

Elaphropus vivax (LeConte) (Coleoptera: Carabidae) newly recorded in the Maritime Provinces

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Several recent studies (Majka et al. 2007, 2008; Webster and Bousquet 2008) have reviewed the ground beetle (Carabidae) fauna of the Maritime Provinces, providing records of many species and adding substantially to the knowledge of the distribution, zoogeography, and bionomics of this diverse and species-rich family in the region. It is, therefore, of interest to report another species of carabid new to the Maritime Provinces.

On 14 May 1952, V.R. Vickery was collecting Coleoptera in Kentville, Kings County, Nova Scotia. Amongst the material collected was a specimen that proved, on recent examination, to be *Elaphropus vivax* (LeConte, 1848), the first record of this species in the Maritime Provinces. *Elaphropus vivax* is a small (2.40–2.90 mm), pale, rufous-coloured ground beetle (Fig. 1). Many of the members of the genus *Elaphropus* are superficially similar in appearance but can readily be distinguished by employing the keys provided by Lindroth (1966). Eleven species have been recorded in Canada, seven of which have previously been found in the Maritime Provinces (Bousquet and Larochelle 1993; Majka et al. 2007; Webster and Bousquet 2008). *Elaphropus vivax* is found on moist, sandy, open ground with sparse vegetation along embankments and shores of rivers, brooks, lakes, and ponds. It is diurnally active, sheltering under stones, dead leaves, or in cracks in the ground at night or on cool days. It is macropterous, an occasional flier, and a fast runner (Larochelle and Larivière 2003).

In Canada, *E. vivax* has previously been recorded in Ontario and Québec. In the United States it occurs widely across the eastern portion of the country from Maine south to Georgia and west to Texas, Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin (Bousquet and Larochelle 1993). In Canada, two of the eleven species in the genus *Elaphropus* are myrmecophilous and are associated with various species of ants (Ball and Bousquet 2000). This behaviour has not been noted in *E. vivax*. Although the Kentville environs have received a great deal of entomological attention over the past century due to the work of the staff of the Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre, as well as of private collectors such as Kenneth Neal, David Webster, and Susan Westby who have collected Carabidae there, it is noteworthy that 56 years have elapsed without any additional specimens of *E. vivax* having been collected. Due to the small size of *E. vivax* and close similarity to other more abundant *Elaphropus* species, this species has probably been overlooked.

Despite the considerable attention that this family has recently recieved in the region, there are still additional discoveries to be made. Further fieldwork is required to better determine the status of *E. vivax* in Annapolis Valley and across Nova Scotia.

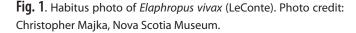
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