

ARCHBOLD BESS BEETLE

Odontotaenius floridanus

Order: Coleoptera

Family: Passalidae

FNAI Ranks: G1G2/S1S2

U.S. Status: none

FL Status: none



Description: This species is very similar to *Odontotaenius disjunctus* but may be told apart by the shape of the head horn and the width of the front tibiae.

Similar Species: *Odontotaenius disjunctus* is very similar.

Habitat: This species has been found primarily in scrub but also scrubby flatwoods.

Seasonal Occurrence: This species has been documented throughout most of the year but most commonly from April through October.

Florida Distribution: This species is only known from Marion County to Highlands County along the Lake Wales Ridge

Range-wide Distribution: This species is only known from Marion County to Highlands County along the Lake Wales Ridge in Florida, USA.

Conservation Status: This species is restricted to scrub and similar habitats in a small geographic area on the Lake Wales Ridge in Florida, USA. It is a large and relatively easily identified species with less than 20 occurrences, but part of its seeming rarity may be due to there being no reliable way to survey for it other than searching sandy roads in mornings hoping to find wandering individuals.

Protection and Management: Prescribed fire is the primary management tool for scrub habitat, but intervals may vary greatly (i.e. 3-30 years) depending upon the variant/subtype and its current condition (FNAI 2010). Widespread soil disturbance should be avoided to prevent the establishment of weedy species and protect native groundcover and invasive exotic plants should be controlled by species-specific methods. See the "Florida Natural Areas Inventory Guide to the natural communities of Florida: 2010 edition" for more detailed management recommendations for scrub habitat. Traffic on sandy roads should be limited

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especially in mornings (Arnaud and Arnaud 2008, Deyrup 2011).

References: Deyrup 2011



(© Brandon Woo)



head horn (© Brandon Woo)



front tibia (© Brandon Woo)