

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Anthicus antiochensis*
COMMON NAME: Antioch anthicid beetle
CLASS, FAMILY: Insecta, Anthicidae

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION: Werner, F.G. 1975. Additions to the nearctic *Anthicus* (Coleoptera: Anthicidae). Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 77(4): 474 (fig. 1, habitus drawing of male; fig. 5, views of aedeagus).

TYPE MATERIAL: *Holotype:* Male – California: Contra Costa County; Antioch, 29 June 1953, collected by R.O. Schuster, deposited in California Academy of Sciences, type #15042. *Paratypes:* 18 same data as holotype, 5 various collectors and dates between 19 May 1952 and 5 October 1953, depositories not given.

RANKING/STATUS: G1S1 (NatureServe- CNDDDB). (Previously ranked GH.)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Anthicid beetles somewhat resemble ants in general appearance, and have a strongly deflexed head which is narrowly constricted behind the eyes.

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS: Adults of *Anthicus antiochensis* are very large for the genus, measuring 4.7-5.4 mm in length. The elytra are subtruncate at the apex and have a subapical darkened area which varies in extent and color intensity; the underside and legs are covered with shaggy pubescence. The outer edge of the front tibia is sharp and modified for digging.

OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS: Davis (1991) illustrates the adult in Plate 1 and the larva in Plate 9.

DISTRIBUTION: *Anthicus antiochensis* is apparently extirpated from the type locality at Antioch Dunes. Stabilization of the dunes in the 1950s may have eliminated the loose, sandy substrate preferred by this species. In the early 1990s it was collected for the first time at several sites along the Sacramento River in Glenn, Tehama, Shasta, and Solano Counties, and from one site at Nicolas on the Feather River in Sutter County (Davis 1991).

HABITAT: Interior sand dunes and sand bars. Davis (1991) found that *Anthicus antiochensis* was commonly collected in pitfall traps in bare, unvegetated sand, while *A. sacramento* was usually trapped in sandy areas with some vegetative cover.

LIFE HISTORY/BEHAVIOR: Although the common name of the family is “antlike flower beetles,” species in the genus *Anthicus* are not found on flowers. Adults of other *Anthicus* species are known to be microscavengers, feeding readily on dead insects (Werner 1964); the larvae probably eat similar diets as the adults, and also feed on soil fungi. *Anthicus antiochensis* actively scavenges at night, burrowing into the sand and remaining inactive during the day (Davis 1991). Adults overwinter, emerge in the spring to lay eggs from which the larvae hatch, and the next generation

of adults emerges in early summer. Adults are most commonly collected in June and July (Davis 1991).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

- Davis, M.G. 1991. Aspects of the ecology of *Anthicus sacramento* Chandler and *Anthicus antiochensis* Werner (Coleoptera: Anthicidae). Master of Science thesis, Sacramento State University, 113 pp.
- Werner, F.G. 1964. A revision of the North American species of *Anthicus*, s. str. (Coleoptera: Anthicidae). Entomological Society of America, Miscellaneous Publications 4(5):197-242.

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