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NOTES ON THE HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION OF
ACARICORIS IGNOTUS HARRIS AND DRAKE
(HETEROPTERA: ARADIDAE)

Acaricoris ignotus Harris and Drake was described from Louisiana in 1944 (Harris and Drake, 1944). Subsequently, it was reported from Georgia and Mississippi by Usinger (1950) and from Arkansas by Drake and Kormilev (1958). In the present paper, the known range of this species is extended to include localities in Texas. *Acaricoris* is the only genus of apterous Aradidae found in the United States. In addition to *A. ignotus*, Drake (1957a) described a second species, *Acaricoris floridus* from southern central Florida (Highlands Co.). Other species in this genus were found in the Philippine Islands, Guadeloupe, Panama, and Puerto Rico (Drake, 1957b; Drake and Kormilev, 1958).

Virtually nothing is known about the habitat and biology of *A. ignotus*. Usinger (1950) reported finding *A. ignotus* on a stump under very loose bark in Georgia. All specimens reported in the present paper were found in leaf litter and were extracted with Berlese funnels.

Nine specimens of *A. ignotus* were collected by S. P. Lewis from the Big Thicket National Preserve in southeastern Texas. These aradids were collected as part of an ecological study of the mesofauna that inhabit the leaf litter layer in 11 vegetation associations recognized for the area (Marks and Harcombe, 1981).

Marks and Harcombe (1981) divided the vegetation of the Big Thicket National Preserve into three types and 11 subtypes. *Acaricoris ignotus* were collected from three sampling stations, which represented two of the types (upland forests; floodplains, flats, and swamps) and three of the subtypes (midslope oak-pine forest; lower-slope hardwood pine forest; wetland baygall shrub thicket). One sampling station was located in midslope oak-pine forest in Hardin Co. 4.8 km east of US 69/287, 0.2 km north of FM 420 at an elevation of 25 m. One adult female and one immature *A. ignotus* were collected at this station on 20 April 1980. The litter layer was 3.8 cm thick, and the humus layer was 1.2 cm thick. The litter consisted of leaves of *Pinus taeda* L. (50%), *Quercus alba* L., *Acer rubrum* L., *Liquidambar styraciflua* L., *Pinus echinata* Mill., and *Mitchella repens* L. as well as pine bark, twigs, and leaf fragments.

The sampling station in lower-slope hardwood-pine forest was also in Hardin Co. (4.8 km east of US 69/287, 0.3 km north of FM 420) at an elevation of 20 m. Two immature *A. ignotus* were collected here on 15 September 1979. The litter layer was 1.0 cm thick, and the humus layer was 0.1 cm thick. Leaves of *Magnolia grandiflora* L. (80%), *Quercus nigra* L., *Ilex vomitoria* Ait., *Quercus phellos* L., and *Q. alba* as well as twigs and leaf fragments constituted the detritus of this sample. Two immature specimens were collected on 10 July 1980. The litter layer was 2.5 cm thick, and no humus layer was present. Leaves of *Q. nigra* (60%), *A. rubrum* (5%), *P. taeda*, *Quercus falcata* Michx., and *Viburnum* sp. were present in the litter, in addition to twigs, pollen cones, and leaf fragments.

One adult female *A. ignotus* was collected on 19 January 1980 at the sampling station in wetland baygall shrub thicket. This station was located in Tyler Co. 6.7 km east of Warren, 2.3 km south of FM 1943 at an elevation of 38 m. Litter and humus layers were 2.0 and 1.0 cm, respectively. The detritus sample was predominantly pine bark and leaf fragments (95%), but recognizable leaves of *Cyrilla racemiflora* L., *Magnolia virginiana* L., *P. taeda*, *Persea borbonia* (L.) Spreng., and *Q. nigra* were also present. Two immature specimens were collected on 17 February 1980. The litter layer was

3.0 cm deep, while the humus layer was 0.2 cm deep. Leaves of *P. taeda* (50%), *Q. nigra*, *M. virginiana*, and *C. racemiflora* as well as twigs and leaf fragments were in the detritus sample.

Materials examined in this study are deposited in the author's collection (SJT) and in the Insect Collection, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University.

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