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*HYPORHAGUS PUNCTULATUS* THOMPSON (COLEOPTERA: ZOPHERIDAE, MONOMMATINI) IN VIRGINIA. — *Hyporhagus punctulatus* Thompson (Coleoptera: Zopheridae) is the only member of the primarily tropical beetle tribe Monommatini (once recognized as a family and in earlier literature, spelled Monommidae) occurring in the southeastern coastal United States other than Florida, with literature and specimen records from Washington, DC to eastern Texas and north to Arkansas and Oklahoma. The first records from Virginia are presented here, some based on older museum specimens “rediscovered” or newly identified, and others on recent collections from regional surveys. Current classification of Zopheridae (Slipinski & Lawrence, 1999, 2010; Lawrence et al., 2010; Lord et al., 2011) includes not only the large “ironclad beetles” but many genera formerly in the Colydiidae. Monommatines have been commonly called “opossum beetles”.

Freude (1955, 1993) recognized two subspecies, with *H. p. punctulatus* limited to the North American mainland and *H. p. anticus* Freude from the Bahamas and Antilles to northern South America. Nearly 70 species of the genus occur in tropical America. The distinctive dorsally sub-contiguous eyes (Fig. 1) serve to characterize these otherwise “plain” oval beetles, but in most dry specimens, the retracted head obscures them, probably leading White (1983) to use other key features for identification. Lord et al. (2011) provide diagnoses and images of all U.S. species.

Habits and habitats of monommatines were reviewed by Ivie (2002); they are generally associated with recently cut wood or rotting plant material. Many specimens of *H. punctulatus* are labeled as having been taken at lights in sandy forest habitats, e.g. a series from Little Cumberland Island, Georgia (WES), “at black light in open pine-live oak-juniper forest, sandy soil” or taken by beating vegetation e.g. “pine tops” (Löding, 1945). Kirk (1969) found it “on chinquapin blooms” and two North Carolina specimens are labeled “*Castanea dentata*” and “*Quercus*”. A few specimens were reared from oak and sweetgum logs in upland forest sites of the Savannah River Site, South Carolina (Ulyshen & Hanula, 2009). Most specimens are from Coastal Plain localities but some southern Appalachian records have been found.

Published distribution records for *Hyporhagus punctulatus* are few, but specimens in the U.S. National Museum of Natural History (USNM), Smithsonian Institution, have been seen from all states within the known range and records (with images) on BugGuide

(<http://bugguide.net/node/view/209095/bgimage>) have also added to state distributions, though the specimen from Indiana is probably mislabeled. The northernmost known locality is Washington, District of Columbia (Ulke, 1902), likely based on two specimens labeled “Washgtn. D.C. 24-6 / Coll. Hubbard & Schwarz” (USNM), probably collected in the 1890s. Since Brimley’s (1938) record for Southern Pines, North Carolina, several specimens from across that state have come to our attention. Kirk (1969, 1970) gave South Carolina records for Clemson, Florence, Myrtle Beach, and Wedgefield; additional records are forthcoming (Ciegler, *in press*). Unpublished Georgia records (USNM) are from two barrier island localities. The species is common and widespread throughout Florida (Peck & Thomas, 1998) and Alabama (Löding, 1945). A few specimens (USNM) from Louisiana and Mississippi have been examined; Ivie (2002) listed *H. punctulatus* for Louisiana, and Richmond (1968) listed it from Horn Island, Mississippi. Specimens of *H. punctulatus* from eastern Texas have been examined, and Riley (2011) reported it from College Station. The listing for a species of *Hyporhagus* in Arkansas by White (1983) is likely based on a specimen of *H. punctulatus* and two recent specimens labeled “AR Little Rock” (USNM) have been examined. The Oklahoma specimen figured on BugGuide (<http://bugguide.net/node/view/547640>) is probably *H. punctulatus*.



Fig. 1. Frontal view of *Hyporhagus punctulatus* showing dorsally sub-contiguous eyes. Specimen from Frisco, Dare County, NC, in USNM; length of beetle 4.9 mm.

The following specimens examined substantiate the beetle's occurrence in the eastern part of Virginia; specimens examined in this study are deposited in either the USNM or the Virginia Museum of Natural History, Martinsville (VMNH). Label data are given verbatim, with commas inserted for clarity; inferred parts of abbreviated dates and names are bracketed, and breaks between labels on the same pin are separated by a forward slash: "Falls Church, Va., July 16-[19]14 / Hopk[ins]. U.S. 126652" (1 USNM) and same data except "126654" (1 USNM); "Falls Church, Va., IV-29-[19]20 / L. L. Buchanan Collector" (1 USNM); "Fairfax Co., Va., IX-19-[19]21 / Ernest Shoemaker Collection 1956" (1 USNM); "USA: VA, Charles City Co., V[irginia]C[ommonwealth]U[niversity] Rice Center, trap site 1, .15 mi. NNW admin. bldg., N37.32795° W077.20777°, 9-23 April 2010, A. V. Evans, deciduous woods, Lindgren trap" (1 USNM); same data except "W077.20577°, 23 April/7 May 2010, Malaise trap" (3 USNM); "VIRGINIA: Cape Henry, Seashore State Park, 10 June 1974, Don & Mignon Davis" (1 USNM); "VA: [City of] Chesapeake: Northwest River Park, ca. 5 mi SE of Hickory / 5-16 July 2004, Robert Vigneault" (1 VMNH); "USA: VA, Fauquier Co., Bull Run Mountains, High Point, N38.856600° W077.714091°, 23 March/14 April 2011, A.V. Evans, Lindgren funnel / *Hyporhagus punctulatus* det. A. V. Evans, 2011 VA BEETLE PROJECT" (1 VMNH); "VA: Halifax Co., Difficult Creek at CtyRt 719 / 4 mi E of Scottsburg, 9 May 2004, R.L. Hoffman, UV" (1 VMNH); "VA: Isle of Wight Co., Antioch Pines N[atural] A[rea] P[reserve], Blackwater River, bluff at gate / ca. 5 mi S of Zuni, 27 October 2010, S.M. Roble, UV" (1 VMNH); "VIRGINIA: Isle of Wight County, 6 km S Zuni at Blackwater River, 12 April 1989, W. E. Steiner / Under bark of small fire-killed oak, burned-over sand barren area" (1 USNM); "VA: Northampton Co.: Savage Neck Dunes Natural Area Preserve / Custis Pond, UV, 13 June 2003, [A.C.] Chazal & [D.P.] Field" (3 VMNH).

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