TABLE 1. Description of burying beetles found in eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas.

Nicrophorus americanus: Four elytral spots. Orange-red pronotum and frons distingiush this species from all other North American burying beetles.

Nicrophorus orbicollis: Black pronotum with some texturing to it. Four orange spots on elytra (two/elytron) that do not extend to edges of elytra. Typically, it is the most common species in wooded habitats.

Nicrophorus marginatus: Similar to *N. orbicollis* except that each pair of elytral spots on is connected along lateral edge of elytron. Species found almost exclusively in grassland areas.

Nicrophorus sayi: Very similar to *N. orbicollis* except femur of each back leg is distinctly curved instead of straight. Also, proximal pair of elytral spots extend to lateral edge of the elytra. Active in early spring and quite rare after late June.

Nicrophorus tomentosus: Pronotum covered with fine, golden hairs. Easily distinguished from all other species by this characteristic. Found in variety of habitats.

Nicrophorus pustulatus: Relatively dark appearance with faint or absent elytral spots. Four small, orange spots may be visible at distal end of elytra (two spots/elytron).

Nicrophorus carolinus: Similar to *N. orbicollis* except that pronotum very smooth and domelike. Usually found near large rivers.