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New state and adult host records for species of
Anthaxia DeGeer and *Melanophila* Eschscholtz
(Coleoptera: Buprestidae) in the Western United States

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New state and adult host records for species of *Anthaxia* DeGeer and *Melanophila* Eschscholtz (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) in the Western United States

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Abstract. New state records are provided for one species of *Anthaxia* (*Haplanthaxia*) Reitter, six species of *Anthaxia* (*Melanthaxia*) Richter, and one species of *Melanophila* Eschscholtz (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) in the Western United States. One new adult host record is provided for *Anthaxia* (*Melanthaxia*) *aeneogaster* Gory and Laporte, two are provided for *Melanophila atropurpurea* (Say), and one for *Phaenops intrusa* (Horn).

Key words. Buprestinae, Anthaxiini, Melanophilini, distribution.

ZooBank registration. urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:381DD2D9-A001-4EE2-BBD2-4EFFF411338A

Introduction

Distribution and host plant records for Buprestidae continue to become available through the efforts of the many professional and amateur collectors who willingly share their expertise. Most of the data provided herein were made possible by the return to the University of Idaho of a large loan of specimens in the genus *Anthaxia* Eschscholtz identified by Svatopluk Bílý, who passed away before he could complete his ambitious revision of the genus. We focus on new records in this paper, and the distribution data for species collected in Idaho allows it to be included in an annotated checklist being developed by the junior author.

Materials and Methods

State and host plant names are provided in bold caps to emphasize new records. Collection abbreviations are provided in brackets following Evenhuis (2025), and they may refer to more than one preceding set of label data. All the consulted collections are in the USA and are abbreviated as follows: BYUC = Brigham Young University, Provo, UT; CIDA = Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History, College of Idaho, Caldwell; CMNH = Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA; FMNH = Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL; FSCA = Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville; LACM, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Los Angeles; MTEC = Montana State University, Bozeman; NVDA = Nevada Department of Agriculture, Sparks; OSAC = Oregon State Arthropod Collection, Corvallis; RLWE = R. L. Westcott collection, Salem, OR; UDAF = Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Salt Lake City; WFBM = W. F. Barr Entomological Museum, Moscow, ID. All specimens of *Anthaxia* spp. referred to in this paper are deposited in the WFBM. Host plant nomenclature follows the PLANTS Database (Natural Resources Conservation Service 2025).

Results

New state records are provided below for seven species in the genus *Anthaxia* Eschscholtz and were made possible only through the extensive study and identification efforts of RNDr. Svatopluk Bílý (1945–2023), who was the leading expert on the notoriously difficult tribe Anthaxiini, studying and publishing numerous papers about them over half a century. These records are mostly based on a recently returned large WFBM loan to RNDr. Bílý, who identified them to species level. One of us (RLW) had the pleasure and good fortune to meet and collect with him and other “buprestiphiles” on a quest for Buprestidae in Mexico (Westcott et al. 2014). Others have chronicled him and his publications (Jelínek and Kubáň 2015; Volkovitsh and Jelínek 2016). One new state record for a species in the genus *Melanophila* Eschscholtz is also provided.

***Anthaxia (Haplantaxia) caseyi sublaevis* Van Dyke.** IDAHO: Franklin Co., 20 mi NE Preston, 4-VII-1965, W. F. Barr. NEVADA: Clark Co.: Kyle Canyon [Spring Mts.], 26-VI-1966, R. L. Westcott; Upper Lee Canyon, 26-VII-1966, R. L. Penrose. White Pine Co., 3 mi. SW Ely and Schillbourne Pass, 10-VII-1965, W. F. Barr and R. L. Westcott, WFBM.

***Anthaxia (Melanthaxia) aeneogaster* Gory and Laporte.** MONTANA, Ravalli Co.: Bitterroot National Forest, Laird Creek, 5 mi. NW Sula, VII-1957, D. G. Fellin; Sula, 24-VI-1929, W. E. Shull. NEVADA, Clark Co., Kyle Canyon, 26-VI-1966, E. J. Allen, R. L. Penrose, R. L. Westcott; 22-VI-1983 & 30-VI-1983, F. M. Beer. White Pine Co., 3 mi. SW Ely, 10-VII-1965, on *Purshia stansburiana* (Torr.) **Henrickson** (as *Cowania stansburyana*) (Rosaceae), W. F. Barr & R. L. Westcott, WFBM.

