

CERAMBYCIDAE: Lamiinae: Monochamini



Plectrodera scalator (Fabricius)

Photo by:
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MSU-ARC

Michigan Coleoptera List Project
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The Beetles of Michigan project started in 2019 when Bob and I were writing up the results of a beetle survey at Grass River Natural Area that we had done the two previous years (Haack and Ruesink 2020). We wanted to say if anything we found there was a new state record for Michigan, and we discovered that the most recent list of Michigan beetles was published in 1878 (Hubbard and Schwarz 1878). So, we decided to update their list and asked Gary Parsons to join us as a third investigator.

Our goal was to produce what is called a checklist, that is, a list of every beetle species presumed to occur in Michigan. Our list differs from a standard or basic checklist because ours includes up to six sources for each record, and it is annotated as to whether we think the record is accepted, probably correct, doubtful or definitely erroneous.

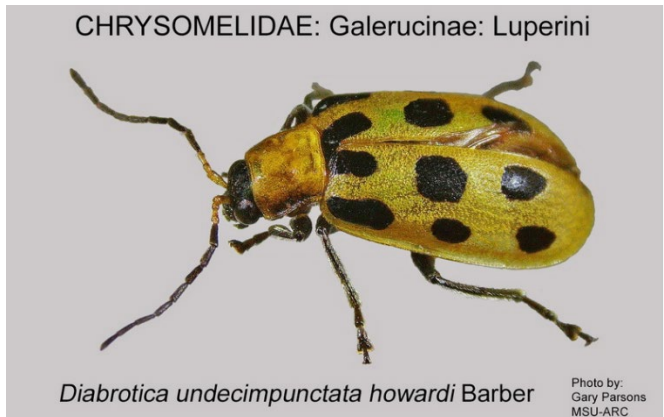
Because it is only a checklist it does not contain information on seasonality or life histories. Nor does it say where in Michigan it has been found. Nor does it include identification keys. In 1910, W. S. Blatchley published a book called the *Coleoptera of Indiana* that did include all of these last four topics (Blatchley 1910). So maybe calling our list the "Beetles of Michigan" is an overstatement.

The first and most time consuming task was to find what species have been reported since 1878. We began by looking at the tables of contents for every issue of the *Michigan Entomologist* and its successor *The Great Lakes Entomologist*. For each title that sounded like it might have new Michigan records, we read the article and recorded what species were found. Next, we did the same for every issue of the *Coleopterists Bulletin*, and most issues of *Insecta Mundi*, *ZooKeys* and *Zootaxa*. We also looked at several recent books on specific beetle families. After that we downloaded records from SCAN (Symbiota Collections of Arthropods Network), BugGuide, and iNaturalist, as

well as searched Google Scholar using the search terms "Michigan" and then every beetle family.

Gary Parsons had a list of every Michigan species in the MSU-ARC insect collection, although it was about 15 years out of date. We found several hundred names on his list that were not found in any of the literature that we had searched. For each of those species, we looked at the specimen(s) and confirmed or rejected the identification to the best of our ability. This added nearly 300 names to our list.

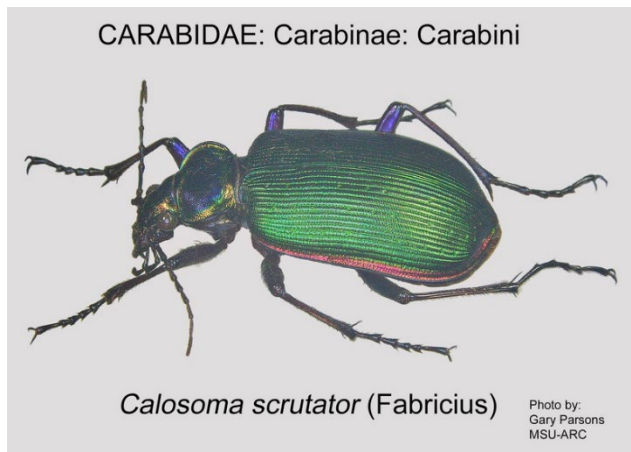
The next task was to ensure we were



using the currently accepted scientific name for each species. We relied mostly on BugGuide and GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) for this. They usually agreed, but when they didn't, we had to evaluate their reasons and pick one or the other.

