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Correction to the known distribution of *Prionus (Homaesthesis)*
simplex (Casey) (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae)

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Abstract: *Prionus (Homaesthesis) simplex* (Casey) was described (Casey, 1912:253) from one male specimen from Kansas with no further data. The specimen is in the United States National Museum and is illustrated by Chemsak (1996). Alexander (1958) reported *P. simplex* from two locations in Craig County, Oklahoma. Alexander's paper appears to be the basis for two localities shown in northeastern Oklahoma on the distribution maps given by Linsley (1962) and Chemsak (1996). The one locality shown in central Kansas on the map by Chemsak (1996) represents just a "state record" and not a specific collecting record (J. Beierl, Editor of Wolfsgarden Books, pers. comm.)

In 1997, the author borrowed three specimens identified as *P. simplex* from the K. C. Emerson Museum at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK through the courtesy of its curator, Dr. D. C. Arnold. These specimens, all from Craig Co., bear determination labels from J. N. Knull in 1937. However, all of these specimens are *P. (Neopol-yarthron) debilis* Casey, a wide ranging species that is common in the east-central area of the Great Plains. The natural habitat of Craig County, Oklahoma is tall grass prairie drained by numerous wooded streams. This habitat is unlike that of other species in the subgenus *Homaesthesis* which occur around sand dunes or in sandy-soiled, sparsely vegetated habitats. If Casey's specimen of *P. simplex* did originate in Kansas, there is still a chance that it may be extant. Small sand dune systems and sandy-soiled habitats still exist in south-central and southwestern Kansas. There are also potential habitats for this species in northern Oklahoma, western Nebraska and eastern Colorado. Attempts to locate other specimens of *P. simplex* in institutional and private collec-

tions have been unsuccessful. The type specimen appears to be the only known example of this species.

References

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