



LIFE-SPAN OF TWO SIBLING *PHOTINUS* FIREFLIES.—(Note). *Photinus tanytoxus* Lloyd and *Photinus collustrans* LeConte occur in xeric habitats in Florida. Although there are slight differences in the timing of the flashes, the most noticeable difference between the 2 species is the time of male flight: *P. collustrans* flies for ca. 20 min at dusk and *P. tanytoxus* flies for ca. 40 min after dark, beginning about 5 min after *P. collustrans* ends its flight (J. E. Lloyd. 1966. Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool. Misc. Pub. No. 130, 95 p).

Populations of both fireflies occurred on a 1 ha clearing in a turkey-oak sand-hill plant community near Gainesville, Florida. Fireflies of each species were collected 2, 3, 4, and 6 Aug. 1972, taken to the laboratory, marked with dots of airplane dope, and returned to the field the same evening or the next morning. About 50 recaptures were made for each species (Table 1). The population of *P. collustrans* was much larger than that of *P. tanytoxus*. All recaptures were made during the same flight period in which they were originally captured, i.e. there was no overlap in the flight period of the 2 species. The maximum adult life-span appears to be longer than 4 days since several individuals of each species were recaptured on day 4.

TABLE 1. NUMBERS OF MARKED, RELEASED AND RECAPTURED *Photinus* FIREFLIES.

Firefly	No. captured per day	No. fireflies marked and released	No. recaptured by days from mark to recapture						Tot.
			1	2	3	4	5	6	
<i>P. collustrans</i> (clearing 1972)	47 (r=22-74)	101	19	12	15	4			50
<i>P. tanytoxus</i> (clearing 1972)	22.5 (r=14-30)	27	18	12	1	4			47
<i>P. tanytoxus</i> (vacant lot 1974)	5.8 (r=2-10)	49	15	10	6	1	0	1	32

A small population of *P. tanytoxus* occurring on a small vacant lot (0.2 ha) covered with turkey-oak sand-hill vegetation was studied similarly over a 20 day period, 6-25 June 1974. Of the 32 recaptures the longest interval between mark and recapture was 6 days (Table 1). The maximum life-span of male *P. tanytoxus* appears to be 6 or 7 days.—Lawrent L. Buschman. Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611.