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## Synopsis of North American Bees of the Genus Stelis

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1898

extending to the base of the elytra, entirely fulvous, the terminal joints strongly transversely dilated and flattened; thorax twice as broad as long, the sides straight at the base, rounded anteriorly, the angles not produced, the middle of the disc finely and rather closely punctured, greenish black, this colour in shape of a broad transverse band which has the sides deeply concave, the latter bright flavous, nearly impunctate; elytra finely punctate-striate, the suture, a narrow stripe on the shoulders, the lateral margins and epipleuræ at the posterior half, and a spot below the middle near the sides greenish black.

*Hab.* Brasils. Oxford Museum collection and my own.

This variety, of which two specimens are before me, agrees in every particular with the typical form, except that the transverse narrow elytral band of the latter is here absent and replaced by a small round spot, which at first sight might suggest the specific distinction of the species; and as two exactly similar specimens are before me, I thought the variety deserving of another name, no other instance having ever come under my observation in regard to this species, the variety of which seems to be extremely rare.

*Deuterocampta sedula*, Stål.

This insect I believe to be only a variety of *D. pustulicollis*, Stål, in which the narrow elytral stripes have disappeared; there is no difference in any other respect between the two insects.

## SYNOPSIS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BEES OF THE GENUS *STELIS*.

By T. D. A. COCKERELL, N. M. Agr. Exp. Sta.

THE North American species of *Stelis* may be separated as follows:—

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| More or less blue or green . . . . .  | 1.                           |
| Black, not at all blue or green . . . . .   | 3.                           |
| 1. Second recurrent nervure ending a little beyond tip of second submarginal cell; olive-green species. (Colo.) . . . . . | <i>montana</i> , Cress. ♂    |
| Second recurrent nervure ending a little before tip of second submarginal cell; dark blue or blue-black species . . . . . | 2.                           |
| 2. Length about 8 mm.; thorax strongly and sparsely punctured. (Calif.) . . . . .   | <i>subcarulea</i> , Cress. ♂ |
| Length about 6 mm.; thorax closely punctured. (Colo.) . . . . .   | <i>elegans</i> , Cress. ♀    |
| 3. Length about 10 mm.; markings red. (Ga.) . . . . .   | <i>australis</i> , Cress. ♀  |
| Markings yellow . . . . .   | 4.                           |
| Markings white or yellowish white . . . . .   | 5.                           |

4. Legs black, except knees and a line on anterior tibiae; wings tinged with fuscous, darker on costa; abdominal bands uninterrupted. (Calif.) . . . *laticincta*, Cress. ♀  
 Legs yellowish, femora and tibiae behind partly black; wings fuliginous. (Indiana) . . . *obesa*, Say. ♀  
 Legs entirely fulvo-ferruginous; wings subhyaline, costa broadly fuscous. (Tex., N.M.) . . . *costalis*, Cress. ♂
5. Length about 5 mm. . . . . 6.  
 Length over 7 mm.; second recurrent nervure reaching second submarginal cell before its tip . . . . . 8.
6. Pubescence of thoracic dorsum black. (Nev.) . . . *interrupta*, Cress. ♀  
 Pubescence of thoracic dorsum whitish or griseous . . . . . 7.
7. Abdomen with only six white spots. (Calif.) . . . *sexmaculata*, Ashm. ♀  
 Abdomen with at least eight spots. (Pa., Ills.) . . . *lateralis*, Cress. ♀  
 Abdomen with at least four slightly interrupted bands . . . . . *federalis*, Smith. ♀ ♂
8. Pubescence mostly black . . . . . *rubi*, n. sp. ♀  
 Pubescence pale . . . . . 9.
9. Densely punctured. (Colo.) . . . . . *submarginata*, Cress. ♀  
 Sparsely punctured . . . . . 10.
10. Abdominal bands broadly submarginate at sides posteriorly. (Colo.) . . . . . *monticola*, Cress. ♀  
 Abdominal bands not submarginate at sides. (Canada, N. Y.) . . . . . *nitida*, Cress. ♀

*Stelis lateralis* var. *permaculata*, n. var.

