

Summary: Robert Laroche, Cicindelidae (Tiger Beetles)

Robert Laroche was funded for “Exploring Tiger Beetle Diversity with Salt Domes across East Texas in a 2021 grant to Rice University. The total award was \$13,080.

Laroche was paid \$9156 initially through the grants department. A second payment of \$1430.02 was made with \$3.98 remaining, primarily for reimbursement of transportation funds.

The research was disseminated through a variety of publications:

2023. Oral Presentation by coauthor Dan Duran. A genomic test of subspecies in the *Eunota togata* species group (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae): Morphology masks evolutionary relationships and taxonomy.

2022. Poster Presentation by undergraduate researcher Ethan Bull. Population Genomics and Morphology Support a New Species of Tiger Beetle Found on Isolated Saline Habitats in East Texas.

Duran, D.P., Laroche, R.A., Roman, S.J., Godwin, W., Herrmann, D.P., Bull, E. and Egan, S.P. (2024). Species delimitation, discovery and conservation in a tiger beetle species complex despite discordant genetic data. *Scientific Reports*, 14(1), p.6617.

Laroche, R.A., Duran, D.P., Lee, C.T.A., Godwin, W., Roman, S.J., Herrmann, D.P. and Egan, S.P. (2023). A genomic test of subspecies in the *Eunota togata* species group (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae): Morphology masks evolutionary relationships and taxonomy. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2023.107937>

Johnson, O. (2024, April 1). New tiger beetle species detected in the Houston area by a Rice University Research Team. *Houston Chronicle*.

2024. YouTube. Graduate student life at Rice: Robert Laroche combines science policy with adventure. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJEwjM7HQM>

A Final Report was submitted. 5 species were identified, 12 were collected or observed.

Laroche received his Doctorate degree and has moved from the area and is now working on a Fellowship. Dr. Egan is the contact if information is needed.

Receipts for the proposal were submitted and a second payment was made. A carry over of \$2493.98 remained as of 4-3-2025 earmarked specifically for transportation. As of 3-26-2026, no further receipts had been submitted. After receiving an invoice from Rice for \$2493.98, Mary Johnston requested that the account be closed as the research has been concluded. Payment can not be authorized without receipts per our TCEQ guidelines.

Submitted by: Mary C. Johnston, ToD Chair on March 27, 2026