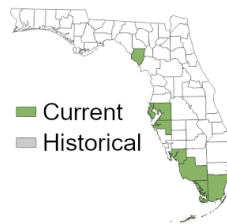


## FLORIDA BIG-HEADED TIGER BEETLE

*Tetracha floridana*



**Order:** Coleoptera

**Family:** Carabidae

**FNAI Ranks:** G2/S2

**U.S. Status:** none

**FL Status:** none

**Description:** large, 12-20 mm, metallic dark green tiger beetle with pale lunules at the elytral apices

**Similar Species:** Appears metallic green to black, lacking obvious violet/copper reflections, and the apical elytral lunules are not as expanded anteriorly as the very similar Pan-American Big-headed Tiger Beetle (*Tetracha carolina*). The Virginia Pan-American Big-headed Tiger Beetle (*Tetracha virginica*) is similar but lacks the apical elytral lunules entirely.

**Habitat:** Known from salt marsh associated alkali mudflats (Choate 2003, Pearson et al. 2006).

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Records in the FNAI database as of April, 2025, are from early June to late September.

**Florida Distribution:** Known from Gulf coastal areas from Dixie County to the southern end of the peninsula in Monroe County.

**Range-wide Distribution:** This Florida endemic species is known from Gulf coastal areas from Dixie County to the southern end of the peninsula in Monroe County.

**Conservation Status:** This beetle has a limited range and a spotty coastal distribution with very few known occurrences.

**Protection and Management:** Preserving salt marsh and similar habitat is the best management strategy at present, as relatively little is known about its biology.

**References:** Choate 2003, Pearson et al. 2006



Dorsal habitus showing apical elytral lunules. © Ryan Callahan