

**ARBOREAL BEETLES OF NEOTROPICAL FORESTS: THE GENUS *AGRA* FABRICIUS
(COLEOPTERA: CARABIDAE: LEBIINI)**

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The neotropical carabid genus *Agra*, whose range extends from southern Texas to northern Argentina contains more than 2,000 known species, making it the largest monophyletic lineage at the generic level known of predatory beetles. Reasons for its rise to dominance include its successful invasion of the uppermost reaches of tropical tree canopies, morphological adaptations for canopy life including gigantism relative to its microhabitat, agility, radiation in fragmented forest mosaics during the Pleistocene, and tolerance for relatively diverse climatic regimes, both altitudinally and latitudinally. Although a possible artifact of sampling, very few species are known which have extensive ranges. Even in the western Amazon Basin, where canopy fogging has been used for more than a decade, most *Agra* species are known from single localities, thus species turnover or beta diversity is remarkably high. Species are adapted to microhabitats both in the understory and in the canopy and at any one site there are dozens of species distributed across the landscape. Species groups are confined to microhabitats, thus ecological characters enhance morphological ones for the purposes of classification.