

**California Pleasing Fungus Beetle (*Gibbifer californicus*)**

“Fungus Beetle adults feed on nectar, pollen, and some fungi; larvae on wood-destroying fungi; females lays eggs in bark crevices of rotting logs”

...or centuries old living trees?

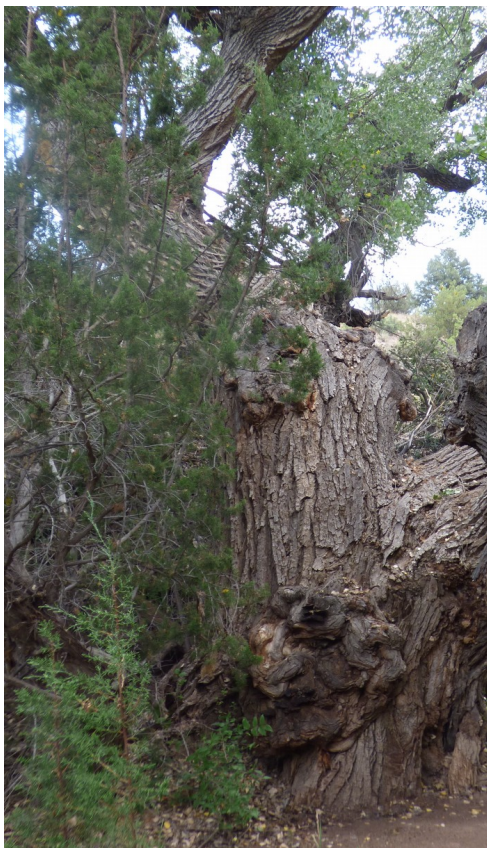


At noon beneath an *Alamo grande* on Bear Creek near the confluence with the Gila River this fella landed on my hand flavored with my lunch consisting of apple and bread slathered with sardines, olive oil and sherry vinegar.

He soon settled down to a snack, walking, nibbling, tickling his way around my fingers until he thanked me for his tasty snack...



and hummingbird-like buzzed off.



Within upon that massive bole, 30 feet in circumference, under which I and that California Pleasing Fungus Beetle dined, lived great shelf fungi showing some beetle wear. What scents induced him to nibble my fingers? Vinegar?