
The web-based, citizen science, Lost Ladybug Project is documenting ranges, habitats, and range/habitat shifts for the North American Coccinellidae fauna via submitted photographs subsequently identified by experts and entered into a database (LLP 2009). As such, the Lost Ladybug Project represents a major reference for coccinellid occurrences, and the project includes one photographic record of a multicolored Asian lady beetle taken in a backyard in Yuma, Yuma County, Arizona, on 23 NOVEMBER 2008 by Mariah Arnold.

An additional specimen was captured during a blacklighting demonstration on the Prescott College campus in Prescott, Yavapai County, Arizona, on 22 August 2009 by KF. The specimen was one of only two insects that came to the light due to bad weather, and it has been deposited in the University of Arizona Insect Collection. Both specimens were identified using characters from Chapin and Brou (1991).

According to Carl Olson (Associate Curator, University of Arizona Insect Collection), multicolored Asian lady beetles were intentionally released in Continental, Arizona (Pima County) to help control aphids in pecan groves, but populations never became established. There is one specimen in the University of Arizona collection from such a release in 1994, but the two occurrences documented above are believed to represent the first records of multicolored Asian lady beetles in Arizona arriving on their own accord. Both records come from urban settings. The Yuma occurrence comes from a Sonoran Desert scrub habitat and the Prescott occurrence is in an oak/pine/juniper habitat. These occurrences are separated by 285 km and it is likely that other municipalities in Arizona may harbor the insect, as might other habitat types (e.g., cottonwood riparian). Further study is required to document the extent of the multicolored Asian lady beetle’s distribution in Arizona.

REFERENCES CITED


