


## SCIENTIFIC NOTE

### NEW HOST RECORD FOR ADULT *LYTTA MAGISTER* HORN (COLEOPTERA: MELOIDAE) FROM CALIFORNIA, USA

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Randel (2013) provided a list of 11 host plants previously published for *Lytta magister* Horn, 1870 (Meloidea: Meloidae) and nine new observations from the community of Rosamond, in south-central Kern County, California, USA. Hendricks (1984) reported *Encelia frutescens* A. Gray (Asteraceae) as a host plant species not included in Randel (2013) but is not unexpected as plants in the genus *Encelia* are major food sources for *L. magister* (Snead and Alcock 1985). In addition to those records published in Randel (2013), I report here a new host plant for *L. magister*: *Lytta magister* has a distributional range extending from southern California to Arizona into northwestern Sonora and the Baja California Peninsula, Mexico, and continues north to Utah (Pinto and Clark 2022; Randel 2013).

I observed *L. magister* feeding behavior near Searles Valley, in northwestern San Bernardino

County, California on 25 April 2019 (Fig. 1). *Lytta magister* adults were opportunistically observed during biological surveys feeding on shrubs and forbs, with one new host plant recorded. Adults were observed feeding on the following:

*Psorothamnus arborescens* (A. Gray) Barneby (Mojave indigo-bush; Fabaceae), CA: San Bernardino Co., intersection of State Route 178 and Pinnacle Road, Searles Valley (USGS 1973), 512 m.

*Psorothamnus arborescens* is reported as being toxic (Salem and Werbovetz 2006) but no ill effects were observed while *Lytta magister* was feeding on the host species. *Psorothamnus arborescens* is a member of the family Fabaceae; and only one other host plant from this family has been reported (*Lupinus* sp.; Selander 1960, as reported in Randel 2013). *Lytta magister* was feeding on the flowers of *P. arborescens*. Approximately 8–10 beetles were observed in a cluster of six *P. arborescens* plants in a 1-m<sup>2</sup> area. Within the same 1-m<sup>2</sup> area, *L. magister* was also feeding on *Erodium cicutarium* (L.) L'Hér. (Geraniaceae) and *Lasthenia coronaria* (Nutt.) Ornduff (Asteraceae), hosts already reported in Randel (2013). No host plant appeared to be preferred over another.



Fig. 1. *Lytta magister* feeding on *Psorothamnus arborescens*, San Bernardino Co., CA.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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