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Some California Bees

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Chel 1916

Plagionotus speciosus Say. For thirteen years I have looked in vain for this species on the infested maples at Monmouth, and during this time I have received but two, both dismantled wrecks, from friends there. One year a friend cheerfully informed me that he had collected seventeen and was keeping them alive in a jar for me when his wife let them all out a few days before my arrival because it was "too cruel to keep the poor things shut up like that." On July 9, 1914, at South Paris I took my first specimen, and for a week I made regular trips two or three times a day from tree to tree around the village. I acquired fourteen specimens and a desire for more, besides arousing the curiosity of all the villagers. It is remarkable how inconspicuous these large and highly coloured beetles are, unless directly in the sun and low down on the tree. They are slow moving and I lost but one specimen seen, which escaped by flight from the ground while I was trying to dislodge a second one from a high limb by throwing my net at it.

Leptura nigrella Lec. The first specimen of this sombre insect I ever saw was a female which was taken in the mill yard at Monmouth, June 28, 1912. It was taken by a lucky swing of the net while in the air after an awkward leap from a pile of logs. When I had examined my catch I felt more than repaid for the shaking up of the undignified landing. A male was taken on a maple stub in a small clearing on July 17, 1914.

Leptura biforis Newm. A single specimen was taken on flowers at Monmouth, August 29, 1902.

Hoplosia nubila Lec. One specimen was taken on a log in the mill yard at Paris, July 12, 1913.

Oberea pallida Casey. This species has been beaten from *Alnus incana* in considerable numbers, both at Wales and Monmouth, on several occasions. The dates range from June 19 to the 29, and a single specimen was taken at Paris on July 10, 1910. This species seems to be abundantly distinct from any other *Oberea* and can be readily distinguished by the uniform colour of the entire insect, even the black callous spots of the pronotum become, in some cases, (not a sexual character as indicated in the description) nearly concolorous with the rest of the disk.

Donacia cincticornis Newm. A so-called variety of this species is found on the leaves of the yellow pond lily (Nuphar) in the coves of the lake at Monmouth, and it is also the common species of the lilies in the sluggish, winding streams of the meadow lands. It is a broad, depressed insect of a dark, violet-blue colour. They fly from one lily leaf to another when disturbed, keeping so close to the water that they are very hard to net; they also delay the start until the net has passed over them. In the open lake, if the boat is allowed to drift broadside across a patch of lilies when the waves are high, one can see this species shining like balls of quicksilver as they cling to the submerged pads, sometimes a foot beneath the water.

Donacia subtilis Kunze. This species is less common but is found in the sheltered coves of the lakes resting on the stems of the water grasses. I have taken them in the hand by leaning over the bow of the boat. Dates are June 21 to 25.

Donacia palmata Oliv. A very few specimens of this species have been taken at Monmouth, June 21 to 29.

Donacia torosa Lec. A series of a supposedly undescribed species which was swept from the grass of a wet meadow at Wales has turned out to be typical specimens of this form. It has been supposed to be a variety of *distincta*, but I think it will finally be given full rank. It is of a uniform dark blue or, as given in the description, blackish-violet colour. Dates are June 16, 1907, and June 13, 1909.

Haltica bimarginata Say. This well-known species appeared in such numbers on a small area of *Alnus* sprouts at Monmouth that I was curious to know how many could be taken. I selected two bunches of the bushes about three feet high, and swept them with six strokes of the net. In bottling the catch several escaped, but there remained 596 individuals. This does not quite equal the record of 600 odd specimens of *Phyllotreta sinuata* which were taken at one sweep from a bunch of *Cruciferae* at Framingham, Mass.

Eupsalis minuta Drury. One specimen of this species was taken on a red oak log in the mill yard, and a pair of them was once found industriously boring holes in a log of the same kind in the deep woods at Wales, July 23, 1908.

SOME CALIFORNIA BEES.

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL, BOULDER, COLORADO.

