

NOTES ON AUSTRALIAN COLEOPTERA WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES.

BY THE REV. T. BLACKBURN, B.A., CORR. MEM.

PART XV.

CARABIDÆ.

TAROMORPHA (gen.nov. *Lebiidarum*).

Corpus glabrum; caput minus elongatum, orbitu post-oculari parvo, collo distincto; palpi labiales subcylindrici acuminati; mentum medium haud dentatum; antennarum articulus 3^{us} glaber; prothorax postice vix lobatus; elytra elongata apice valde obtusa vix truncata, interstitiis sparsim punctulatis, tertio 3-punctato; tarsi graciles, supra glabri, articulo 4^o simplici, unguibus simplicibus.

In general facies the species for which I propose this name is remarkably like *Anomotarus olivaceus*, Chaud., though its structural characters are different in some important respects.

TAROMORPHA ALTERNATA, sp.nov.

Nitida; piceo-nigra, subviride-micans, palpis antennis pedibus et corpore subtus ferrugineis; capite fere lævi; prothorace leviter transverso, canaliculato, transversim rugato, basi quam margo anticus vix angustiori, lateribus antice modice rotundatis postice sinuatis, angulis posticis vix acutis extrorsum vix prominentibus; elytris striatis, interstitiis alternis magis angustis magis convexis. [Long. $3\frac{1}{2}$, lat. $1\frac{3}{10}$ lines.

N. Queensland; taken by Mr. Cowell near Cairns.

SCOPODES RUGATUS, sp.nov.

Aureo-æneus, certo adspectu plus minusve viridi-vel cupreo-tinctus; capite prothoraceque confertim fortiter (quam *S.*

sigillati, Germ. multo magis grosse) rugatis ; hoc pone angulos posticos minutos (quam *S. sigillati* multo minus productus) quam *S. sigillati* retrorsum magis fortiter lobato ; elytris fere ut *S. sigillati* sed minus distincte striatis interstitio 3° interrupte sat fortiter costato. [Long. 2, lat. $\frac{4}{5}$ line.

Very like *S. sigillatus*, Germ., but of a more coppery or golden tone of colour (this may be an unreliable character), with dark legs, the head and prothorax much more coarsely wrinkled, the prothorax more strongly produced hindwards behind the posterior angles, which are much less conspicuous, and the subsutural foveæ of the elytra less marked and connected *inter se* by an interrupted costa, while the elytral striæ (especially the external ones) are scarcely indicated.

Oodnadatta ; Central Australia.

SILPHOMORPHA CORDIFER, sp.nov.

Nitida ; atra, palpis antennis femoribus et subtus corpore medio testaceo-brunneis, elytris macula communi cordiformi testacea ornatis, hac a parte paullo ante medium suturæ fere ad apicem extensa ; corpore supra fere lævi ; prothorace quam in medio longiori fere triplo latiori.

[Long. 4, lat. 2 lines.

This species is not unlike *S. marginata*, Cast., but besides considerable differences in markings and size, its prothorax is very much more strongly transverse. The common spot on the elytra has its point near the apex and is somewhat heart-shaped, or might be described as a triangle with its base (which crosses the suture a little in front of the middle) strongly concave.

N. Queensland ; taken by Mr. Cowell near Cairns.

CLIVINA OODNADATTÆ, sp.nov.

C. angustulæ, Putz., affinis. Brunneo-testacea, capite prothorace et macula magna communi ovali in elytris posita infuscatis ; clypeo antice sat angusto leviter emarginato (angulis anticis acute rectis) ab alis distincto, his ut clypeus ipse vix tam productis ; elevatione antica vix distincta ; vertice medio

sparsim sat fortiter punctulato, et foveola impresso; prothorace quam longiori vix latiori, antrorsum leviter angustato, canaliculato, utrinque ante basin foveola elongata impresso; elytris sat elongatis, punctulato-striatis, stria quarta antice extrorsum flexa, interstitiis (præsertim basin versus) convexis; tibiis anticis extus supra digitationem terminalem tridentatis, dentibus 2 inferioribus validis; prosterno ad latera transversim strigato. [Long. 3, lat. $\frac{7}{10}$ line.

It will be noticed that in the above diagnosis I have used the names (*ala*, *digitatio*, &c.) adopted by M. Putzeys for the several parts in which he considered the important characters in this genus to lie. This species belongs to M. Putzeys' 30th "groupe" of *Clivina*. Its colours and markings are almost identical with those of *C. sellata*, Putz., but the underside is of a testaceous red colour; *C. sellata*, however, is a notably smaller insect and belongs to the 28th "groupe," which is distinguished from the 30th *inter alia* by the front margin of its clypeus forming a continuous curve, not interrupted by any distinction between the clypeus itself and its "alæ." In *C. sellata*, moreover, the part of the head which M. Putzeys calls the *elevatio antica* is extremely well developed as a short curved carina, while in the present insect it is scarcely indicated at all. From the other described members of the 30th "groupe," the colours and markings of this species are different enough to probably form a sufficient distinction. If it and *C. heterogena*, Putz., are both variable in markings, they may possibly approximate each other, but if so it may be noted that the latter is a smaller species with the "*elevatio antica*" of the head strongly developed, and the prothorax not narrower in front than behind, and with its surface "sprinkled with very distinct punctures" (in the present insect the prothoracic puncturation is as fine as in *C. sellata*).

Oodnadatta; Central Australia.

CLIVINA EREMICOLA, sp. nov.

