0412: Scarab research in Colorado (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea)

Sunday, November 05, 2017
01:55 PM - 02:15 PM
Convention Center - Meeting Room 607

The State of Colorado is only 141 years old, after having been a Territory for 15 years. Entomological discovery in this square of land started early on, but before being defined as a territory the Colorado area belonged in part or as a whole to New Mexico, Utah, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, and Mexico. Early Colorado records, if any, might easily hide in old unspecified collecting data for those. The first record of a scarabaeoid from Colorado is probably *Tomarus gibbosus obsoletus*, a dynastine described by LeConte in 1847 from near Long’s Peak (now in Rocky Mountain National Park). In the decade from the late 1860s to the late 1870s, collecting expeditions by C. Thomas (USGS), J.D. Putnam/C. C. Parry, W.L. Carpenter (USGS), G.M. Wheeler (USGS), A.S. Packard (USGS), F.H. Snow (Kansas University), and others built a basic species list for the State. The young English naturalist Theodore D.A. Cockerell visited the Wet Mountain Valley (Westcliffe, Custer County) from 1887 to 1890 and compiled a comprehensive list of insects that provides us with a unique baseline for comparisons with the fauna of the “developed” present-day Colorado. All these efforts were compiled into “A Catalogue of the Coleoptera of Colorado” by H.G. Wickham in 1902. Since then, scarabaeological, as all entomological efforts in the State were largely focused on agricultural problems and later ecological studies. Basic faunistic research has been revived with the “Colorado Scarab Survey” established at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science ten years ago.

Author

Frank T. Krell

Denver Museum of Nature and Science

View Related Events

Day: Sunday, November 05, 2017