PLEUROPHORUS CAESUS NEW TO NEW MEXICO
(COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE: APHODIINAE)

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Pleurophorus caesus (Panzer, 1796) is one of the smallest Holarctic scarab beetles (2.5-3.5 mm length, 1 mm width). Cartwright (1948) considered *P. caesus* a “truly northern species, ranging from coast to coast north of latitude 37 degrees.” Published records from California and Texas have moved this border southward: Pittino and Mariani (1986) reported finds from Ciervo Hills, Fresno County (36°29’N) and Santa Barbara (34°25’N); Riley and Wolfe (2003) published the first state records for Texas from Lubbock and El Paso Counties (at least 33°49’N and 32°00’N, respectively). The present state record for New Mexico adds to southern occurrences in North America.

USA: NEW MEXICO, Sierra Co., Caballo Creek, ca. 1 km E Caballo Reservoir, 32°54’12”N, 107°16’52”W, alt. 1320 m [NM section 8 in Fagerlund’s (2000) checklist], 29 July 1999, leg. E. Buckner and P. A. Opler, night, mercury vapor lamp on ground sheet (1 spm., in CSUC).

Either this species was previously overlooked in the southern part of its North American range, or it is still expanding its distribution southward, having reached at least 32 degrees latitude. With its Palaearctic distribution reaching southward to the Canaries and North Africa (Pittino and Mariani, 1986), it is hardly likely that it is confined to a northern distribution in North America.

*P. caesus* is one of the dung beetle species rarely attracted by dung. It has been reported as a pest species of tomato in Italy (Ciampolini and Ventricelli, 1995) and Washington State in the USA, of cucumber in Washington, and of potatoes in the states of Washington and possibly Colorado (see Landis 1959).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Boris Kondratieff, C.P. Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity (CSUC), Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, for providing excellent working conditions in the collections and for loans of specimens. Paul Opler (also Colorado State University), and Evi Buckner-Opler pointed out the exact collecting locality.

LITERATURE CITED