C. obliquatae, Putz., affinis. Tota ferruginea; clypeo antice vix emarginato (angulis anticis acutis prominentibus) ab alis

distincto, his quam clypei anguli minus productis; elevatione antica ut carina fere recta sat distincta; vertice medio sat fortiter sat crebre punctulato et foveola elongata impresso; prothorace quam latiori sublongiori, antrorsum leviter angustato, canaliculato, utrinque ante basin foveola elongata leviter impresso; elytris elongatis, punctulato-striatis, stria quinta antice extrorsum flexa, interstitiis antice leviter postice vix convexis; tibiis anticis extus supra digitationem terminalem tridentatis, dentibus 2 inferioribus sat robustis; prosterno ad latera transversim strigato. [Long. 3, lat. $\frac{4}{5}$ line.

This species pertains to M. Putzeys' 29th "groupe" of *Clivina*, which is distinguished from the other "groupes" found in Australia by the 5th stria (not the 4th) of the elytra being connected on the base of the elytra with the 8th stria. Of this "groupe," the described species except *melanopyga*, Putz., and *obliquata*, Putz., are much smaller than the present one (and otherwise very different from it); *melanopyga* is differently coloured, has the striæ of its elytra much more strongly punctured, &c.; in *obliquata* (which I have not to my knowledge seen) *inter alia* the subbasal impressions of the prothorax are stated to be wanting.

Oodnadatta; Central Australia.

MIROSARUS INSULARIS, Bates.

Mr. Simson, the captor of the specimens on which Mr. Bates founded this name, has sent me two examples of the insect taken in Tasmania. I can find no character to distinguish it from the species that de Castelnau described under several names,—*Harpalus Adalaidæ*, *H. marginicollis*, &c.; Mr. Simson tells me that M. Putzeys considered it identical with de Castelnau's insect.

TRECHUS BALDIENSIS, sp.nov.

Sat elongatus; minus depressus; nitidus; nigro-piceus, palpis pedibus antennarum basi et elytrorum apice rufescentibus; prothorace sat fortiter transverso, antice quam postice parum

angustiori, lateribus ante medium sat fortiter rotundatis hinc ad basin leviter nec sinuatim convergentibus, angulis posticis rectis, foveis basalibus magnis obliquis lævibus; elytris ovalibus, leviter striatis, striis valde perspicue punctulatis, 1^a vix distincte recurva, interstitiis sat planis, 3^o 3-foveolato.

[Long. $1\frac{3}{5}$, lat. $\frac{3}{5}$ line.

Remarkable for there being no recurved stria well defined on its elytra; nevertheless I see no reason to separate it from *Trechus* of which it has the facies, palpi, anterior male tarsi, &c. It is a smaller and narrower insect than *T. diemenensis*, Bates (of which I have an example from Mr. Simson, the original captor), with much more distinct punctures in the elytral striæ, the striæ themselves being much feebler; indeed the elytral striæ are almost as feebly impressed and their punctures about as conspicuous as in some species of *Cyclothorax* (e.g., *lophoides*, Chaud.).

Victoria; near the summit of Mount Baldi.

T. VICTORIÆ, sp. nov.

Minus elongatus; minus depressus; nitidus; pallide brunneo-testaceus, antennis (basi excepta) capite postice prothorace medio elytrorum disco postice striisque tibiis et tarsis plus minusve infuscatis; prothorace fortiter transverso, antice quam postice vix angustiori, lateribus antice sat fortiter rotundatis postice vix sinuatis, angulis posticis obtusis angulo summo minute subdentiformi, foveis basalibus magnis lævibus; elytris obovatis, fortiter striatis, disco utrinque fortiter bifoveolato, interstitiis convexis, stria suturali sat manifeste recurva.

[Long. $2\frac{1}{2}$, lat. 1 line.

An easily recognisable species owing to its peculiar colouration. It is of a pale brownish-yellow colour, with the hinder part of the head, the middle of the prothorax, the hinder part of the disc of the elytra and all the elytral striæ very conspicuously infuscate (the elytra thus bear a number of fine blackish stripes). The antennæ, tibiæ, and tarsi are of a darker colour than the general surface. The prothorax is very strongly transverse, and its hind

angles are peculiar, the side and base meeting in a slightly obtuse angle, the extreme point of which, however, is minutely but abruptly sharpened and turned outward. The anterior tarsi of the male (as usual in *Trechus*) have their basal two joints (only) dilated and spongiöse beneath. The apex of the hind body is a little protruded beyond the elytra as in many other species of *Trechus*, especially in the females. The facies of this species is of *Bembidium* rather than *Trechus*, but the structure of its palpi will of course at once distinguish it from *Bembidium*.

Victoria; Sassafras Creek; sent to me by Mr. French, of Melbourne.

T. SIMSONI, sp.nov.

Minus elongatus; minus depressus; nitidus; luride brunneus, capite prothorace et pone medium elytris inæqualiter submaculatim infuscatis, elytrorum striis nigricantibus, tibiæ parte inferiori et tarsis quam femora magis obscuris, antennæ basi excepta brunneo-piceis; prothorace vix transversò, postice fortiter angustato, lateribus antice sat fortiter rotundatis postice sinuatis, angulis posticis rectis, foveis basalibus elongatis lævibus; elytris breviter ovalibus, fortiter striatis, disco utrinque fortiter bifoveolato, interstitiis convexis, stria suturali sat manifeste recurva. [Long. $1\frac{3}{5}$, lat. $\frac{7}{10}$ line (vix).

In colour and markings very like *T. Victoriæ* (though the general colour being considerably darker the markings are much less conspicuous), but at once distinguishable from it by the much smaller size and very differently shaped prothorax, which is almost as long as wide and is much narrower across the base than across the front margin.

Tasmania; taken by Mr. A. Simson.

TACHYS FLINDERSI, Blackb.

This species seems scarcely distinguishable from *Tachys* (*Bembidium*) *rubicundus*, Macl., which latter, however, is a *nom. præocc.*, having been used by Chaudoir for an Asiatic sp. (1850).

