

ORTHOPERUS SCUTELLARIS

This species of Coleoptera, less than a millimeter long, was described by Dr. John L. Leconte in 1878 (Proc. Am. Phil. Soc. XVII, 599). Rev. A. Matthews in 1899 (Mon. Corylophidæ and Sphæriidæ, p. 11) says it "proved on dissection to belong to *Sphærius*." On p. 212 of the same work he gives a careful description of *Sphærius scutellaris*. In my catalogue of 1920 I followed Matthews as no contradiction of his statement had appeared.

I have since learned by a communication from Mr. H. C. Fall, confirmed by an examination of Dr. Leconte's type made by Mr. P. J. Darlington, Jr., and by examination of Matthews' specimens, kindly loaned for the purpose by Mr. Gilbert J. Arrow, of the British Museum, that *Orthoperus scutellaris* Lec. was correctly described as an *Orthoperus* and that Matthews' statement was erroneous. Three specimens, received from Dr. George H. Horn, are in the Matthews collection, two of which were sent to me by Mr. Arrow. They have been dissected so that neither the antennæ nor the abdomen, displaying the diagnostic characters, can now be seen; but the acute apex of the elytra is characteristic of *Sphærius*, not *Orthoperus*, and coupled with the description published by Matthews, shows that Matthews' statement was based upon specimens of *Sphærius* sent to him by Dr. Horn as representatives of Leconte's *Orthoperus scutellaris*.

These specimens have been examined by Mr. Wm. T. Davis, of Staten Island, and by Mr. A. J. Mutchler, of the American Museum of Natural History, and compared with specimens of *Orthoperus* and *Sphærius*. Both of them agree that the remains of Matthews' type represent some species of *Sphærius*, but which species the mutilated types do not clearly disclose.

It is proper to add to the above that Col. Casey in 1900 (JOUR. N. Y. ENT. SOC. VIII, pp. 51-172) reviewing the family Corylophidæ did not accept Matthews' conclusions, though his text shows that he was aware of them. He described two varieties of *Orthoperus scutellaris* and retained that species correctly in Corylophidæ. He did not, however, discuss Matthews' treatment

of *Sphaerius* beyond pointing out that *Sphaerius politus* had been described by Dr. Horn and this statement, "There are many minor errors throughout this important monograph, which would doubtless have been avoided had the author lived to conduct it through the press" (p. 75).

CHARLES W. LENG.

THE RESTING PLACE OF SOME COLLECTIONS

Dr. Walther Horn has published in "Supplementa Entomologica" No. 12, March 15, 1926, a list of the entomological collections of the world, which have passed out of the possession of the original collector. Beginning this monumental task in 1910 as a card catalogue for personal use, industrious correspondence has produced a list of over 3,000 collections at the end of sixteen years. The information assembled in the case of such historic collections as those of Castlenau, Chevrolat, Dejean, etc., now divided and in many different museums is invaluable for students who may have occasion to study the types they contain; and the list is interesting now to those who remember deceased entomologists and will become more so as time goes on. In a preface of fourteen pages Dr. Horn mentions some of the more interesting facts connected with the earlier collections and expresses his admiration for the ardor which, in spite of all difficulties, their owners displayed. The work done by Louis Bedel in studying the fauna of Algeria has prompted him to adorn the work with a portrait of Bedel in Algerian costume.

For American coleopterists it may be of interest to recite the present location of some of our more famous collections as shown by Dr. Horn's labors:

John L. Leconte in Museum at Cambridge, Mass.

C. Zimmermann in Museum at Cambridge, Mass. (American sp.)

Frederick Blanchard in Museum at Cambridge, Mass.

Roland Hayward in Museum at Cambridge, Mass.

Edward D. Harris in Museum at Cambridge, Mass.

William G. Dietz in Museum at Cambridge, Mass.

Geo. R. Crotch in Museum at Cambridge, Mass. (Coccinellidæ.)



Leng, Charles W. 1926. "Orthoperus scutellaris." *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 34, 285–286.

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