**Reintroduction of American Burying Beetle (Nicrophorus americanus) in Missouri

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 **Abstract:**The American Burying Beetle (Coleoptera: Silphidae) was federally-listed in 1989 and was historically known from a wide range of habitat across Missouri. Extensive surveys failed to find any extant populations, and captive rearing was begun by the St Louis Zoo in 2004. Mated pairs have been released with food source on Wah-Kon-T'ah Prairie in St Clair County since 2012. 3 years of mark-recapture study were undertaken to assess reintroduction success. Populations while reintroduction occurred peaked at 144+/- 11 individuals. After moving reintroduction sites, the population in the core area dropped to 45 +/- 7 individuals, though it is unclear the driving factor of this decline. Occupancy of the landscape was concentrated on high ridges throughout the prairie in low years, although the population occupied a much larger portion of the landscape in good year. Dispersal was documented to nearby protected sites over the course of the project, with the farthest site being 7 miles form the reintroduction site. Management for the species may require sustained reintroductions in Missouri, and carrion resources on the landscape may be an impeding factor to long-term establishment.