HYDROPHILIDÆ.

CYCLONOTUM ABDOMINALE, Fab.

Mr. De Vis, of Brisbane, has recently sent me examples of this widely distributed species which were taken by Mr. Wild in rotten aloes at Brisbane. I believe the insect has not previously been recorded as occurring in Australia.

STAPHYLINIDÆ.

QUEDIUS DIEMENENSIS, sp.nov.

Minus robustus; sat nitidus; niger, prothorace abdomineque piceo-rufescentibus, antennis (articulis basalibus 3 exceptis) tarsisque rufo-testaceis; capite sat lato, punctura magna utrinque in oculi margine et 3 aliis postice triangulariter dispositis instructo; oculis modicis; prothorace leviter transverso, antice parum angustato, angulis posticis rotundatis; elytris quam prothorax vix longioribus, sparsim fortius punctulatis; abdomine fere ut elytra punctulato.

[Long. $3\frac{1}{2}$, lat. $\frac{3}{5}$ line.

The prothorax has the usual two discal punctures near the front and no others except a moderately numerous series running along the front and lateral margins. The antennæ are moderately elongate, joint 1 the longest, 2 and 3 about equally long (longer than any of the following joints), the rest moniliform (6-10 gently transverse). The general form of this species together with the colour of its prothorax and hind-body give it a notable resemblance to the European *Q. xanthopus*, Er.; but the elytra are much less closely punctulate than in that species. The reddish tone of colour is much less noticeable on the prothorax than on the hind-body. More or less resembles *Q. ruficollis*, Grav., and *nigricollis*, Fauv., but differs, *inter alia*, from the former by its very different colouration, from the latter by the dark basal joints of its antennæ. The reddish colour of the hind-body is most conspicuous on the hinder part of each segment.

Tasmania; sent by A. Simson, Esq.

PÆDERUS SIMSONI, sp.nov.

Apterus; subparallelus; niger, prothorace rufo, elytris cyaneis, antennarum articulis basalibus 3 subtus testaceis; oculis modicis; prothorace anguste elongato; elytris basin versus angustatis quam prothorax subbrevioribus, sparsim punctulatis; abdomine sparsim sat grosse punctulato.

[Long. 3 lines.

In general build resembles *P. australis*, Guér., but apterous and with much shorter elytra and the elytra (and still more the abdomen) more sparsely punctured. Coloured like a very dark example of *P. cruenticollis*, Germ., but differing from that species as from *australis* in respect of its elytra and abdomen, and also in its much narrower prothorax less rounded laterally, its antennæ much less dilated towards the apex, &c. From *P. Meyricki*, Blackb., the present insect differs by its smaller size and much more parallel and slender build, its much smaller and more sparsely punctured elytra, narrower prothorax, evidently larger eyes, &c.

Tasmania; sent by A. Simson, Esq.

BYRRHIDÆ (?).

ASPIDIPHORUS HUMERALIS, sp.nov.

A. orbiculato, Gyll., valde affinis; differt colore elytrorum subænescenti, humeris læte pallide testaceis, his valde callosis, antennis paullo magis elongatis, elytrorum striis magis fortiter impressis, harum interstitiis manifeste convexis.

[Long. 1, lat. $\frac{3}{5}$ line.

The general colour is a shining pitchy, inclined towards reddish, more particularly on the elytra, which have a slightly metallic appearance. The humeral calli are extremely prominent and of a pale testaceous colour, the legs and antennæ (except the club of the latter which is darker) reddish-testaceous. The antennæ are of 10 joints, the basal large and pyriform, 2nd much smaller and subglobulous, 3rd slender and as long as the 1st, 4th nearly half as long as 3rd, 5-7 very short, 8-10 forming an elongate club as long as 2-7. The elytra are rather strongly punctulate-striate

with evidently convex interstices. The upper surface is clothed with very short semi-erect pubescence.

The position of this remarkable genus seems to be very doubtful. It has been referred to the *Ptinidæ*, the *Dermestidæ* and the *Byrrhidæ* by various authors. To me it seems least out of place in the last-named family.

Tasmania ; taken by A. Simson, Esq.

DERMESTIDÆ.

CRYPTORHOPALUM QUORNENSE, sp.nov.

Ovale, pilis crebris (his in elytris nonnullis nigris nonnullis albis fasciatim et plagiatis dispositis) vestitum ; nigrum, antennis flavo-testaceis ; sat crebre asperatim minus subtiliter punctulatum ; antennarum clava valde compresso-dilatata, articulo apicali quam præcedentia 2 conjuncta multo majori.

[Long. 1, lat. $\frac{3}{5}$ line.

Entirely black except the antennæ, but much clothed with long adpressed white hairs, with short black hairs so intermingled as to present the appearance of a whitish surface bearing a pattern of black markings. The head and prothorax are entirely but not very closely clothed with white hairs, while on the elytra the black hairs form the following markings :—A round spot on each elytron behind the base, another just before the apex, and a common moderately wide zig-zagged fascia just behind the middle. The black pubescence is short and not very noticeable, so that the portions of the elytra bearing it appear to a casual glance to be denuded spaces. The entirely black derm distinguishes this species from all its described Australian congeners except *confertum*, Reitt. I am not sure that I know that insect, and therefore will distinguish it from the present one only by characters mentioned in Reitter's description ; in *confertum* the antennæ and legs are said to be "obscurely ferruginous," and the elytra to be "confertissime punctata," while in the present species the legs are black and the antennæ bright yellowish, and the elytra (compared with those of others of the genus) not particularly

closely punctulate. Moreover, the pattern formed by the black and white hairs on the elytra as described are very different in *confertum* from that formed by them in the present insect.

