Scientific Note

First report of *Brachypeplus basalis* Erichson, 1842 (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) infesting honey bee hives in Oregon, U.S.A.

*Brachypeplus basalis* Erichson, 1842 (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) is a sap beetle native to Australia that was accidentally introduced into the United States (CDFA 2015). Sap beetles are known to have vast ecological niches among the beetle families (Cline 2008, Jelinek et al. 2010). A long-standing association exists between nitidulid beetles and social insect colonies (Ellis & Hepburn 2006). Multiple sap beetle species have been reported in western honey bee colonies but are not considered pests of honey bee colonies other than the small hive beetle, *Aethina tumida* Murray, 1867 (Ellis et al. 2008). Small hive beetle is an invasive and damaging pest of European honey bee colonies in the United States (Elzen et al. 1999, Ellis & Munn 2005). Beekeepers in the U.S. often have difficulty differentiating the small hive beetle from other sap beetle species found occasionally in honey bee colonies. The body width of *B. basalis* is narrow when compared to the small hive beetle and its forewings (elytra) do not extend significantly over and cover a large portion of the abdomen as seen in the small hive beetle.

Figure 1. Dorsal, lateral and ventral view of an adult *Brachypeplus basalis*. 