

New Coleopterarecords from owl nests in Nova Scotia, Canada

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Abstract

A preliminary study of boreal owl, *Aegolius funereus richardsoni* (Bonaparte), and northern saw-whet owl, *Aegolius acadicus acadicus* (Gmelin), nests from Nova Scotia, Canada revealed the presence of 14 species of Coleoptera, several of which represent significant extensions of their known ranges. *Atheta (Datomicra) celata* (Erichson) is newly recorded for North America; *Atheta irrita* Casey is newly recorded for Canada and eastern North America; *Atheta pseudocrenuliventris* Klimaszewski, and *Hylota ochracea* Casey are newly recorded for Nova Scotia; and *Gnathoncus barbatus* Bousquet and Laplante, *Carcinops pumilo* (Erichson), and *Phyllodrepa floralis* (Paykull) are newly recorded for Cape Breton Island. *Gnathoncus barbatus*, *H. ochracea*, *A. irrita*, *A. pseudocrenuliventris*, and *Corticarina cavicollis* (Mannerheim) are all recorded for the first time from bird nests. One new synonym *Atheta (Datomicra) celata* (Erichson, 1837) [= *Datomicra wrangeli* Casey 1911. **syn nov.**] is designated. Additional new records of *A. irrita* from Québec are also reported. Attention is drawn to the limited state of knowledge of this specialized beetle fauna and to the high proportion (50%) of adventive species which were found in these environments.

Key words: Nova Scotia, Canada, adventive species, nidicolous fauna, owl nest, Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Histeridae, Leiodidae, Latridiidae, Trogidae, *Atheta*, *Phyllodrepa*, *Hylota*, *Datomicra*, *Philonthus*, *Bisnius*, *Carcinops*, *Gnathoncus*, *Sciodrepoides*, *Corticarina*, *Trox*, *Aegolinus*

Introduction

Mammal and bird nests are examples of specialized micro-environments which are inhabited by a diverse suite of commensal invertebrates. Although Hicks (1959, 1962, 1971) compiled information on the occurrence of insects in birds' nests, and there have been