

## SCIENTIFIC NOTE

### *Aleochara sekanai* Klimaszewski: A significant southern and eastern range extension (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)

*Aleochara* (*s. str.*) *sekanai* Klimaszewski, 1985 [formerly known as *Aleochara unicolor* Klimaszewski, 1984 (nec Dalla Torre, 1879 and Schilsky, 1908)] has been reported by Klimaszewski (1984) and Klimaszewski and Frank (1992) as a northern species, thus far known only from Kotzebue (66°53'N, 162°34'W), Prudhoe Bay (70°11'N, 148°25'W), the South Fork of the Koyukuk River (67°01'N, 150°17'W), and Hess Creek, Wales Hwy. (65°40'N, 149°10'W) in Alaska; Rampart House (67°25'N, 140°59'W), Yukon; Worsley (56°30'N, 119°08'W), Alberta; Churchill (58°47'N, 94°11'W), Manitoba; and Pickle Lake (51°29'N, 90°10'W), Ontario. Specimens have been collected in grasses and *Carex* L. (Cyperaceae) mixed with moss alongside a small lake, and on a moose (*Alces alces* Gray) carcass. It was named by Klimaszewski (1985) after the Sekani, one of the Athebaskan First Nations, an anglicization of *tsek'ene*, meaning “people of the rocks”.

It was therefore surprising to discover a specimen of *A. sekanai* in Bouctouche, Kent County, New Brunswick, Canada (46°25'39.56"N, 64°45'50.35"W) on 26 May 2007, collected by J.-P. Michaud. The specimen was recovered on a domestic pig (*Sus scrofa* Linnaeus) carcass that had decomposed for 15 d in an agricultural field. For a comprehensive description of field characteristics and the methods used to collect specimens, see Michaud and Moreau (2009).

This represents a range extension of about 1,930 km to the east, and is approximately 560 km further south than the previous southeasterly record in Pickle Lake, Ontario. It indicates that the species is found across northern portions of the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts, and north to the Arctic Ocean.

It is worth pointing out that Coleoptera collected at this site include 45 species of staphylinids, including *Philonthus hepaticus* Erichson, 1840, a southern rove beetle previously known from southern Mexico, north to central Massachusetts (*i.e.*, a range extension of 680 km to the northeast) (Majka *et al.* 2009). It would appear that areas in the Maritime Provinces of Canada are zoogeographic transition zones where species that have Arctic and Neotropical distributions can be found together at the extremes of their respective ranges.

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