fall): New Mexico: Las Vegas (MCZ); 1 male: Texas: San Antonio, 22.12.1879, through C. V. Riley (USNM); 2 females: Louisiana: Tallulah, 21.3.1934, Folsom (MCZ); 1 male, 4 females: Maryland: Plummers Island, Schwarz & Barber (USNM, coll. m.); 2 females: Florida: Collier Co., 2.5 mi. E. of Monroe Stn., hardwood hammock along Tariami Trail, 7.4.1966, Wagner (FMNH, coll. M.); 2 females: Highlands Co., Highlands Hammock State Park, debris along cypress swamp & hammock. 27.3.67, W. suter (FMNH); 1 female (cf. det.): Illinois: Johnson Co., Ferne Clyffe State Park near Goreville, Berlese (B-65), leaf litter in Canyon, 23.6.1958. H. S. Dybas (FMNH): North Carolina: Hot Spring, French Broad River (USNM); 2 males, 2 females.

My revision proved the synonym of the taxa cited above. *Eu. similis* may be identified by its relatively slender appearance, well separated punctation of pronotum, iridescent elytra, and the sexual characters (aedeagus: Fig. 2: most characteristic is the bifid apex of paramere, which is only found in this species). Additional distinguishing characters will be given in a revision of all nearctic *Euaesthetus* (Puthz, in preparation).

Acylophorys filius Smetana

This species recently described by Smetana (1971) and already known from Illinois (from 7 specimens) is very common in Mason State Forest. I captured 21 specimens in less than 3 hours collecting.

From the *Stenus* and *Euaesthetus* found, it is evident that Mason State Forest is inhabited by numerous southern species. I am sure that careful collecting will uncover more new state records from this interesting habitat.

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ABSTRACT—Report on Staphylinid beetles captured in Mason State Forest, Mason Co., Ill., with comments: new State records for *Stenus virginiae* and *Euaesthetus similis*. (*E. texanus* Cas. & *E. neomexicanus* Fall new synonyms). *Stenus cubensis* is new for North America.



Puthz, Volker. 1974. "Notes On A Collecting Trip To Mason State Forest Mason County Illinois Usa With Comments On Some Staphylinidae 131 Contribution To The Knowledge Of Steninae." *Entomological news* 85, 9–12.

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