

**MEGACEPHALA (TETRACHA) OF NICARAGUA
(COLEOPTERA: CICINDELIDAE).**

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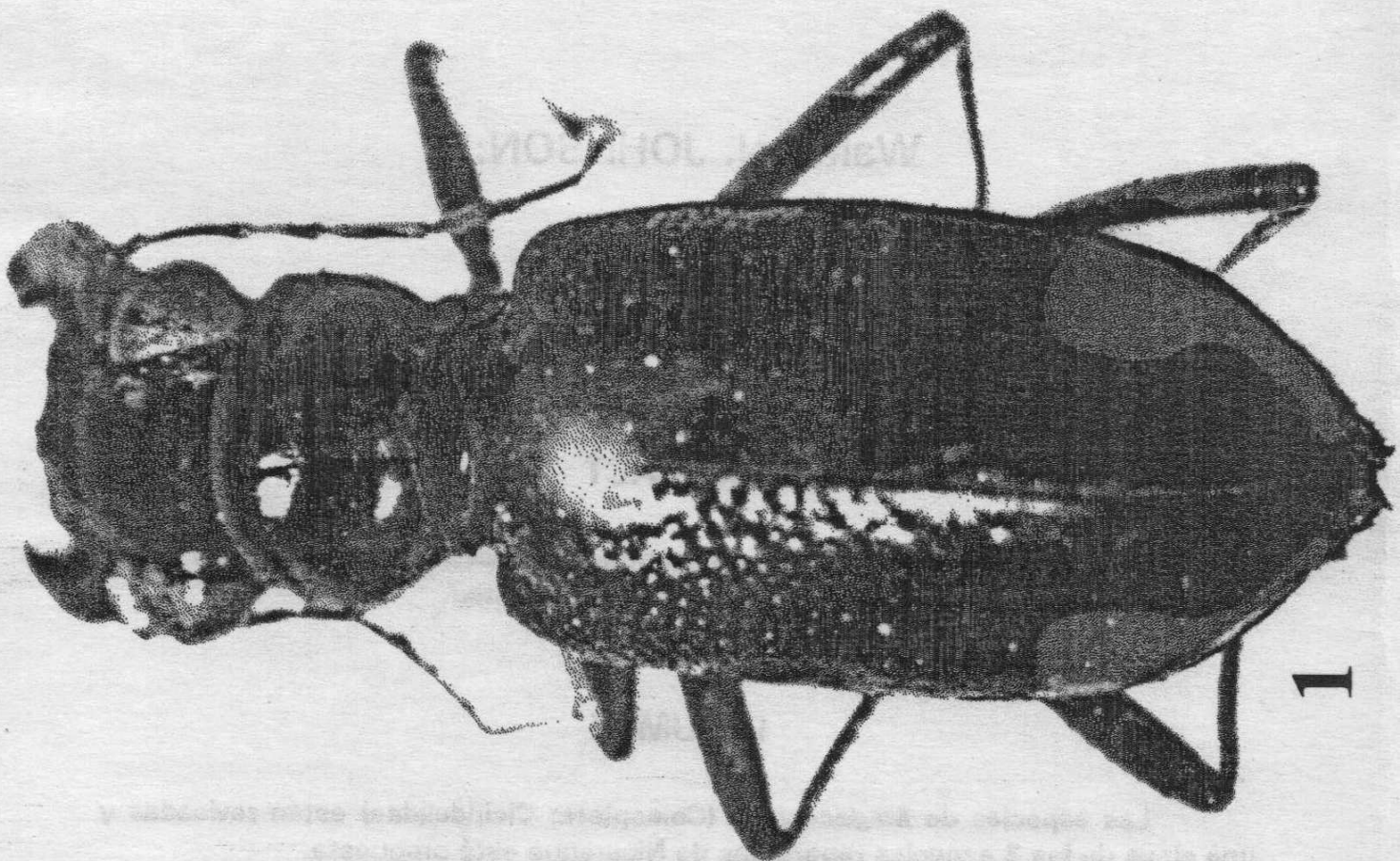
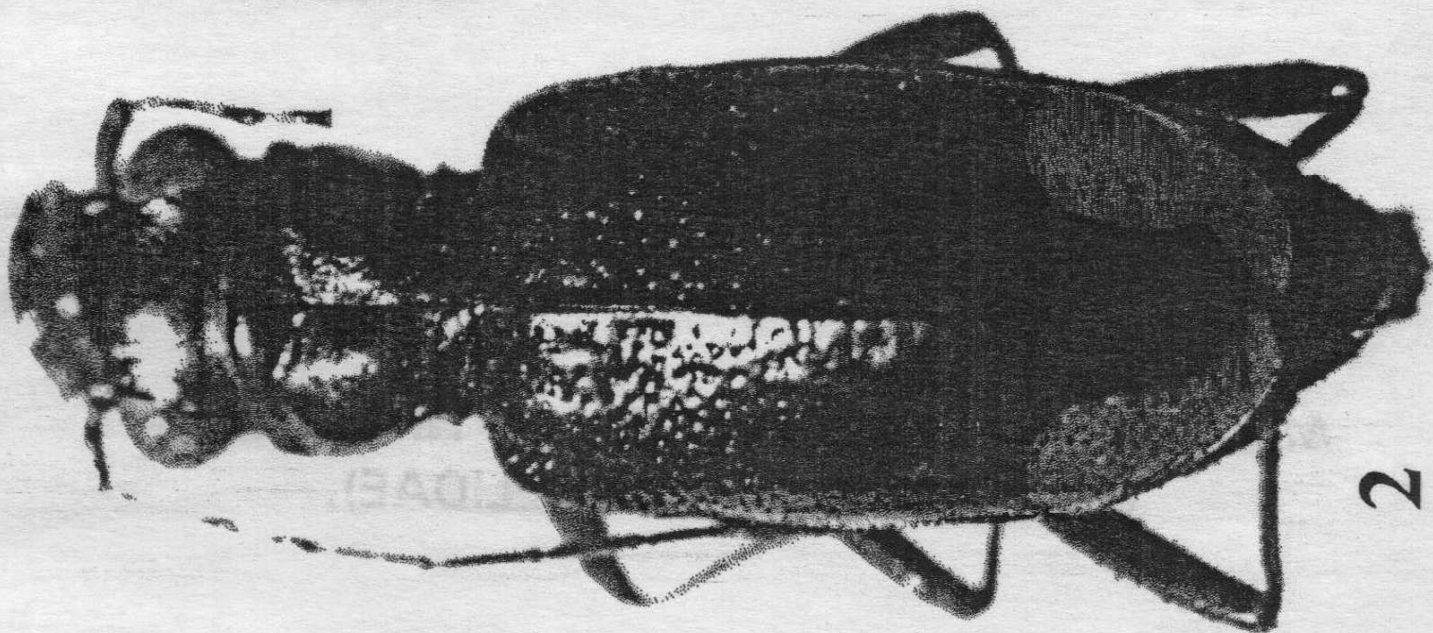
ABSTRACT