S. Australia ; on Eucalyptus blossom, near Quorn.

PARNIDÆ.

ELMIS TASMANICUS, sp.nov.

Modice elongatus ; piceo-niger, antennis palpis tarsisque rufescentibus, elytris ad basin et pone medium transversim rufo-maculatis ; prothorace inæquali sed haud latera versus plicato, sat crebre sat fortiter punctulato ; elytris punctulato-striatis, puncturis in striis antice magnis retrorsum minoribus, interstitiis sat planis coriaceis. [Long. $2\frac{1}{4}$, lat. $\frac{4}{5}$ line.

Tasmania ; taken by Mr. Simson.

PECTINICORNES.

CERATOGNATHUS FROGGATTI, sp.nov.

♂. Oblongus ; convexus ; crebre rugulose punctulatus ; niger, squamis adpressis læte aurantiacis sparsim vestitus ; capite supra tuberculis 2 parvis instructo ; mandibulis quam caput longioribus, extus late fortiter auriculatis ; prothorace antice sat angustato.

♀. Mandibulis quam caput brevioribus nec auriculatis.

[Long. (mands. incl.) $5-5\frac{1}{2}$, lat. $2\frac{1}{5}$ lines.

In size, build and sculpture much like *C. niger*, Westw., but differing from that species by the presence of thinly scattered bright orange scales, by the prothorax less transverse and quite strongly narrowed in front, by the median erect lateral process of the mandibles in the male being (not pointed and, at the apex, spine-like, but) a broad almost quadrate lamina, and by the decidedly greater convexity of the general form. The two well defined tubercles on the head distinguish this species from all its other known congeners (they having a single, either conical or bifid, tubercle). The lateral erect process of the mandibles in the

male is scarcely less elevated than in *C. niger*, though it is of quite different shape.

N. S. Wales ; bred by Mr. Froggatt from *Eucalyptus robusta* at Botany Bay.

LAMELLICORNES.

ATÆNIUS DESERTI, sp.nov.

Sat angustus ; minus parallelus ; nitidus ; niger, clypei lateribus antennis pedibusque rufescentibus ; clypeo rotundato-emarginato ; capite longitudinaliter sat crebre strigato-punctulato ; prothorace æquali, dupliciter (subtiliter et subfortiter) nec rugulose punctulato, puncturis in disco minus crebre vix æqualiter (ad latera confertissime confluentem) dispositis ; elytris sulcatis, sulcis in fundo anguste subtiliter catenulatis, interstitiis modice convexis nec anguste carinatis, humeris dentatis. [Long. $1\frac{4}{5}$, lat. $\frac{4}{5}$ line (vix).

Differs from *A. australis*, Har., chiefly in the following respects : puncturation of the head finer and running much more evidently in strigæ, prothorax without any trace of a median sulcus, elytral sulci traversed (not by rows of large punctures giving an uneven crenulated appearance to the interstices, but) by fine catenulated lines occupying the extreme bottom of the sulci and leaving the interstices free from any appearance of crenulation, elytral interstices (though decidedly and somewhat angularly convex) not nearly so narrowly or sharply carinate.

Oodnadatta ; Central Australia.

MÆCHIDIUS CLYPEALIS, sp.nov.

Minus elongatus ; supra sat opacus ; fusco-piceus ; capite antice leviter emarginato, lateribus sat fortiter sinuatis ; prothorace fortiter transverso, antice minus angustato, confertim rugulose nec grosse punctulato, lateribus crenulatis leviter sat æqualiter arcuatis, angulis anticis obtusis minus productis, posticis subacutis vix retrorsum directis, basi fortiter lobata sicut prothorax certo adpectu utrinque pone angulos posticos profunde excisus videtur ; elytris striatis, interstitiis puncturis

seriebus binis impressis, puncturis singulis setas fuscas singulas (his vix exsertis) ferentibus; tibiis anticis extus dentibus 3 acutis sat æqualibus (inferioribus 2 approximatis, a 3^o sat remotis) armatis; tibiis posterioribus 4 extus crenulatis, ad apicem sat leviter dilatatis; unguiculis simplicibus.

[Long. $3\frac{1}{2}$, lat. $1\frac{4}{5}$ lines.

This species may be at once distinguished from all its congeners known to me (*M. hopeanus*, Westw., however, comes near it in this respect) by the peculiar form of the front of its clypeus which is only moderately emarginate (and that almost vertically), so that when the head is looked at obliquely from behind, there is a point of view from which the front of the clypeus does not appear to be emarginate at all, but to be formed by a horizontal trisinuate line. The form of the prothorax is as in *M. excisus*, Waterh., in respect of the emargination behind the hind-angles, these, however, being less sharply defined than in that species and the emargination behind them less deeply excised. There are about twenty rows of punctures on each elytron (each puncture filled with a seta) and each pair of rows is divided from the next pair by a narrow smooth stria-like space.

The present insect resembles *M. hopeanus*, Westw., in many respects, but may be at once distinguished from it by the front extremity of the basal emargination (on either side of the prothorax) being a well defined angle.

Oodnadatta; Central Australia.

HETERONYX COWELLI, sp.nov.

Modice elongatus; postice minus dilatatus; minus nitidus; testaceo-fuscus; sat pubescens; capite sat grosse, prothorace sat fortiter minus crebre, elytris fere ut prothorax, pygidio (hoc pilis erectis sparsim vestito) leviter sparsim nec subtiliter, punctulatis; labro clypeum vix manifeste, sat late superanti; antennis 9-articulatis; unguiculis bifidis; coxis posticis quam metasternum parum brevioribus, quam segmentum ventrale secundum sat longioribus.

