

A review of North and Central American *Paragrilus* Saunders, 1871 (Coleoptera: Buprestidae: Agrilinae)

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Abstract

The buprestid genus *Paragrilus* Saunders, 1871 is reviewed for North and Central America. Of 18 species that are recognized, six are described as new: *P. akersi*, *P. burkei*, *P. heliocarpi*, *P. moldenkei*, *P. fallorum*, and *P. azureus*. Species fall into three species groups, the *P. rugatulus* group, the *P. trifoveolatus* group, and the *P. aeraticollis* group. Four species are considered to occur in the United States: *P. burkei*, *P. lesueuri* Waterhouse, *P. rugatulus* Thomson, and *P. tenuis* (LeConte). A key is given to separate species. Lectotypes are designated for *P. laevicollis* Waterhouse and *P. trifoveolatus* Waterhouse. All known adult hosts are in the Malvales (families Malvaceae, Sterculiaceae and Tiliaceae), two species have been reared (*P. lesueuri* and *P. tenuis*), and four species of the *P. rugatulus* group are known to associate with the genus *Sida* in the family Malvaceae.

Key words: *Agrilus*, Buprestidae, Central America, Coleoptera, Malvales, North America, *Paragrilus*, *Sida*.

Introduction

The genus *Paragrilus* Saunders is a moderately large genus in the subtribe Rhaebosceldina Cobos of the tribe Agrilini Laporte, and subfamily Agrilinae Laporte. Members of the genus are commonly collected, especially the group of species associated with herbaceous weeds in the genus *Sida* L. (Malvaceae). Although there is a much smaller proportion of undescribed species than in the large genus *Agrilus* Curtis and in the leaf-mining Trachini Gory & Laporte (Hespenheide 1996), a few North and Central American species remain to be described, including one that reaches southern Arizona. The descriptions of these species are presented here in the context of a general review of the genus as it occurs north of South America. The review focuses on the species south of the United States, so that the distribution data are incomplete for the one species, *P. tenuis* (LeConte), that is