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TWO AUSTRAL WATER BEETLES NEW TO THE VIRGINIA FAUNA (COLEOPTERA: DYTISCIDAE, HYDROPHILIDAE). – The “Floridian” aspect of the fauna of southeastern Virginia continues to be emphasized by recent discoveries of insects previously known only from more southern distributions. We provide here documentation for two small water beetles which fall into that category, being previously unknown north of North Carolina.

DYTISCIDAE: Hydroporinae: Bidessini
Anodocheilus exiguus (Aubé)

In the faunistic study begun by Michael & Matta (1977), *Anodocheilus* was included in the key to dytiscid genera of eastern United States (and by context, of Virginia). However, this minute species (length 1.4-1.7 mm) remains unrecorded for Virginia, perhaps, in part, because its subfamily (Hydroporinae) was not treated by these authors. Furthermore, Matta (1973, 1979) did not record *A. exiguus* during his surveys of water beetles of the Dismal Swamp (cities of Chesapeake and Suffolk, Virginia, and adjacent North Carolina). It is the lone representative of *Anodocheilus* in North America, documented previously from North Carolina south to Florida and west to Texas (Ciegler, 2003). Ciegler (2003) provided six records for South Carolina, but we have not determined the basis for the earlier citation of North Carolina by Brigham (1982). The NCSU collection has no material from North Carolina nor was it listed for that state by Brimley (1938) or Wray (1967). Ciegler (2003) reported the habitats of this species as ponds and the sandy edges of lakes, streams, and ditches.

We have seen 14 specimens from Virginia: *City of Chesapeake*: without precise location (“Chesapeake, Va.”), 15 June 1972, J. F. Matta (USNM 4). *City of Virginia Beach*: “Site 55, Va. Beach, Va.”, 28 October 1970, Matta (USNM 6); without specification but probably the historic resort area (“Va. Beach, Va.”), 20 November 1970, Matta (USNM 2); same but 11 July 1972, Matta (USNM 1); False Cape State Park, Main Park Road, 1.4 km south of Wash Woods cemetery, 8 September 2006, UV light trap, S. M. Roble (VMNH 1).

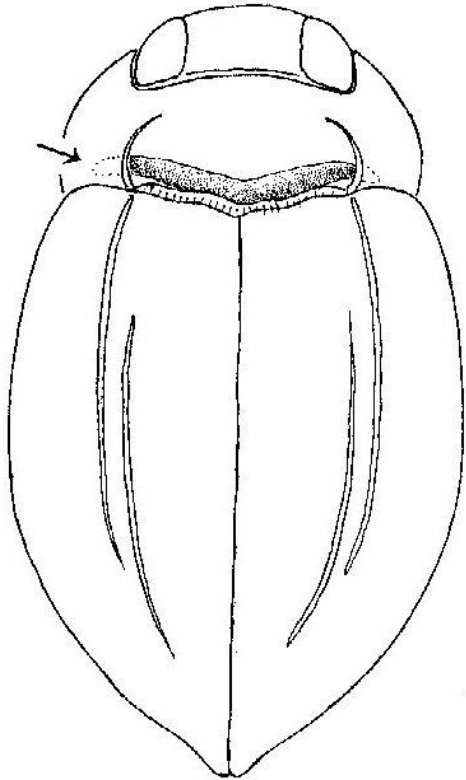


Fig. 1. Dorsal view of *Anodocheilus exiguus*; arrow indicates position of pronotal groove.

There is some variation in development of the pronotal groove, which is almost obliterated in some specimens. In the VMNH specimen it is well defined, and laterally extends under each pronotal plica as a small pocket (Fig. 1, arrow). Otherwise, it agrees closely with the descriptions of the species published by Young (1974) and Ciegler (2003).

HYDROPHILIDAE: Hydrophilinae: Hydrophilini
Helobata larvalis (Horn)

This small beetle (5-6 mm) was not included in the survey of Virginia's aquatic hydrophilids by Matta (1974), and apparently the species (and genus) has not been recorded for the state until now. Like the preceding species, *H. larvalis* is the lone representative of its genus in North America, inhabiting southeastern United States from North Carolina south to Florida and west to Texas; it also occurs in Central and South America and Cuba (Ciegler, 2003). In South Carolina, Ciegler (2003) recorded it on submerged leaves of

Pontederia and at UV lights. We have at hand a small series from the extreme southeastern corner of Virginia, where it was collected by the second author at a UV light trap. *City of Virginia Beach: False Cape State Park, Wash Woods Environmental Education Center, 6-7 July 2005, S. M. Roble (VMNH 3)*.

Brigham (1982) and Ciegler (2003) previously reported this species from North and South Carolina, respectively. Warren Steiner (pers. comm.) has collected *H. larvalis* at Buxton, Cape Hatteras, Dare Co., North Carolina (USNM), which appears to be the previous northernmost locality for the species. Dr. Andrew Short advised (*in litt.*) that he saw no Virginia material in the collections examined by him in connection with a survey of this genus.

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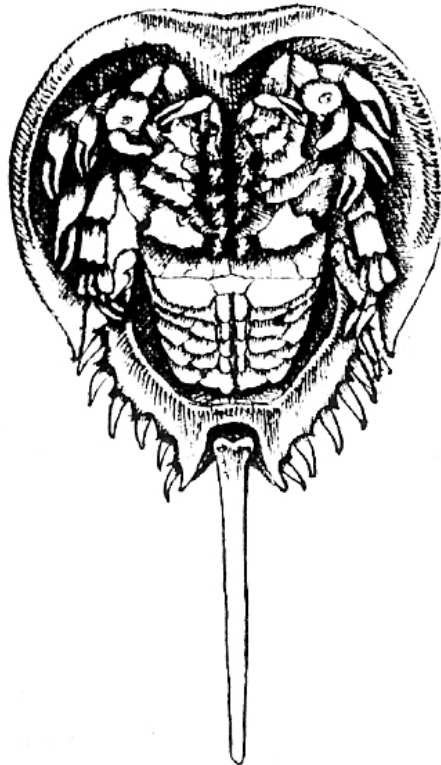
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Horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*), ventral aspect.
Original drawing by John Banister.