[Long. 3, lat. $1\frac{3}{5}$ line.

The following characters in combination place this species in Section iii., Group vi. of the genus (tabulated P.L.S.N.S.W., 1889, pp. 426-8) : labrum overtopping the clypeus and causing its outline from a certain point of view to appear trilobed, antennæ 9-jointed, claws furnished with a projection close to the apex, almost perpendicular to the line of the claw. In that group it is associated with *H. borealis*, Blackb., by the following characters in combination : external margin of hind coxæ evidently shorter than the metasternum, antennæ entirely of pallid colour ; middle lobe of "trilobed outline" of clypeus widely rounded and not much narrower than the lateral lobes, prothorax moderately closely punctulate (intervals between the punctures somewhere about $\frac{1}{20}$ the length of the prothorax), joint 2 of hind tarsi evidently longer than joint 1. From *H. borealis* it differs *inter alia* by the prothorax being narrower in front, with more rounded hind angles, and by the middle lobe of the "trilobed outline" of the clypeus being wider than in *borealis* and not more prominent than the lateral lobes. The sides of the prothorax are somewhat strongly rounded.

N. Queensland ; taken near Cairns by Mr. Cowell.

HETERONYX SEQUENS, sp.nov.

Modice elongatus ; postice minus dilatatus ; minus nitidus ; testaceo- vel brunneo-fuscus ; sat pubescens ; capite sat grosse, prothorace sat fortiter minus crebre, elytris fere ut prothorax, pygidio (hoc pilis erectis sparsim vestito) obsolete, punctulatis ; labro clypeum sat fortiter sat anguste superanti ; antennis 9-articulatis ; unguiculis bifidis ; coxis posticis quam metasternum haud brevioribus, quam segmentum ventrale secundum multo longioribus. [Long. $3\frac{4}{5}$ -4, lat. $2-2\frac{2}{5}$ lines.

This species falls in the same group as the preceding, which it resembles somewhat closely in respect of colour and puncturation, differing from it, however, widely in respect of some important structural characters. Its labrum is considerably narrower and more elevated, so that the "trilobed outline" of the head has quite a different appearance, the middle lobe being less than half



as wide as, and more prominent than, the lateral lobes ; its prothorax is of very dissimilar form, being only feebly rounded on the sides and having much better defined hind angles (especially when viewed from above) ; the hind coxæ are considerably longer and have their external hind angles much more defined ; and the produced apex of the basal piece of the hind claws is much larger, nearly equalling the apical piece in size. In the tabulation of this group (see preceding species) this species falls beside *H. Darwini*, Blackb., but differs from it *inter alia* by very much less coarse prothoracic puncturation.

N. Queensland ; taken by Mr. Cowell near Cairns.

BUPRESTIDÆ.

CHALCOPHORA EXILIS, sp. nov.

Obscure ænea, hic illic viridi- vel cupreo-micans ; capite sat fortiter punctulato et inter oculos excavatione magna subrotunda albo-pulverulenta impresso ; prothorace transversim subquadrato, longitudinaliter 3-canaliculato, canalibus albo-pulverulentis, mediano crebre punctulato quam ceteri crebre granulati angustiori, inter canales interspatiis nitidis sparsim punctulatis, nihilominus interspatiorum dorsalium parte mediana antice longitudinaliter fere ut canales punctulata ; elytris postice extus denticulatis, supra interrupte inæqualiter costatis, partibus depressis crebre sat subtiliter (elevatis sparsim minus subtiliter) punctulatis, pube albida ita dispersa ut vittam dorsalem a basi ad elytrorum medium et alteram sublateralem ab elytrorum medio ad apicem extensas præbet ; antennis brevibus haud prothoracis basin attingentibus, corpore subtus albo-squamoso, abdomine vittis denudatis macularibus 3 ornato.

♂. Segmento ventrali apicali postice profunde triangulariter emarginato.

♀. Segmento ventrali apicali postice sinuato.

[Long. $5\frac{1}{2}$ -7, lat. $1\frac{4}{5}$ - $2\frac{1}{5}$ lines.

This species, notwithstanding its diminutive size, appears to be certainly a genuine member of *Chalcophora* in the Lacordairean sense. I find it difficult, however, to place it in any of the genera that have been formed at the expense of *Chalcophora*. The shortness of its antennæ prevents its admission to *Chalcotænia* in which most of the previously described Australian *Chalcophorites* find a place, and the scarcely emarginate front of its prosternum forbids its reference to *Paracupta* or *Cyphogastra* in which the rest of them have been located. According to the characters specified by M. Kerremans in his recent work on the classification of the *Buprestidæ* (Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg. xxxvii.) this species would appear to be a true *Chalcophora*, but as no true *Chalcophora* (in the strict sense) has hitherto been reported from the Southern hemisphere there is every probability that it may eventually have to receive a new generic name; I am not able to refer to a sufficient series of true *Chalcophoræ* to justify me in forming a definite conclusion on this point, and therefore for the present call it a *Chalcophora*.

In general appearance this insect looks fairly at home among the previously described Australian *Chalcophorites* although it is more convex and cylindrical than most of them. The whitish powder-like scales form the following markings: a broad vitta near (but not reaching) the lateral margin of the prothorax on either side which is continued hindward on the elytra to near the middle of their length (the elytral portion of this vitta is very indistinct in its middle); and another vitta skirting the lateral margin of the elytra on either side, commencing level with the hind apex of the anterior vitta (but nearer the lateral margin) and continuing almost to the apex of the elytra. The elytral costæ are wide and but feebly elevated; one of them runs close to the suture and reaches the apex, a second runs near it and parallel with it to behind the middle of the elytra where it coalesces with the third costa (which commences immediately behind the apex of the anterior powdery vitta) to form a single costa which reaches the apex; the fourth costa is very obscure and runs from the shoulder obliquely to near the middle of the elytra; the fifth costa also

commences on the shoulder and runs (close to the lateral margin) to the apex. There is no elevated plate like that of *C. pistos*, L. and G., on the abdomen. The basal joint of the hind tarsi is distinctly longer than the second. The prosternal process is deeply sulcate. The joints of the antennæ beyond the fourth are not longer than wide.

