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New dung beetle (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) records for Florida

David Almquist
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
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Euoniticellus intermedius (Reiche) was released by the USDA for the purpose of dung removal and control of pestiferous dung-breeding flies in Texas, California, and Georgia around 1978-1979, although it did not become established in Georgia at that time (Blume 1984; Fincher 1986; Montes and Halffter 1998). Apparently, it has not been officially recorded outside of Arizona, California, and Texas in the contiguous U.S., although Montes and Halffter (1998) did a detailed study of its migration into Mexico.

It appears that E. intermedius is now established in Florida. One specimen was found in the collection of J.L. Wilkerson and bears the following label data: “USA Florida, Suwannee Co, near rte. 129 + 288 st., east of Branford. 18 May 2001 JL Wilkerson (in cow dung).” I collected a specimen on 9 March, 2002 under cow dung in a small University of Florida-owned pasture in southwestern Gainesville. Eight more specimens were collected by P.E. Skelley and myself on 27 May, 2002 in Alachua Co., approximately 2 miles northeast of LaCrosse, also under cow dung.

Euoniticellus intermedius might be confused with two other Florida dung beetle taxa: Onthophagus spp. and Oniticellus cubiensis Laporte. The more attenuated body plan and presence of a visible scutellum will separate it from Onthophagus spp. Oniticellus cubiensis may occur in the Florida Keys, but that species does not have the produced genal angles of E. oniticellus (Woodruff, 1973). For identification and biology of adults and immatures of E. oniticellus, see Blume (1984).

Aphodius vittatus Say has a wide holarctic distribution, including North America, Russia, and Asia, including Turkey and Syria (Schmidt 1910) In eastern North America, it has been recorded from southern Canada and Maine south to South Carolina (Floate and Gill 1998; Ratcliffe 1991). I collected one specimen on 16 March 2002 under cow dung in the same pasture as the Gainesville specimen of E. intermedius. For identification, see Gordon (1983).

Specimen identifications were confirmed by P.E. Skelley. Voucher specimens have been deposited in the Florida State Collection of Arthropods.

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References cited


David Almquist, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611