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Shorter Contributions

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AN INLAND RECORD FOR THE TIGER BEETLE *CICINDELA TRIFASCIATA ASCENDENS* IN VIRGINIA. – The tiger beetle *Cicindela trifasciata ascendens* LeConte has been recorded infrequently from Virginia. Most Virginia specimens have been found in coastal areas in association with mud flats, small wet depressions in dune habitats, or tidal marshes. This species, although suspected to breed at one or more sites, has not been verified to breed in the state. Knisley & Schultz (1997) show only one record outside of the Coastal Plain in Virginia. The species occurs at other inland sites in Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia (Knisley & Schultz, 1997; Pearson et al., 1997).

In 1997, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage began a multi-disciplinary inventory of John H. Kerr Reservoir and Dam, and associated properties in the southern Piedmont physiographic province of Virginia (Mecklenburg, Halifax, and Charlotte counties). These lands are owned and managed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE). As part of this inventory, tiger beetles (Cicindelidae) were targeted for surveys.

Several species of tiger beetles were captured during 1997 surveys, including *Cicindela punctulata* Olivier, *C. repanda* Dejean, *C. rufiventris* Dejean, and *C. sexguttata* Fabricius. Also, *Cicindela splendida* Hentz, a rare species in Virginia (Roble, 1996), was found by Dr. Steven M. Roble in a powerline just north of the Difficult Creek drainage and outside of USACOE property in Halifax County (new county record). Perhaps the most interesting discovery during these surveys was *Cicindela trifasciata ascendens*. Two individuals were documented at one site on two dates (17 June, 1 July) in 1997. Knisley & Schultz (1997) show this site as the only inland record for *C. t. ascendens* in Virginia, but do not provide details on the collection site or circumstances leading to this discovery. Additional information on the capture of *C. t. ascendens* at Kerr Reservoir is provided herein.

Both individuals of *C. t. ascendens* were found in open habitat consisting of a disturbed powerline right-of-way crossing Butcher Creek adjacent to County Route 688. Apparently, this area has been used as a primitive boat launch in the past, which in conjunction with fluctuating water levels and right-of-way maintenance, has contributed to the openness of the ground adjacent to Butcher Creek where the specimens were captured.

The water levels at Kerr Reservoir fluctuate greatly over the course of a year, and during low levels there are extensive mud flats at many sites. The changing water levels at the capture site for *C. t. ascendens* essentially mimic those seen in tidal marshes where this species has been found previously in Virginia. Although the cycle of high and low water levels at Kerr Reservoir is typically not seen during the course of a single day as it would be in tidal situations, the habitat conditions occurring between the high and low water marks are similar to those seen in coastal estuarine systems. Knisley & Schultz

(1997) state that this species occurs in a wide variety of water-edge habitats, especially mudflats along coastal areas, inlets, tidal estuaries, marshes, and bays.

Only two individuals were observed on two visits to the Kerr Reservoir site, and it is not known if the species breeds there or if the two captures represent vagrants. The habitat in which the specimens were collected is relatively common in the watershed associated with Kerr Reservoir, and additional surveys are planned to determine if a breeding population exists in the area. The two individuals captured in 1997 might be part of a larger population at some yet unknown location in the vicinity. Surveys in 1998 will focus on adult *C. trifasciata ascendens*, and if this tiger beetle is found, searches for larval burrows and larvae will be conducted.

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RECENT NOTEWORTHY RECORDS OF THE SWAMPFISH (*CHOLOGASTER CORNUTA*) FROM THE NOTTOWAY RIVER SYSTEM, VIRGINIA – The monumental treatise by Jenkins & Burkhead (1994) on the freshwater fish fauna of Virginia contains an enormous number of distributional records. These authors reported that most records of the swampfish (*Chologaster cornuta*), one of the most unique species found in the state, are from the Blackwater River or the Dismal Swamp area, with isolated records from the Chickahominy River and Seashore State Park (see also Mitchell et al., 1997).

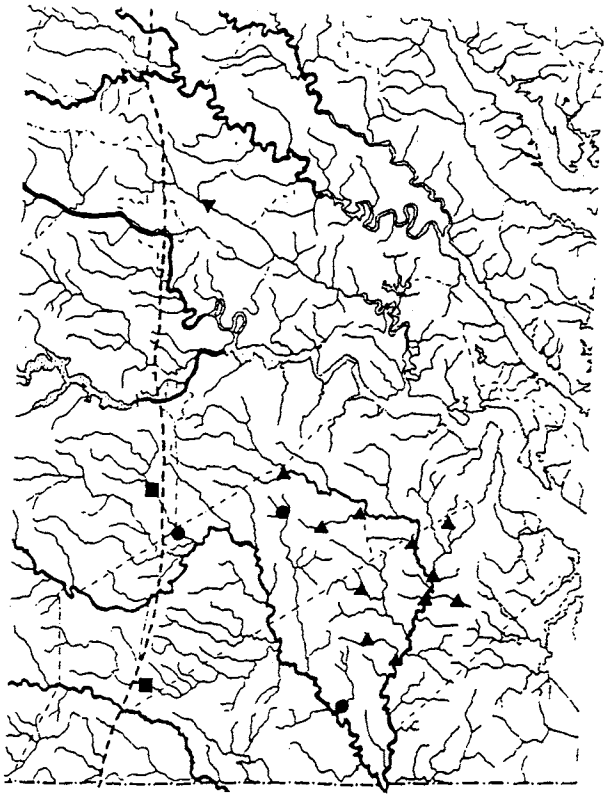

Fig. 1. Distribution of *Chologaster cornuta* in the Nottoway (circles), Blackwater (triangles) and Chickahominy (inverted triangle) rivers in Virginia (redrawn after Jenkins & Burkhead, 1994); records for the Dismal Swamp region and Seashore State Park are not plotted. New localities reported in this paper are shown as squares. Heavy dashed line indicates the Fall Line; following new county lighter dashed lines are county boundaries.