Then we had to assign a "record quality" opinion on each species. That is, did we believe that species really does occur in Michigan. We used four categories: accepted, probably correct, doubtful or definitely erroneous. In most cases what appears in our list is entirely just my (WGR) personal opinion, but that was influenced heavily by where else it occurs in the US or Canada and by the credentials of the author of the publication reporting the record.

The biggest challenge was keeping accurate records of where we had looked and of what we found in all those places.



We used two main spreadsheets: (1) every published and unpublished source we looked at, tagging the ones that had useful Michigan data, and (2) a master list of every species reported in each source we used. When the second one was sorted by species, we discovered that some species had been found in more than 20 sources.

The final challenge was deciding how best to move information from our spreadsheets to the website, especially how much could be automated to minimize unnecessary duplication and rekeying.

beetlesofmichigan.org

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Beetles of Michigan

William G. Ruesink¹, Gary L. Parsons², and Robert A. Haack³

Our website (<https://beetlesofmichigan.org/>) has been fully functional for a little over 2 years now, and most pages have not been updated since the last family was posted in 2023. We have additional data on hand that has not been posted yet. Some of the new information is simply additional sources (e.g., adding UMMZ holdings) or changes in the tribal assignment of some genera. Two years ago the list had 4389 accepted and probably correct species, but if we updated the site today that number would be closer to 4500.

A few tasks remain: (1) publish a final report of new Michigan state record for species found in the MSU-ARC or UMMZ collection in the GLES Newsletter, (2) update several web pages, especially those of families with additional species, (3) add species to the photo gallery as time permits, (4) arrange for long-term

maintenance of the website, and (5) continue discussions on whether a hard-copy printed version would be worthwhile.

References

Blatchley, W. S. 1910. An illustrated descriptive catalogue of the Coleoptera or beetles known to occur in Indiana. Nature Pub. Co, Indianapolis, IN. 1384 pp.

Haack, R. A. and W. G. Ruesink. 2020. Coleoptera collected using three trapping methods at Grass River Natural Area, Antrim County, Michigan. The Great Lakes Entomologist 53: 138–169.

Hubbard, H. G. and E. A. Schwarz. 1878. The Coleoptera of Michigan. Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society 17: 593–669.



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MES Website: <http://michentsoc.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/michentsoc/>

In this issue:

Recap of the 71st Annual Meeting

Election Results

New Webmaster Appointed

Historical Notes

Recap of the 71st Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Entomological Society

October 25, 2025, 1 to 5 pm, via Zoom.

Over twenty members attended the meeting. Participants had the opportunity to see several fine presentations and there was ample time for important discussion during the business meeting that followed.

Our featured speaker was Dr. Hannah Burrack, the Professor & Chair of the Department of Entomology at Michigan State University. Her presentation, "Department achievements and challenges in a time of difficult funding", provided an excellent overview of the department, its ties with other university entities, and current funding challenges.

Dr. Burrack also discussed graduate and undergraduate student enrollment

trends, proudly noting that the department welcomed its largest incoming class ever. Fifteen new majors and twelve minors joined "Team Emerald Ash Borer, bringing the department to 48 undergraduate majors. Numbers have nearly doubled over the past three years, reflecting growing interest in entomology and the department's expanding academic opportunities.

Presentation Abstracts and more

Investigating the Effect of Urban Habitat Fragmentation on Parasitoid Wasp Diversity in Two Michigan Wetlands

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Wetlands are some of the most ecologically significant ecosystems in the world and are often very biodiverse, containing many unique species. Terrestrial insects make up most of this diversity. Parasitoid wasps occur in most ecosystems and serve critical ecological roles like host population management, pest control, and pollination. Considering their diversity in most ecosystems, they likely make up a significant component of the terrestrial