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### ***Oxybleptes davis* (Notman, 1924) in Minnesota (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae, Xantholinini)**

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#### **Abstract**

The occurrence of numerous male specimens of *Oxybleptes davis* (Notman, 1924) near Duluth in northern Minnesota is reported, including the special collecting circumstances. This is the first record of *Oxybleptes davis* in Minnesota, which extends the distributional range of the species considerably toward the west.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae, Xantholinini, *Oxybleptes davis*, natural history, distribution, North America

Some time ago I received from Mr. Mike Lahti, Riverside, California, a couple of xantholinine specimens for identification. He correctly assigned them to the genus *Oxybleptes* Smetana, 1982 but was unsure to what species of that genus they belonged. Later on six more specimens arrived and eventually many more specimens were sent to me recently, bringing the total of specimens at hand to over sixty. All specimens were collected in northern Minnesota near Duluth (8 miles north of Duluth) by his son Steve Lahti.

The genus *Oxybleptes*, with five known species at present, is endemic to North America. It is special within Xantholinini in that some of the species display marked sexual dimorphism like that of *Oxybleptes kiteleyi* Smetana, 1982, in which the males are uniformly dark brunneopiceous to piceous-black or black, while the females are bicolored, testaceous to rufotestaceous with the head piceous-black to black (details of coloration in Smetana, 1982: 256).

The Duluth specimens turned out to belong to *Oxybleptes davis* (Notman, 1924), a species in which both sexes are bicolored. Indeed, the Duluth specimens are rufotestaceous with black head and elytra and with the appendages pale testaceous (see Fig. 1a). In addition, they are all males (aedeagus see Fig. 1b), meaning that the opposite sexes of the species may be ecologically separated by different habitat requirements and/or different behavior. The specimens represent the first record of *O. davis* in Minnesota and a considerable extension toward the west of the distributional range of this species, which was until now known from the District of Columbia, New Jersey and New York (see Smetana, 1982:255).

Very little is known about the habitat of the adults of *O. davis*. The specimens of the original series were collected while swarming around gravestones at St. Andrew's Church in Richmond, S. I., in late August and late September (see Notman, 1924: 72 for details). The collecting circumstances of the Duluth specimens are quite particular. The original few specimens were collected on September 8, 2011 off a towel that had been left on a lawn. Some additional specimens were taken by sweeping vegetation along the windbreak line of trees on October 21, 2011; many specimens were taken, while swarming, from brick paving stones and among wood chips under an apple tree on September 11, 2012, and numerous additional specimens were taken "from moist areas on hot days" between August 25 and September 2, 2012. These collecting data confirm the occurrence of *O. davis* in early fall, as well as a distinct tendency of the males to swarm.

Since the males of *O. davis* are obviously quite common at the Duluth location, it is safe to assume that the females of the species are also present during the swarming of males but that they possibly stay in the upper layer of soil/debris and do not come to the surface. This could be easily established by sifting the floor debris in areas of male swarming.