

THE STORY OF HARTONYMUS HOODI CASEY (COLEOPTERA: CARABIDÆ)

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The late Mr. Charles A. Hart, of the Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History—now the State Natural History Survey—was one of America's most competent systematic entomologists, though his published output was not great. In the field he could recognize at a glance most of the insects encountered, and give accurately not only their generic and specific names, but also the name of the authority, and tell whether or not the author's name should be placed in parentheses.

While I was under his egis, living at his home, we spent virtually every week-end, as well as many hours before and after work or classes, to and from the office, collecting or mounting material. In the fall of 1907, at Topeka and Havana, Illinois, he called my attention to a large and unusually-colored carabid beetle which was abundant under boards and other debris in the sandy areas along the Illinois River, especially at the Devil's Neck and Devil's Hole, but which he had been unable to identify. As an undergraduate student deeply interested in Coleoptera, I naturally collected every specimen on which I could lay my hands and spent many hours trying to place it in the proper genus, without success, and was finally forced to conclude that my trouble arose from the fact that it belonged in a new genus.

Mr. Hart insisted that I describe it, but the step seemed then too momentous a one to be taken without great deliberation. However, I finally brought myself to have Mr. William C. Matthews, on September 17, 1911, make the illustration which accompanies this note; and in 1913 or 1914, while with the old Bureau of Biological Survey, in Washington, telephoned to Colonel Thomas L. Casey to ask him to check my determination. The description was already written and about to be published.

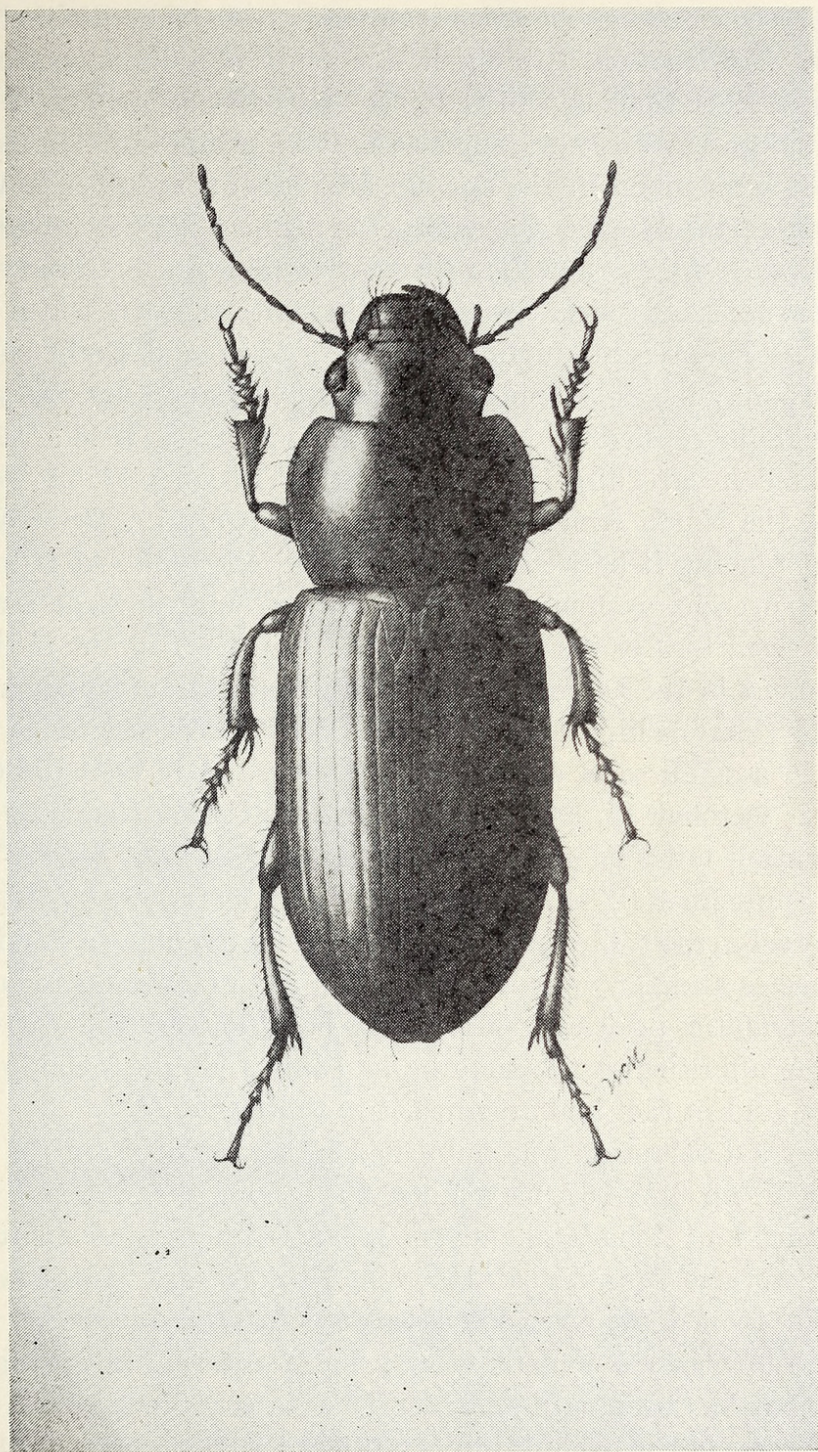
When I called upon the Colonel at Stonleigh Court, where he lived and worked, at 4 P.M., just before his customary time of leaving for the Cosmos Club, he was in his study with his large binocular microscope covered for the day. As I explained my