The species of *Megacephala* (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae) are reviewed and a key of the 3 species reported from Nicaragua is presented.

RESUMEN

Las especies de *Megacephala* (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae) están revisadas y una clave de las 3 especies reportadas de Nicaragua está propuesta.

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INTRODUCTION

The species of *Megacephala* (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae) which occur throughout Nicaragua belong to the subgenus *Tetracha* Hope. The structural colors of these species often include brilliant metallic reds, oranges, greens and blues, which usually blend into one another. There are two erect setae on the clypeus, one at each end near the antennae. Individuals commonly occurs on sandy shores near water, and are active at night. During the day adults can be found under stones and fallen branches. The known species which occur within Nicaragua consists of three species: *Megacephala fuliginosa* Bates (1874) (type locality: Chontales, Nicaragua), *Megacephala sobrina* Dejean (1831) (type locality: Brazil, Colombia and Antilles) and *Megacephala nicaraguensis* Johnson (1993) (type locality: Laguna de Apollo, Masaya and Laguna de Xiloa, Managua, Nicaragua). The species *Megacephala carolina carolina* (Fig. 1) have been reported from Nicaragua by Boyd et al. (1982), these are likely the species *Megacephala nicaraguensis*.

Key to the *Megacephala* (subgenus *Tetracha*) of Nicaragua

- 1a. Elytra elongate (length more than 2 times width), dark blue to dark green to black in color.....*Megacephala fuliginosa* Bates.
1b. Elytra ovate (length less than 2 times width), coppery green to bright coppery red to dark wine red in color.....2.
2a. Apical third of elytra granulate.....*Megacephala sobrina* Dejean.
2b. Apical third of elytra smooth and very finely punctate.....
.....*Megacephala nicaraguensis* Johnson.

Megacephala fuliginosa Bates.

This dark blue to black species has the elytra usually dull black with edges dark green to violet in color. The length of the specimens examined measuring 13-17 millimeters. The known distribution for the species includes the following countries: Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua. The following are records of specimens examined from Nicaragua: Masaya, Las Flores, May 1993 & June 4, 1985.

Fig.1 : Male of *Megacephala carolina carolina* (L.) from west Texas.

Fig.2 : Male holotype of *Megacephala nicaraguensis* from Nicaragua.

***Megacephala sobrina* Dejean (many known subspecies).**

This metallic coppery green to bright coppery red species has the elytra usually bright coppery red with edges usually bright green in color. The length of specimens examined measuring 12-16 millimeters. The known distribution of the species includes the following: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, West Indies and South America. No specimens from Nicaragua were examined. Specimens from Nicaragua (Boyd et al. 1982) are considered *Megacephala sobrina sobrina* Dejean.

***Megacephala nicaraguensis* Johnson (Fig. 2).**

This metallic dark wine-red species has the elytra usually coppery red with edges usually coppery yellow to yellow-green in color. The length of the specimens examined measuring 13-16 millimeters. The known distribution for the species being the country of Nicaragua. The following is the record for the specimens examined from Nicaragua: Leon, December 1989; rio detras de la chanchera, Leon, August 3, 1983; Laguna de Xilola, Managua, November 20, 1992 & November 16, 1993; Laguna de Apollo, Masaya, November 15 & 16, December 16, 24, 25, 26, 30 & 31, 1991.

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