Central Australia ; near Oodnadatta.

CHALCOPHORA BELTANÆ, sp.nov.

Supra viridis (hic illic aureo-viridis), apice cæruleo, partibus elevatis obscure cuprascentibus; subtus obscure aureo-viridis; capite longitudinaliter concavo, sat grosse nec crebre punctulato; prothorace leviter transverso, antice subito sat fortiter angustato, canaliculato, latera versus inæquali et irregulariter obscure longitudinaliter impresso, in partibus depressis crebre minus fortiter (in convexis grosse paullo minus crebre) punctulato, basi trisinuata; elytris postice extus denticulatis, supra interrupte inæqualiter costatis, partibus depressis crebre minus fortiter (maculis binis quam partes depressæ ceteræ magis crebre magis subtiliter) costis sparsim fortiter punctulatis; antennis sat brevibus haud prothoracis basin attingentibus; corpore subtus ut *C. australasiæ*, Saund., sculpturato.

[Long. $8\frac{3}{4}$, lat. 3 lines.

This species seems certainly congeneric with the preceding. It has a similar form, more convex and cylindrical than that of most of the Australian *Chalcophorites*, and has short antennæ not reaching the base of the prothorax; but nevertheless its antennæ are a little longer than those of *C. exilis* and its antennal joints are all more or less longer than wide.

The example before me is devoid of the patches of dust-like scales usually ornamenting the Australian *Chalcophorites*, but they are represented on each elytron by two patches on which the colour is a little more brightly golden-green and the puncturation a little finer and closer than elsewhere. The anterior of these patches extends from the 2nd to the 4th costa and interrupts the 3rd costa at about the hind extremity of the front $\frac{1}{3}$ part of the

elytra; the posterior of them extends from the 2nd to the 5th costa and interrupts the 3rd and 4th costæ immediately behind the middle of the elytra. The costæ (as in *C. exilis*) are wider and less elevated than in most of the Australian *Chalcophorites* (e.g., *C. australasiæ*); the 1st costa is sutural and entire, the 2nd parallel with the 1st and entire, the 3rd twice interrupted and joining the 2nd close to the apex, the 3rd once interrupted and scarcely reaching into the apical $\frac{1}{3}$ of the elytra, the 5th near the lateral margin and entire. It is just possible that the absence of dust-like scales may be due to abrasion, but I think more probably not. The hind tarsi and prosternum are as in *C. exilis*. There is no trace of an abdominal plate like that of *C. pistos*.

This insect is not, I think, very near any previously described; perhaps it comes nearest to *C. Martini*, Saund., and *C. cerata*, Kerremans, both of which, however, differ from it, *inter alia multa*, by their testaceous antennæ.

S. Australia; near Beltana (on the Southern border of the Central Desert).

ASTRÆUS TEPPERI, Blackb.

This species appears to be identical with *A. Jansoni*, v. de Poll. The "Monographical Essay" in which it received the latter name is dated 1889; my description was read to the Linnean Society of N.S. Wales in December, 1889, but was not published till early in 1890. My name therefore becomes a synonym.

TENEBRIONIDÆ.

HYOCIS NIGRA, sp.nov.

Opaca; nigra, pedibus plus minusve rufescentibus; prothorace fortiter transverso, canaliculato, lateribus minus arcuatis postice haud sinuatis, angulis anticis prominulis posticis rectis, basi late fortiter lobata; elytris punctulato-striatis, puncturis in striis minoribus crebre positis, interstitiis vix convexis.

[Long. 1, lat. $\frac{2}{5}$ line.

Smaller and more parallel than *H. Bakewelli*, Pasc., and differently coloured ; its prothorax is much less rounded laterally, with the sides not at all sinuate behind, the front angles more prominent and the hind angles less acute ; its elytral striæ are much more closely and less coarsely punctulate and their interstices are almost flat.

S. Australia ; also in Victoria.

HYOCIS VARIEGATA, sp.nov.

Opaca ; piceo-ferruginea, prothoracis lateribus elytrorum plagis et pedibus dilutioribus ; prothorace fortiter transverso, leviter canaliculato, lateribus minus arcuatis postice haud sinuatis, angulis anticis prominulis posticis rectis, basi sat late lobata ; elytris punctulato-striatis, puncturis in striis magnis quadratis (subclathratis), interstitiis angustis subelevatis.

[Long. $1\frac{2}{5}$, lat. $\frac{3}{5}$ line.

The markings on the elytra consist of a bright testaceous spot on either side of the suture ; behind the middle a less conspicuous mark a little nearer the apex (the part of the elytra bearing these pale marks being darker than the rest of the surface), and an irregular inconspicuous patch commencing about the shoulder somewhat paler than the general colour. The prothorax scarcely differs from that of *H. nigra*, but the elytral sculpture is almost as in *H. Bakewelli*, Pasc.

S. Australia ; also in Victoria.

HYOCIS OCCIDENTALIS, sp.nov.

Sat opaca ; piceo-rufa, antennis pedibus elytrisque brunneo-flavis, his piceo-notatis ; prothorace fortiter transverso, canaliculato, lateribus rotundatis postice fortiter sinuatis (mox ante basin rectis inter se parallelis), angulis anticis vix productis posticis rectis, basi late lobata ; elytris punctulato-striatis, puncturis in striis magnis quadratis (subclathratis), interstitiis angustis subelevatis.

