

***Agrilus* (s. str.) *betulanigrae* MacRae (Coleoptera: Buprestidae: Agrilini), a new species from North America, with comments on subgeneric placement and a key to the *otiosus* species-group in North America**

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Abstract

Agrilus (s. str.) *betulanigrae* n. sp. is described from southeastern Missouri in eastern North America. The species is described, photographs of the holotype and male genitalia are presented, and comparisons are made to related species. Comments on the subgeneric placement of species in the *Agrilus otiosus* species-group, to which *A. betulanigrae* belongs, and a key to males of the Nearctic species are also presented.

Key words: Coleoptera, Buprestidae, Agrilini, Nearctic, *Agrilus*, new species, higher classification, key

Introduction

The large, cosmopolitan buprestid genus *Agrilus* Curtis, 1825 is represented in the United States and Canada by 171 species (Bellamy & Nelson 2002) plus 10 non-nominate subspecies. Of these, 57 are known to occur in Missouri (MacRae 1991; MacRae & Nelson 2003). Further collecting in Missouri has revealed a previously unknown species of *Agrilus* breeding in dead branches of river birch, *Betula nigra* L. This species belongs to the *Agrilus otiosus* species-group (Knull 1920, Fisher 1928), bringing to 14 the total number of Nearctic species currently recognized in this group. It is described herein to make the name available for two catalogue projects currently in progress (i.e., North America north of Mexico, G. H. Nelson; and World, C. L. Bellamy). The new species would seem to be assignable to the subgenus *Arquagrilus* (Alexeev 1998); however, as discussed below, the application of Alexeev's subgeneric concepts to the Nearctic fauna is problematic. As a