

## **New State Record and Northeastern Range Extension for *Caenocholax fenyesei* Sensu Lato (Strepsiptera: Myrmecolacidae)**

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NEW STATE RECORD AND NORTHEASTERN RANGE EXTENSION  
FOR *CAENOCHOLAX FENYESI* SENSU LATO  
(STREPSIPTERA: MYRMECOLACIDAE)

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The strepsipteran *Caenocholax fenyesei* Pierce *sensu lato* has been recorded from Mexico and the southern United States (Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas) (Kathirithamby & Taylor 2005). Males of this species are endoparasites of ants (Kathirithamby et al. 2007), including the red imported fire ant, *Solenopsis invicta* Buren (Kathirithamby & Johnston 1992). The females of *C. f. waloffi* Kathirithamby & Johnston, in Mexico, stylopize *Hapithus agitator* Uhler (Orthoptera: Gryllidae: Eneopterinae) (Kathirithamby & Johnston 2004), but the female host in the United States has not been found.

An adult male *C. fenyesei* was collected from a UV light/pan trap (UTM zone 17 610840mE 3632980mN NAD83) in suburban Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina on 29 Jul 2006 from yellow pan trap set on a lawn for 36 h, 15 m from a UV light trap. A second adult male of this species was collected at the same location from a UV light trap on 20 Aug 2006. These collections extend the range of this species to the northeast. It is unclear whether or not the South Carolina *C. fenyesei* are stylopizing *S. invicta*, but the range of this ant now includes South Carolina (USDA-ARS 2007), and fire ant mounds are abundant in the area where the strepsipteran was collected. This is the fifth genus and sixth species of Strepsiptera to be reported from South Carolina (Kathirithamby & Taylor 2005; Reeves & Cook 2005).

#### SUMMARY

*Caenocholax fenyesei* Pierce *sensu lato* (Strepsiptera: Myrmecolacidae), a known parasite of

*Solenopsis invicta* Buren 1972 (Hymenoptera: Formicidae), is reported for the first time from South Carolina based on the presence of adult males in pan trap and UV light collections in Jul and Aug 2006.

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