THE BEES RECORDED BELOW WERE RECEIVED FROM POMONA COLLEGE, CALIFORNIA.

***Perdita* (*Cockerellia*) *aureovittata*, n. sp.**

♀.—Length 8 mm.; robust, with dull white hair; head broad, dark bluish green, eyes slightly diverging below; mandibles bidentate, reddish in middle, pale yellow on upper side basally; labial palpi with first joint about 770 microns long, and last three together about 448; maxillary palpi slender, last joint orange, joints measuring in microns, approximately, (1) 192, (2) 160, (3) 144, (4) 96, (5) 96, (6) 104; clypeus piceous, sparsely punctured, with a large, pale yellow spot on each side, but none in middle; no supraclypeal mark; lateral face-marks pale yellow, consisting of rather small triangular patches at lower corners of face; flagellum light ferruginous beneath; mesothorax very minutely punctured, green in front and around margins, but black on disc; scutellum black, with fine punctures; rest of thorax dark blue-green; prothorax without yellow markings; legs dark brown, the anterior femora with a small yellow spot at apex; middle femora sharply keeled beneath; tegulae pale testaceous; wings hyaline, nervures and stigma light ferruginous; b. n. falling far short of t. m.; marginal cell very oblique at end, so much so that it could be described as pointed; abdomen with five very broad, entire, bright orange bands, those on segments 2-4 notched anteriorly in middle, and all more or less excavated behind sublaterally; hair at apex pallid, with a brownish tint; venter dark brown.

Hab.—Claremont, California (*Baker*). Pomona coll. 226. Related to *P. sparsa* and *P. albipennis*, but readily known by the face-markings, broad, orange abdominal bands, etc.

***Zacosmia maculata* (*Cresson*).**

Claremont (*Baker*); Pomona coll. 163. This is the true *Z. maculata*; a male which I collected at Juarez (Chihuahua), Mexico, May 12, may be taken as typical of a new subspecies *desertorum*.
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It is rather small, with the light hair very pale; mesothorax more closely punctured, the brown marks on its anterior part faint and suffused; dark marks of abdomen paler, the spots dilute brownish, evanescent posteriorly; second segment with a black dagger-like mark in middle, but the dark basal area so reduced as to be almost entirely overlapped by the first segment.

***Tniepeolus pomonalis*, n. sp.**

♂.—Black, with the usual markings on thorax and abdomen warm ochreous, the band on sixth abdominal segment creamy-white; legs, antennæ and tegulæ black. Length about 12 mm.; robust. Superficially, this looks almost exactly like *E. remigatus* Fabricius, from Virginia, but it differs as follows: mesothorax anteriorly with two well-developed longitudinal bands, longer than in *remigatus* (these joined, as in *remigatus*, with the band surrounding mesothorax except in middle of front); median black area on first segment pointed at sides; apical plate of abdomen much larger; insect distinctly more robust. There is also a close resemblance to *T. concolor* Rob., from Illinois, but *T. pomonalis* differs thus: clypeus with no median ridge; light hair of face limited to a certain amount on clypeus and lower part of supraclypeal area, and a large band on each side of antennæ; bare part of pleura very densely punctured all over; a continuous hair-band all round mesothorax except in anterior middle; black area on first abdominal segment not sharply limited at sides; abdominal bands much broader; apical plate much larger. From *T. texanus* var. *nigripes* it is known by the clypeus, which is densely minutely punctured, and has scattered larger punctures, which are shallow. *T. superbus* (Provancher), described from Los Angeles, I have never seen, but *T. pomonalis* differs from the description in being larger, with no spot on tegulæ, stripes on mesothorax too large to be described as "two little lines," and no spots at sides of metathorax. The middle of the abdomen beneath has two silvery-white bands close together, the first with more than the middle third missing; on outer face of middle tibiæ anteriorly is a small band of orange-fulvous glittering hair; the wings are very dark; there is pale hair along the border of metathoracic enclosure.