[Long. $1\frac{1}{5}$, lat. $\frac{1}{2}$ line.

The punctures in the elytral striæ appear under a lens of a golden colour. The markings on the elytra consist of a dark spot on either side of the suture about its middle, and a smaller one on either side of the suture close to the apex. Apart from colour, this species differs from *H. Bakewelli*, Pasc., chiefly by the sides of the prothorax being perfectly straight in their hinder part (immediately in front of the hind angles), and by the humeral angles being much less rounded off. The former of these characters distinguishes it still more strongly from the two species described above.

W. Australia.

NYCTOZOILUS, SLOANEI, sp.nov.

Convexus ; late ovatus ; niger, supra opacus sparsim subtilissime (nisi sub lente forti haud manifeste) punctulatus ; prothorace quam longiori fere duplo (postice quam antice circiter dimidia parte) latiori, *Hypocilibis* prothoracem simulanti, latera versus sat depresso et in margine ipso sat incrassato, latitudine majori pone medium posita ; elytris ad latera distincte anguste explanatis et margine reflexo instructis (parum aliter ac *Pterohelæi bullati*, Pasc.), costis obsoletis 3 (sutura exclusa) et inter has nonnullis intermediis magis etiam obsoletis ornatis, strigis transversis (nec costis) sat manifeste certo adspectu impressis. [Long. 9-10, lat. $5\frac{1}{2}$ -6 lines.]

This species must certainly, I think, be attributed to *Nyctozoilus*, although in some of its characters (notably the shape and sculpture of its prothorax) it agrees better with *Hypocilibe*. The absence of a defined gular sulcus and of a defined tooth on the submentum are quite inconsistent with a place in the latter genus, but on the other hand the front margin of the submentum is considerably thickened, and the strong tooth on the submentum of *Hypocilibe* is represented by a distinctly prominent angulation. Mr. Bates mentions as a generic character of *Hypocilibe* that the prosternal process is bilobed behind ; in this present insect the process is not bilobed, but I do not regard that as a reliable character, inasmuch

as I have seen several species that certainly could not be separated from *Hypocilibe* in which the process has no indication of bilobation. Perhaps Mr. Bates would have made a new genus of this species, but if that course be pursued with every form presenting slight structural peculiarities a new generic name would be required for almost every species of this group.

The description of *N. Dameli*, Haag-R., points to a considerable resemblance of this insect to it, but I do not think the two can be identical, as Haag-Rutenberg says that the prothorax of *Dameli* is at its widest at the middle, whereas in *N. Sloanei* the greatest width is distinctly *behind* the middle; also the description of the sculpture of the elytra in *Dameli* does not at all accurately fit *N. Sloanei*, in which there is scarcely any trace of transverse lines connecting the costæ, nor do I find any "minute rust-coloured setæ" in the depressed parts of the upper surface.

N. S. Wales; taken by Mr. Sloane at Urana.

HYPOCILIBE VITTATA, sp. nov.

Late ovata; modice convexa; sat opaca; piceo-nigra, elytris vittis 5 testaceis ornatis; fere impunctulata, abdomine subtilissime punctulato et longitudinaliter strigato; prothorace quam longiori quatuor partibus (postice quam antice fere dimidia parte) latiori, antice sat profunde arcuatim emarginato, latitudine majori paullo pone medium posita, lateribus sat arcuatis postice manifeste sinuatis, angulis omnibus acutis; elytris quam prothorax fere 3^a parte latioribus, postice minus abrupte declivibus; tibiis intus haud tomentosus.

[Long. $9\frac{1}{2}$, lat. 5 lines.

The whole upper surface of this species is absolutely devoid of sculpture except the row of punctures close to the margin of the elytra, and even that does not extend so far as the middle of their length. The 5 testaceous vittæ on each elytron render the insect easy to recognise.

Queensland; presented to me by Mr. French.

PLATYPHANES SUPERBUS, sp.nov.

Latissime ovalis; nitidus; subtus niger; supra læte æneo-viridis aureo-micans, capite cæruleo aureo-micanti, prothoracis elytrorumque lateribus (et horum epipleuris) scutelloque splendide cæruleis purpureo-micantibus; capite crebre fortiter punctulato; prothorace quam longiori duplo (postice quam antice fere duplo) latiori, subtiliter sparsius punctulato, a basi ad apicem (vix arcuatim) angustato, angulis omnibus subacutis; elytris antice gibbosis (fere ut *P. gibbosi*, Westw.), striis punctulatis 14 instructis, interstitiis convexis, lateribus pone humeros angulatis. [Long. $11\frac{1}{2}$, lat. $7\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

This magnificent insect is allied to *P. gibbosus*, Westw., from which it differs, *inter alia*, by its colouration and by the close and somewhat strong puncturation of its head.

N. Queensland; in the collection of C. French, Esq.

CHARIOTHECA BESTI, sp.nov.

Nitidissima; capite versicolori (antice cyaneo, postice nigro aureo-micanti), prothorace læte cæruleo, elytris igneo-cupreis, corpore subtus pedibusque versicoloribus (cyaneo violaceo et aureo micantibus), antennis tarsisque piceis; clypeo subtilissime, capite postice crebre subfortiter, punctulatis; prothorace (leviter transversim) quadrato, subtilissime punctulato, antice leviter angustato, angulis posticis acutis; elytris leviter striatis, striis (vix crebre) punctulatis, interstitiis subtilissime punctulatis fere planis. [Long. 5, lat. $2\frac{2}{5}$ lines.