errand, with the closed box of beetles in my hand, telling him that they certainly represented a new genus allied to *Sele-nophorus* but that I could not understand why such a large and common and distinctive species could have been overlooked by collectors, I am sure that he listened to my tale with impatience. I know that he looked at his watch at least once. He must have thought that the beetle was some common species such as *Harpalus testaceus*, for he seemed rather brusque when he asked to see the specimens. Opening the box, he looked at the long rows which filled it, without a lens, and then he closed the box deliberately, placed it on the near corner of his desk, and aligned it with extreme care, not looking up. Finally he turned to me—and I remember his words well—and said, “I am an old man. This is the finest carabid that I have ever seen or will see, and I hope that you will allow me to describe it.” He had already, within minutes, chosen a generic and specific name, the former based on my own and the latter having to do with color; but when I insisted that the genus not be named for me, but for Mr. Hart, he agreed. No thought entered my mind that our agreement would still permit him virtually to Latinize the collectors’ label, which read “Hart and Hood.”

There is perhaps little point in publishing all this, except that it throws some slight light upon Casey’s nature and his intimate knowledge of the beetles; and it necessarily has to be written in the first person. But one should keep in mind that my bill for the drawing was six good dollars, and that they were earned at the rate of fifteen cents an hour—the standard rate at that time for student help at Illinois, when board was three dollars a week and a good room only one!

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It might be well to append some additional information on the species, largely brought out in an exchange of letters between H. F. Wickham and the writer. The following is from a letter to him dated September 7, 1911: “I am sending you herewith a pair of the new genus and species of Harpalini. Although Mr. Hart and I are both moderately certain that the species is new and that it represents a new genus as well, we would greatly appreciate a statement from you in regard to it. In a linear ar-



Hartonymus hoodi Casey, paratype, $\times 6$. Drawn by William C. Matthews.

range of the genera, this might well be placed after *Harpalus* and preceding *Selenophorus*; it appears to be very distinct from either. At Havana, Illinois, it is a truly abundant species and seems to reach maturity in October—perhaps as early as September, though certainly no sooner than the middle of August. It has not been taken in the spring; like other Carabidæ, however, it must certainly pass the winter as adult. Its resemblance to *Harpalus testaceus* and *H. erraticus* (which are both very common in such sandy situations), together with the fact that it never seems to be present during the late spring and early summer months, may possibly account for its previous non-discovery.”

Wickham replied under date of September 8, 1911: “I have examined it carefully, and do not think it can possibly go into any of the North American genera of Harpalini. Your suggestion of placing it between *Harpalus* and *Selenophorus* is logical, in our present system, but I am struck with several features which seem to ally it rather with the Dapti. I doubt if the arrangement in the LeConte and Horn classification represents the genetic relationships at all closely. The insect occurs at Iowa City, in a small sand area along the river. I have it dated October 7, October 15, and March 30, so that your suspicion as to hibernation must be correct.”

On September 12, 1911, I replied in part as follows: “Mr. Hart and I feel greatly indebted to you for your trouble in looking at the species and for your corroboration of our opinion regarding its systematic position. Mr. Hart had noticed the distinctly Daptine affinities at the time he had but a single female of the species, and in fact had assigned it to that series.”

Casey's description was published in his *Memoirs on the Coleoptera*, V, pp. 165–167, November, 1914, from the material which Mr. Hart and I had taken at Topeka, Illinois. As mentioned above, we also found it at Havana, Illinois, and Wickham had material from Iowa City, Iowa—always in sandy areas.

Some of Casey's comments may be of interest in comparison with what has been said above: “That so conspicuous and aberrant a generic type should, in the thickly settled state of Illinois, so long have remained undiscovered, is merely a reminder that our Coleoptera are still only known in comparatively small part;

the peculiar pallid coloration of the body gives an appearance of immaturity, which may however possibly have led many a collector to reject it as undesirable material—always an unsafe procedure.” Then, after mentioning a variety of characters which show it to be allied to *Harpalus*, he goes on to say, “the only strong evidences of affinity in the direction of *Selenophorus* are the triple series of elytral punctures, uniformly punctate abdomen, and the *Discoderus*-like facies of the body; as however the triple series are unknown in *Harpalus* and allied genera, it would seem most fitting to place the genus here and not in the Harpalini. This genus is the best example known to me of the almost interminable cross affinities, which render a satisfactory subdivision into tribes and genera so difficult and uncertain throughout the Harpalinae.”

ENTOMOLOGICAL PALINDROMES

Ala. Wing.

Alula. Expanded axillary membrane of wing in Diptera and Coleoptera.

Givra anna Dyar. Specific name. (Lep.)

Agapema anona Ottol. Specific name. (Lep.)

Ababa Csy. Genus of Coleoptera.

Atta. Genus of Ants.



Hood, J. Douglas. 1952. "The Story of Hartonymus Hoodi Casey (Coleoptera: Carabidæ)." *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 60, 173–177.

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