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June 1991

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Thomas, M. C., "Rediscovery of *Romulus globosus* Knull (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)" (1991). *Insecta Mundi*. 424.

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Rediscovery of *Romulus globosus* Knull (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)

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One of the rarest U.S. cerambycids, *Romulus globosus*, was described by Knull in 1948 based on four specimens collected in peninsular Florida. No new records have been reported in the literature since. Linsley (1963) apparently saw no specimens, since he merely quoted the original description, and gave the distribution as "Southern Florida."

The recent collection of two specimens of this species prompted this note in an attempt to compile what is known about this rare beetle.

Specimen data for the type series, as given by Knull (1948), are: "Holotype male labeled Coral Gables, Fla., May 20, 1943, H. Conger collector. Paratypes, same locality, May 10, 1929; Ocala National Forest,

Fla., July 27, 1938, Hubbell and Friauf, all in collection of author. Paratype from Crescent City, Fla., Hubbard and Schwarz, in U.S. National Museum."

Other specimens examined include a damaged female in the FSCA collected by H.F. Strohecker at the University of Miami campus in 1949, and two specimens, a male and a female, in the Carnegie Museum collected in Miami in May of 1927 and June of 1931. In 1991, two specimens were collected in Highlands County, one at the Archbold Biological Station at Lake Placid on June 20 (Vincent Golia Collection) and one near Highlands Hammock State Park on June 15 (Jeffrey P. Huether Collection). Both were collected at light.

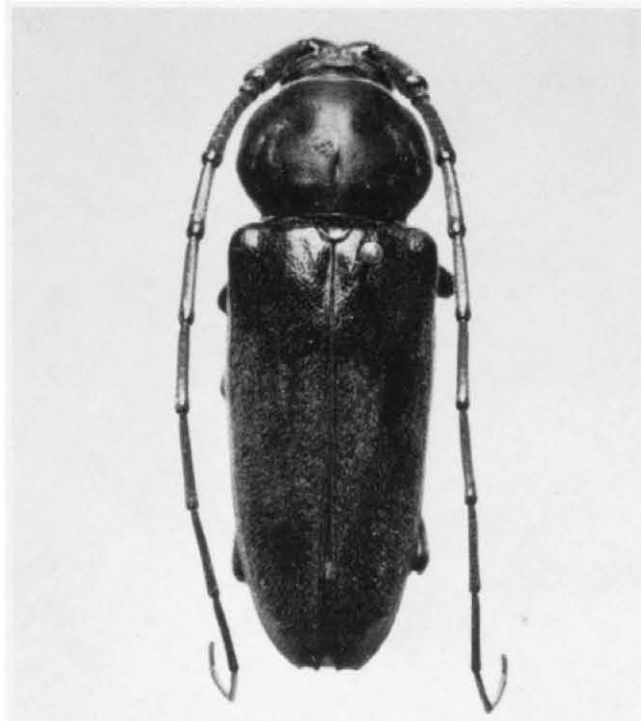


Figure 1. *Romulus globosus* Knull, male. Length, 35mm.

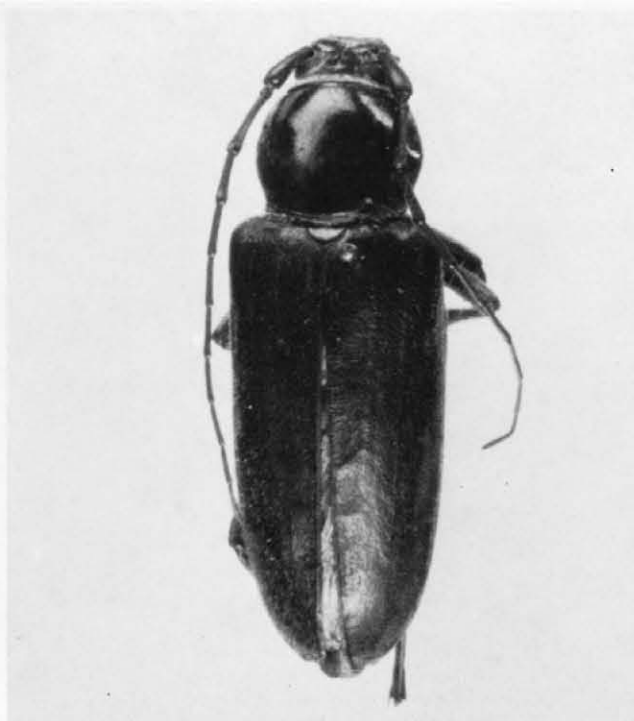


Figure 2. *Romulus globosus* Knull, female. Length, 34mm.

Why the more than 40-year gap in collections of *Romulus globosus*? One reason may be that the information provided by Linsley (1963) suggested to some, including myself, that *Romulus globosus* is an inhabitant of the subtropical hardwood hammocks of South Florida. The information provided in the original description, plus that from the two recently collected specimens, suggests instead that it is a scrub inhabitant ranging into the north central part of the state. Another reason may be its period of adult activity, which based on the nine known specimens is greatest in June and July. Cerambycid collectors seem to be most active in Florida during April and May, thus collectors may miss the peak period of adult activity. Since the male, especially, of *Romulus globosus* (Fig. 1) superficially resembles *Enaphalodes hispicornis* (Linnaeus), there may be misidentified specimens in other collections. The female (Fig. 2), which has not been described, differs from the male in its shorter antennae, and glabrous, less broadly globose pronotum.

It is hoped that this information will encourage collectors to search for *Romulus globosus* in other

scrub habitats in Florida, and hopefully learn more about this rare and enigmatic beetle.

Acknowledgments

I thank John E. Rawlins, Carnegie Museum, for the loan of specimens, Jeffrey P. Huether and Vincent Golia for making their specimens of *Romulus globosus* available for study, and Paul E. Skelley for reviewing the manuscript.

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- Linsley, E.G.** 1963. The Cerambycidae of North America. Part IV. Taxonomy and classification of the subfamily Cerambycinae, tribes Elaphidionini through Rhinotragini. *Univ. California Publ. Entomol.* 21: 1-165.