♂. Length about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mm.; black, strongly punctured; abdomen with transverse subdorsal white marks on each of the first five segments, those on the fifth nearly obsolete, and similar lateral marks on the first three segments, making sixteen marks in all. Wings hyaline, slightly smoky on costa near apex, second recurrent nervure reaching second submarginal cell distinctly before its end. Pubescence all pale.

*Hab.* Santa Fé, New Mexico, July 7th (Ckll. 1939). Mr. C. Robertson records 16-spotted males of *lateralis* from Illinois, but does not state whether the venation was peculiar.

*Stelis rubi*, n. sp.

♀. Length about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  mm., fairly robust, shining, strongly and closely punctured, black, with cream-coloured marks on the abdomen, viz. narrow bands on first and second segments, very narrowly interrupted in the middle, and transverse median stripes on third and fourth, that on the third about twice as long as that on the fourth. The band on first segment is gently curved downwards at the sides; that on the second is narrowed to a mere line sublaterally, broadening at the extreme sides. These markings are only very sparsely punctured, and so shine more than the rest of the abdomen. Pubescence sparse, black; mixed with the black on the lower half of the face is

some shorter silvery pubescence. Basal enclosure of middle segment smooth and shining, densely punctured along its base. Scutellum channelled at sides. Apical segment of abdomen dorsally keeled, the keel smooth and shining; apex produced to a very sharp point, with a small but abrupt notch on each side. Venter with minute close punctures. Legs black, hind tibiæ with a long apical spine, middle tibiæ with a pair of short spines. Anterior tarsi with some short orange-brown pubescence on inner side. Tegulæ black, punctured. Wings smoky, a darker shade in the marginal cell; nervures black, second recurrent nervure reaching second submarginal cell considerably before its apex; second submarginal cell conspicuously longer than first.

*Hab.* Seattle, Washington State, May 11th, 1897, at flowers of *Rubus ursinus*. Collected by T. Kincaid.

Mesilla Park, New Mexico, U.S.A.: May 31st, 1898.

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#### NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

*TINEA VASTELLA*.—In 'Nature' for June 9th last Mr. W. H. McCorquodale states that the horns of some antelope skulls that he received from West Africa were all "infested by singular, thin finger-like protuberances which seemed to grow from the horn." These he at first thought were fungi; but afterwards found them to be cocoons of *Tinea vastella*. A sketch of the skull and horns of a harte-beest, with the cocoons *in situ*, is given, and also separate figures of the cocoons, the latter drawn one-half natural size. Mr. McCorquodale says:—"A very interesting point with regard to the habits of this insect which has not yet been cleared up, but upon which I hope to be able to throw some light through the observations of officers now serving in Africa, is that it has been asserted to feed on the horns of living animals; and in support of this I will quote the following:—'Dr. Fitzgibbon, many years ago, while in Gambia, stated he was surprised at finding grubs enclosed in cases which projected from the horns of animals freshly killed, the blood not being yet dry, the carcasses of the animals being exhibited in the market-place.' This statement is recorded in vol. i. of the 'Proceedings' of the Dublin Zoological Society:—'In contradiction, Lieut.-Colonel Wenman Coke said he had shot large numbers of various species of horned animals in South Africa, but that he had never seen the horn of a living animal perforated by one of these larvæ, although he had seen many dead horns infested by them. Colonel Coke is most confident that the larvæ never attack a living animal; he says that had this been the case it could not have escaped his observation. Mr. Truman concurs in expressing great doubt as to the correctness of the theory that the larvæ feed on the horns of living animals.' We have the strong evidence of Dr. Fitzgibbon, and might argue that as the fibrous substance of the horn undergoes little or no change at the death of the animal, there seems no reason why the moth should not deposit its eggs when the living animal is at rest, nor why the larvæ should not penetrate the horn. I venture to assert as my own opinion, and that of many sportsmen from

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