

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

FIRST RECORD OF THE GENUS *CHELOBASIS* GRAY, 1832 (COLEOPTERA:
CHRYSOMELIDAE: CASSIDINAE) IN MEXICO (NORTH AMERICA)

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The Neotropical genus *Chelobasis* Gray, 1832 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae) includes four known species: *Chelobasis aemula* (Waterhouse) from Ecuador; *Ch. bicolor* Gray from Bolivia to Nicaragua; *Ch. laevicollis* (Waterhouse) from Colombia; and *Ch. perplexa* (Baly) from Ecuador to Costa Rica. *Chelobasis* beetles are also known as the “rolled-leaf” beetles because their larvae and adults feed on the scroll formed by the young leaves of their host plants (Strong and Wang 1977) in the genus *Heliconia* L. (Heliconiaceae) (García-

Robledo *et al.* 2010). The known northern limit of *Chelobasis* is Guatemala, where a single individual of *Ch. perplexa* was collected at the Municipality of Chimaltenango, 14°39' N, 90°49' W, ca. 1,800 m elevation (Staines 2009). Here we report the presence of the genus *Chelobasis* in the Sierra de Los Tuxtlas, Mexico.

During June 2014, we surveyed 50 individuals of *Heliconia uxpanapensis* C. Gut. Báez, an understory herb common in the forest and trail sides of Los Tuxtlas Biological Station, a tropical rainforest



Fig. 1. *Chelobasis bicolor* collected at Los Tuxtlas Biological Station (Veracruz, Mexico). Scale bar = 5 mm. Photo by Vicente Hernández-Ortiz.

located in Veracruz near the Gulf of Mexico (18°35' N and 95°04' W).

We collected seven specimens of *Ch. bicolor* (Fig. 1). *Chelobasis* species are usually polymorphic, and individuals of the same species may show colorations ranging from red to orange and yellow (Staines 2009). In this population, all individuals displayed the same yellow-black

markings (Fig. 1). The specimens collected were deposited in the entomological collections of the Instituto de Ecología, A.C., Los Tuxtlas Biological Station, and Smithsonian Institution.

The previously known northern limit of *Ch. bicolor* was Matagalpa, Department of Jinotega, Nicaragua (12°55' N, 85°55' W) (Staines 2009). Los Tuxtlas is the northern limit of the tropical rainforest in the Americas and may be the northern limit for *Ch. bicolor*. The new record expands the known latitudinal range of *Chelobasis* by ca. 450 km to the north.

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