Hab.—Claremont, California, (*Baker*). Pomona coll. 160. The mesothoracic bands or stripes distinguish this from *T. nigriceps* Smith, and the marking of the first abdominal segment is different, though that of the second agrees with *nigriceps*.

***Nomia arizonensis angelesia* Ckll.**

Claremont (*Baker*). Pomona coll. 196.

***Andrena plumifera*, n. sp.**

♀.—Length about 10 mm.; rather robust, black; head and thorax with abundant ochraceous hair, pallid on face, cheeks and under side of thorax, becoming fulvous on thorax above; facial quadrangle broader than long; process of labrum broadly rounded; clypeus entirely dull, hairy, the minute punctures forming transverse lines, no median ridge; facial foveæ broad, ochreous, extending below level of antennæ, the lower end not sharply defined; third antennal joint 416 microns long, 4 and 5 together 365, 4 to 6 together 560; flagellum very obscurely brownish beneath; mesothorax and scutellum dull and granular; area of metathorax small, rather conspicuously rugose; tegulæ piceous with a rufous spot; wings greyish; stigma dark reddish, slender, lanceolate, not over half diameter of marginal cell; b. n. meeting t. c.; second s. m. receiving first r. n. a little beyond middle; third s. m. very long; legs black, with pale hair, brown on middle and hind knees; middle and hind basitarsi broad; scope of hind tibiæ ample, dense, strongly plumose (collecting pale yellow pollen); abdomen somewhat shining, with a microscopically reticulate surface and excessively minute punctures; segments 2 to 4 with broad, dense white hair-bands, that on 2 broadly and abruptly interrupted in middle; apex with very pale purplish-grey hair, almost a lilac shade.

Hab.—Claremont, California (*Baker*; Pomona coll. 199). A species of the subgenus *Pterandrena*, running in Viereck's key (*Canad. Entom.*, 1904, p. 227) to *A. nudimediocornis* Vier., which differs by the distinctly punctured dorsulum. Superficially, it looks exactly like *A. bridwelli* Ckll., but the surface of the abdomen is entirely different. It is smaller than *A. pecosana* Ckll., with the clypeus quite different.

A REMARKABLE NEW SPECIES OF PHORA (*TRINEURA*).

BY CHARLES T. BRUES, BUSSEY INSTITUTION, HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

The genus *Phora*, more generally known under the name of *Trineura*, includes a small number of species of velvety black colour. Quite recently Prof. J. M. Aldrich received from Manitoba a series of specimens which he at once recognized as an undescribed species. Instead of the velvety black colour so characteristic of the other members of the genus, the mesonotum of the male is satiny blue-green, while the remainder of the body exhibits a less distinct tinge of the same colour. Structurally, the species departs in no striking way from its congeners.

On account of its peculiar appearance he suggested that I describe it at the present time.

***Phora* (= *Trineura*) *viridinota*, sp. nov.**

Male.—Length 1.5 mm. Black; mesonotum and scutellum blue-green and opaque; abdomen almost black, but slightly tinged with greenish; front greyish green; knees of four anterior legs and front tibiae and tarsi brownish testaceous; wings hyaline, costal vein black, first and third veins dilute piceous. Front slightly more than twice as high as broad, its bristles large and strong except the lowest pair, which are half the size of the others. Ocelli in an equilateral triangle, the posterior ones as far from one another as from the eye-margin. Antennae small, oval, with bare arista. Palpi very small, half as long as the antennae, with stout, closely placed, although small, bristles. Postocular cilia enlarged below. Mesonotum sparsely clothed with bristly hairs; with a single pair of very prominent dorsocentral macrochaetae in front of the lateral angles of the scutellum. Scutellum subtriangular, nearly as wide as long, with one pair of stout bristles and a very weak pair anterior to the stout ones. Propleura bristly along the entire posterior edge, the bristles larger near the coxa; mesopleura bare. Abdomen with the second and sixth segments elongated, the sixth most noticeably so. Hypopygium, when viewed from the side, with the median plate extending posteriorly into a finger-like projection which is longer than in *P. aterrima*. Anterior legs with the tarsi not wider than the tibiae; metatarsus one-third as long as the tibia; second tarsal joint a little widened, less than half as broad as long; third twice, and fourth nearly twice as long