***Anthaxia (Melanthaxia) cupriola* Barr.** NEVADA, Clark Co., Kyle Canyon, 18-VI-1963, F. W. Beer; 26-VI-1966, R. L. Westcott. OREGON, Umatilla Co., T4N, R35E NW 1/4 Sec. 27, 10-VI-1989, L. H. Williams, WFBM.

***Anthaxia (Melanthaxia) hatchi* Barr.** ARIZONA, Yavapai Co., 1 mi N Yarnell, 1-VI-1983, F. M. Beer, WFBM.

***Anthaxia (Melanthaxia) simiola* Casey.** WASHINGTON, Yakima Co., Toppenish, 9-V-1969, collector unknown, WFBM.

***Anthaxia (Melanthaxia) strigata* LeConte.** WASHINGTON, Whitman Co., Kamiak Butte, 20-V, K. E. Gibson; Yakima Co., Toppenish, 9-V-1969; Yakima, 12-V-1932, K. E. Gibson, WFBM.

***Anthaxia (Melanthaxia) subprasina* Cobos.** OREGON, Josephine Co., Low Divide, 10-V-1973, F. M. Beer, WFBM.

***Melanophila atropurpurea* (Say).** IDAHO, Ada Co., Boise, 2692', 15-VII-1949; Cassia Co., Malta, 25-VII-1959, WFBM, and 10 km (air) SSW Malta, 5050', 14-VIII-1986, base of juniper burnt 6 days previously, RLWE; Rock Creek Canyon [Cassia Range], 18/20-VII-2008, freshly fire-killed *Betula L. sp.* (Betulaceae) and *Juniperus L. sp.* (Cupressaceae), Lou Dersch, LACM, CIDA, MTEC, OSAC, WFBM; Elmore Co., Hot Springs, 9 mi N Mt. Home, 30-VII-1949; Oneida Co., rest stop NW of Snowville, Utah, 42°04'29", -112°54'41", 30-VIII-2008, BYUC; same, but labeled Rest Stop nearest to Utah. border, at light, 1-VIII-2012, Lou Dersch, WFBM; Owyhee Co., 7 mi W Homedale, 2-VIII-1966, WFBM; Payette Co., Payette, VI-1923, FMNH. NEVADA, Churchill Co., Sand Mt., 25-VI-1987, blacklight trap, NVDA; Clark Co., Las Vegas, 29-VII-1949, FMNH, and Paradise Valley, 30-V-1970, OSAC; Lincoln Co., Sams Camp Wash, T8S, R69E, S13, 17-VII-1984, and 37.627043°, -114.599617° [8 km (air) WNW Caliente, 1645 m], 75-watt mercury vapor lamp, UDAF; Washoe Co., Peavine Mt., 14-VII-1954, NVDA. WASHINGTON, [Franklin Co.], Pasco, 21-VII-1915, CMNH; Walla Walla Co., College Place, 20-VII-1949, FSCA; Walla Walla, VI-1936; Yakima Co., Granger, 30-VIII-1931, both WFBM. The latter record is based on a specimen determined as *M. atropurpurea* by W. J. Chamberlin, then as *Melanophila acuminata* (DeGeer) by M. H. Hatch in 1938. It, and probably the specimen from Walla Walla, were recorded under the latter species by Beer and Hatch (1941), who stated “Dr. Chamberlin tells us that the Alaskan, British Columbian, and North Pacific records for *atropurpurea* Say are to be assigned to *acuminata*.” Barr and Linsley (1947) recorded a specimen they determined to be *Melanophila occidentalis* Obenberger from Heartline (Grant Co., Washington) which almost certainly is *M. atropurpurea*.

Barr (1971) reported *M. occidentalis* from Idaho, but did not cite a source or a specific collecting locality. We could not find mention of it in earlier or subsequent literature, nor have we seen specimens from that state in collections. The only other species present in Idaho that might be confused with *M. occidentalis* are *M. acuminata* and *M. atropurpurea*. Both appear to be common there, the latter possibly restricted to southern Idaho.

***Phaenops intrusa* (Horn).** IDAHO, Latah Co., Moscow Mountain, 9-III-1980, M. M. Furniss, 6193-D, WFBM, 3 specimens reared from *Picea engelmannii* Parry ex Engelm. (Pinaceae).

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