This brilliantly coloured little *Helopid* has been inspected by my friend Mr. G. C. Champion, of London (the well-known specialist in the *Heteromera*), who has obligingly reported to me that it is near *Chariotheca amaroides*, Pasc. Mr. Pascoe's species (besides being very differently coloured) differs from the present one *inter alia* by the sculpture of its head, which is said to have "a few coarse punctures between the eyes," whereas the head of *C. Besti* (except on the clypeus) is evenly, somewhat closely and not at all coarsely (scarcely even *strongly*) punctulate. Mr. Pascoe's brief description of *C. amaroides* implies moreover that the elytra

are not striate, but the elytra of the present species are very distinctly (though not very *strongly*) striate.

I have named it, at the suggestion of Mr. French, after Mr. Best, of Melbourne, who is an energetic coleopterist.

N. Queensland ; presented to me by Mr. French.

LONGICORNES.

URACANTHUS FROGGATTI, sp.nov.

Angustus, valde elongatus ; piceus, palpis pedibusque (præsertim anticis) plus minusve rufescentibus ; pube grisea (nihilominus maculis denudatis confuse variegata) sat dense vestitus ; prothorace manifeste (præsertim pone medium) sat crasse transversim rugato ; elytris apice truncatis, supra vix costatis, leviter nec subtiliter nec crebre punctulatis.

[Long. 8-9½, lat. 1½ line.

This species seems very distinct from all previously described on account of its being clothed with whitish-grey pilosity which is rather evenly distributed over the whole surface, except that on the upper surface there are a certain number of small denuded spots, and that in places on the under surface (especially on the prosternum and mesosternum) the pilosity is longer and denser than elsewhere. Comparing this insect with the familiar *U. triangularis*, I note the following differences :—size much smaller, colour and markings (such as they are) quite unlike, general facies much narrower and more slender, transverse wrinkling of prothorax obsolete in front half of that segment, apical margin of elytra truncate and devoid of spines.

N. S. Wales ; bred by Mr. Froggatt from *Lasiopetalum ferrugineum*.

RHYTIPHORA FASCIATA, sp.nov.

Picea, pube densa tecta (hac albido et fulvo variegata et nigro maculata, maculis nigris in parte mediana majoribus ita dispositis ut fasciam obscuram efficiunt) ; prothorace inæquali et tuberculato et transversim plicato ; elytris in tertia parte

basali granulis sat magnis nigris nitidis ornatis, ad apicem sat fortiter emarginatis et biapiculatis.

[Long. 13, lat. $4\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

This species is near *R. Argus*, Pasc. Compared with that insect it is of somewhat broader and more robust build with the elytra quite strongly emarginate at the apex, the extremities of the emargination of each elytron distinctly pointed,—almost spiniform. The eyes are less approximate than in *Argus*, and the pubescence of the upper surface is considerably different; taking the whitish pubescence as the ground the fulvous pubescence is laid on in such fashion as to form a sharply defined pattern which on the elytra has a sinuous and mostly transverse linear arrangement; while the black granulations and spots are much like those of *Argus*, except that the black patches are much larger about the middle part of the elytra than elsewhere, where some of them are transversely elongate, and they are so placed on a wide space extending across both elytra as to look like a conspicuous band of spots. The underside, legs, and antennæ are much like those of *R. Argus*. The elytra present no indication whatever of costæ. The shoulders are black as in *Argus*.

N. Queensland; presented to me by Mr. French.

PHYTOPHAGA.

NISOTRA SUBMETALLICA, sp. nov.

Ovata; convexa; nitida; subtus (prosterno testaceo excepto) nigra; supra testacea, elytris pallide viridi-micantibus, antennis nigris (articulis basalibus 4 testaceis), pedibus testaceis (femoribus posticis antice nigricantibus); subtiliter (in elytris vix seriatim) punctulatis. [Long. $1\frac{4}{5}$, lat. 1 line.

The prothorax is (by measurement) just twice as wide as long; its puncturation is very lightly impressed and by no means close; its sides are gently and somewhat sinuately arched, its front angles decidedly its hind angles scarcely directed outwards; its anterior discal furrows are elongate and extremely deep, and it has two basal foveæ on either side, the outer ones much feebler

than the inner. The puncturation of the elytra is evidently stronger than of the prothorax, and is at its strongest in the front of the outer part of the disc ; it can scarcely be called distinctly seriate in any part except near the lateral margins where there are several abbreviated striæ with ill-defined raised interstices. The black colour of the undersurface (except the undersurface of the prothorax) distinguishes this species from its previously described allies. An example taken in S. Australia is without metallic gloss on the elytra and has entirely testaceous legs, but does not seem to differ otherwise. I have seen numerous Victorian specimens, among which I find no variation.

Victoria ; taken by Mr. French.

MONOLEPTA ALPINA, sp.nov.

Elongato-ovalis ; sat nitida ; nigra, elytrorum dimidio basali (macula magna communi basali excepta) sanguineo, antennarum basi tibiis tarsisque plus minusve ferrugineis ; antennarum articulo basali quam 2^{us} 3^{us} que conjuncti (his inter se sat æqualibus) vix breviori, ceteris basali et inter se sat æqualibus ; prothorace obsolete punctulato transversim leviter impresso ; elytris subfortiter minus crebre punctulatis.

[Long. $1\frac{3}{5}$, lat. $\frac{3}{5}$ line.

Variat prothorace femoribusque plus minusve rufescentibus.

Regarding black as the ground colour of the elytra the red marking consists of a wide fascia, the hind margin of which crosses the middle of the elytra, and which runs forward along the lateral margin to the base on either side, leaving a large common black spot on and around the scutellum.

Victoria ; Alpine district.



Blackburn, Thomas. 1894. "Notes on Australian Coleoptera with descriptions of new species. Part XV." *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 9, 85–108. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.18095>.

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