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as broad. Middle tibiae with five or six long bristles along the basal two-thirds of the outer edge and a single bristle at the basal third on the anterior surface; longer spur two-thirds as long as the metatarsus. Hind tibia with a single bristle on the anterior surface at the basal two-fifths and a short one just before the apex; longer spur scarcely longer than the width of the metatarsus. Wings with the costal vein reaching to the middle, its bristles rather long and sparse, about 17 in each series, and each bristle about as long as the greatest distance from the costa to the first vein; first vein bending sharply and then slanting to the costa, its apex nearer to the tip of the costa than to the humeral cross-vein; fourth vein weakly curved on its basal half, straight beyond, ending barely before the wing tip; fifth and sixth weak, nearly straight; seventh obsolete. Halteres black.

Female.—The front is broader, and the body is black, with only the slightest tinge of the green colour of the male. The front tarsi are more distinctly thickened, the second and following joints being slightly wider than the tibia; second joint distinctly less than twice as wide as long; third one-third longer than wide.

Described from four specimens; type ♂, two ♂ paratypes and one ♀ paratype. Treesbank, Manitoba, Canada, (N. Criddle) May 30. Type in the collection of the Entomological Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

As Professor Aldrich remarked in his letter sent with the specimens, this is the only Phorid which shows a distinct green colour, the other members of the family being black, brown, reddish or yellow of various shades and combinations. Only one other form with which I am familiar, *Melaloncha pulchella* Brues, departs from this type of coloration, the abdomen having bands of bluish pruinosity.

BOOK REVIEW.

RHYNCOPIPHORA OR WEEVILS OF NORTHEASTERN AMERICA.

BY W. S. BLATCHLEY AND C. W. LENG. THE NATURE PUBLISHING CO., 1558 PARK AVENUE, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, U. S. A.

Those who possess the monumental work of Prof. Blatchley on the Coleoptera of Indiana will rejoice to learn that he has completed his great task by publishing the present volume on the Rhyncophora, which were not included in the former book. By

associating with him Mr. Leng, who had for some time been working on the Weevils of the Atlantic Coast, he has been able to extend the scope of the volume so as to include the United States and Canada, east of the Mississippi River, thus going far beyond the bounds of the State of Indiana, to whose Coleopterous fauna the previous book was confined. The volume contains 682 pages and is illustrated with 155 figures.

In their introduction the authors state that their "primary object has been to furnish to students and tyros in Entomology a simple manual which would enable them in the most direct way possible to arrange, classify and determine the scientific names of the weevils in their collections." In accordance with this design the work begins with an explanation of the external anatomy of these beetles, with clear figures of the various structures. After a careful study of these details the reader will be able to go on and make good use of the book. Four families are recognized, namely, the Brenthidæ, Anthribidæ, Curculionidæ and Scolytidæ; to the third of these over five hundred pages are devoted, and descriptions are given of 856 species distributed among thirteen sub-families.

According to the plan of the work, a general description of each family is given, followed by keys to the genera, which in turn are described and usually illustrated with a characteristic figure, assisting materially in their recognition. After the genus a key is given to the species, followed by descriptions, with an account of their geographical range, habits, dates of capture and other particulars. By a careful use of the keys, a species may be run down and a specimen identified with comparatively little difficulty.

At the end of the volume there is a Bibliography of the works that have been referred to, and Indexes to the Plants affected by weevils, the Families, Sub-families, Tribes and Genera.

We may justly congratulate the authors on the completion of such an excellent work, which must have involved a very large amount of most painstaking labour. The book will be eagerly welcomed by all entomologists who are interested in this division of the Coleoptera, and should render more popular the collection and study of the Rhyncophora now that facilities for doing so are admirably supplied.

C. J. S. B.

Mailed November 14th.