

**STETHOBARIS COMMIXTA BLATCHLEY (COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE) COLLECTED FROM A SPECIES OF ORCHID, PLATANATHERA PRAECLARA SHEVIK AND BOWLES, IN NORTH DAKOTA TALL-GRASS PRAIRIE**--The western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara* Sheviak and Bowles) is a federally listed threatened plant species (U.S. Department of the Interior, 1989, Fed. Reg. 54(187):39857-39862) characteristic of the tall-grass prairie (Sheviak and Bowles, 1986, *Rhodora* 88:267-290). In 1987, a monitoring program began on the Sheyenne National Grassland in southeastern North Dakota to provide additional information on the life history of this orchid and to assess effects of management activities on orchid populations. During the sampling seasons of 1990 and 1991, several weevils were discovered in partially consumed flower buds. Three specimens were collected and identified as *Stethobaris commixta* Blatchley.

Other *Stethobaris* species associated with Orchidaceae are *S. laevimargo* (Champion), introduced into U.S. orchid houses from tropical America (Kissinger, 1964, *Curculionidae of America North of Mexico, A Key to the Genera*, Taxonomic Publications, S. Lancaster, MA); *S. vigintiestriata* (Fonseca) reported from orchid flowers of the genera *Cattleya* and *Laelia* in Brazil (da Fonseca, 1957, *Uma nova especie de "Diorymerellus"* (Col, *Curculionidae Barininae* [sic] prejudicial as orquideas, *Arquivos do Instituto Biologico, Sao Paulo*, 24:243-246); and *S. ovata*, associated with various species of orchids: *Corallorhiza striata* Lindley and *C. trifida* Chat. var. *verna* (Nutt.) Fem.; *Cypripedium* spp.; *Epipactis helleborine* (L.) Crantz; and *Habenaria* spp. (Howden, In press, *Memoirs of the Entomological Society*).

The first record of *S. commixta* occurring in the U.S. was from coral-root (*Corallorhiza* spp.) collected at Balsam, NC (Blatchley and Leng, 1916, *Rhynchophora or weevils of north eastern America*, The Nature Publishing Co., Indianapolis). Additional *S. commixta* have been collected from Storrs, CT, 1955; Greensboro, NC, 1958; Bourbon County, KS, 1975; and Latimer County, OK, 1984 and 1988 (O'Brien, unpublished data). Host information is from Kansas, on prairie sedge (species unknown), and from Oklahoma, collected by sifting flood debris.

The authors thank the Custer National Forest for their financial assistance and support of this research project. Reviews by Larry Potts, Custer National Forest; Charles Umbanhowar, Jr., St. Olaf College; Alexis Duxbury, North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory; and Robert S. Anderson, Canadian Museum of Nature, were very helpful in revising an earlier draft of this manuscript.--Carolyn Hull Sieg, *Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, South Dakota School of Mines Campus, Rapid City, SD 57701*; and Charles W. O'Brien, *Department of Entomology - Biocontrol, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, FL 32307*.

Received 8 June 1992. Accepted 9 December 1992.