

## The checkered beetles (Coleoptera: Cleridae) of the Maritime Provinces of Canada

CHRISTOPHER G. MAJKA

*Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3H 3A6.*

### Abstract

The beetles of the family Cleridae in the Maritime Provinces of Canada are reviewed and new provincial records are reported. As a result, 16 taxa (15 species and one additional subspecies) are now known to occur in the region. A total of 19 new provincial records are reported; seven from Prince Edward Island, nine from Nova Scotia, and three from New Brunswick. Three species, *Zenodosus sanguineus* (Say), *Necrobia rufipes* (DeGeer), and *Necrobia violacea* (Linnaeus) are newly recorded in the Maritime Provinces. The bionomics of the fauna is briefly reviewed; species found in the region fall into one of five ecological groups. The composition of the fauna is also examined in relation to subjects such as island faunas, the northeastern North American regional fauna, and adventive species.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Cleridae, Maritime Provinces, new records, biodiversity

### Introduction

The checkered beetles (Cleridae) are predaceous beetles found in a variety of ecological circumstances. Many species are predators on various wood and bark-boring insects (particularly Scolytinae) and are part of the broad saproxylic invertebrate community associated with the decay and decomposition of wood. Others are typically found on flowers where they feed on pollen. Species in the genus *Necrobia* are both saprophagous and predaceous and are found associated with carrion and dried stored products (Opitz 2002). Marske & Ivie (2003) recorded 243 species in North America and McNamara (1991) recorded 50 species in Canada, 12 of which were reported from the Maritime Provinces. Nonetheless, comparatively little attention to the family has been paid in this region and published records and studies have been few. The present study examines specimen records from collections throughout the region and reports new records from