Scientific Note

A newly introduced *Chrysolina* Motschulsky, 1860, to California
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Chrysomelinae)

The genus *Chrysolina* Motschulsky, 1860, is represented in America north of Mexico by seven subgenera and seventeen species (Riley et al. 2003). Two subgenera with two additional species have been recorded but probably represent quarantine interceptions or are in error (Riley et al. 2002). *Chrysolina (Chrysolina) bankii* (Fabricius, 1775), a species found in western Europe and primarily the western Mediterranean countries, has been recently discovered and is now well established in the coastal areas of San Mateo County, California. This increases the fauna to eighteen species. The *Chrysolina* fauna for California is limited. Six *Chrysolina* species now occur in California. Two species, *C. hyperici hyperici* (Forster, 1771) and *C. quadrigemina* (Suffrian, 1851) (Klamathweed beetle), were introduced for biological control of *Hypericum* (Hypericaceae). A third species introduced to control *Hypericum*, *C. varium* (Schaller, 1783), is probably not established (Riley et al. 2002). A fourth species, *C. extorris* Brown, 1962, is known from a single locality near Big Bear Lake in San Bernardino County in southern California. And finally, *C. schaefferi* Brown, 1933, is known from Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Utah. The only known California record is from 5 miles south of Sage in Riverside County, also southern California.

*Chrysolina bankii* is a dark-bronze beetle, 7–11 mm in length with reddish legs and antennae (Fig. 1). *Chrysolina quadrigemina* is the only commonly found species in California and individuals are smaller (6–7 mm) and range in color from bronze to blue or green with dark legs. *Chrysolina schaefferi* is slightly larger than *C. quadrigemina* at 6–9 mm and is blue in color with dark legs. The other three California species are no larger than 7 mm and colored differently than *C. bankii*. These characters, together with the host association, should serve to differentiate this species from the other species that occur in California. The combination of size, coloration, host, and locality should serve to separate this species from all of the North American species.

The California populations of *C. bankii* were discovered based on a student collection. In 2006, entomologists at both Colorado State University and Brigham Young University noticed unfamiliar beetles originating from a student collection. The collection labels stated that the beetles were collected in late November 2004 in Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County, California. Information and photographs were relayed to the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) in Fresno, and efforts were initiated to verify the collection data. A visual search was conducted in Half Moon Bay during August 2006, but more precise locality information for the original finds was not available and no beetles were found. Afterwards, the student was located and contacted, and he provided two specific localities in San Mateo County, namely Frenchman’s Creek at the north edge of Half Moon Bay and a residential area in the town of Montara. A survey of both areas in November 2006 produced numerous adult beetles (Fig. 1) and larvae (Fig. 2).