The Coleopterists Bulletin, 65(4): 363. 2011.

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

First Record of *Scolytogenes jalapae* (Letzner) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae) in Louisiana, U.S.A.

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A local collecting event, the third annual Mad Dog Marathon (see Gimmel and Ferro 2010), was held from 10 am 18 June through 10 am 19 June 2011 on the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. While collecting during the event, MLG discovered that dead, dry morning glory stems (*Ipomoea* sp., Convolvulaceae) were a productive microhabitat from which to collect beetles. Subsequent collections by the authors revealed the presence of the scolytine *Scolytogenes jalapae* (Letzner) (Fig. 1), previously only reported in the United States from Florida (Wood 2007).

Here we report *S. jalapae* in Louisiana as a **new state record**. Specimen label data are as follows (all specimens deposited in the Louisiana State Arthropod Museum, Baton Rouge, LA): **USA: LA:** East Baton Rouge Parish, Baton Rouge, LSU campus, 24 June 2011, M. L. Gimmel and C. A. Maier cols., dead morning glory stalks ($n = 10$); 4150 Janet Ave. N 30.4029°, W 91.1762°, 26 June 2011, ex. dead dry morning glory stalks, M. Ferro ($n = 4$); LSU campus, N 30.40939°, W 91.18286°, 28 June 2011, ex. dead dry morning glory stalks, M. Ferro ($n = 50$).

Wood (2007) considered *S. jalapae* to be a widely introduced species with an unknown origin. He reported it from southern Florida and Mexico to the West Indies, Panama, Venezuela, Brazil, and Japan. A single specimen of *S. jalapae* was collected in San Antonio, Texas by J. Blasizzo on 9 November 2010 (identified as *Scolytogenes knabi* Hopkins) and confirmed by the USDA-ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory. It may have come from imported wood packing material and was not considered a new state record. This genus superficially resembles *Hypothenemus* Westwood, but can be separated by the possession of the following characters: lateral margins of pronotum without fine raised line, eye entire, costal margins ascending only slightly posteriorly (Wood 1982).

Since the stalks of small dehiscent vines are easily overlooked, *S. jalapae* may be more widespread than current records indicate. The circumstances surrounding the discovery of this species illustrate the importance of continued general insect collecting events, even in urban areas.

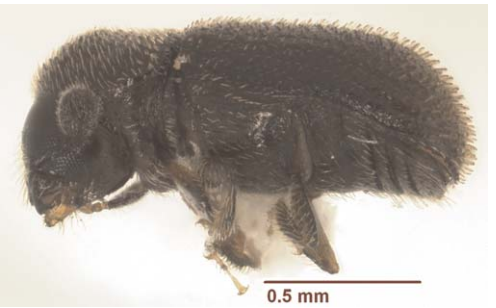

Fig. 1. *Scolytogenes jalapae*.

Acknowledgments

We thank Robert J. Rabaglia (USDA Forest Service) for confirmation of the species identification. We thank Christopher E. Carlton for review of this note. This publication was approved by the Director, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station as manuscript number 2011-234-6372.

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(Received 5 August 2011; accepted 31 August 2011. Publication date 20 December 2011.)