

**NEW EXOTIC SPECIES OF CORTICARIINAE
(COL.: LATRIDIIDAE)**

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THE subfamily Corticariinae currently includes about 450 described world species, and these occur in all zoogeographical regions. Corticarines are easily recognised superficially by their pubescent form, as opposed to the almost entirely glabrous Latridiinae. Their size is small, mostly within the range 1.2 - 2.5 mm. Colours are predominantly shades of yellow, brown and black, mostly unicolorous or bicolorous, although some exceptional variegated species are known. A genus such as *Corticaria* Marsham exhibits quite a range of external forms and differences which permit the ready identification of many species, even though many difficult groups rely upon aedeagal studies for identification. On the other hand, the genera *Corticarina* Reitter, *Melanophthalma* Motschulsky and *Cortinicara* Johnson are remarkably uniform in appearance. Their male genitalia fortunately provide excellent diagnostic characters and are thus essential for identification; unassociated females are frequently unidentifiable however. These three genera are commonly collected. They are especially to be found by sweeping and beating trees and vegetation, on flowers, at light, whilst others can only be collected by sieving humid and decaying plant debris.

The aim of the present paper is to describe and characterise some new *Corticarina* and *Cortinicara* which have accumulated over the last eight years. References to works dealing with allied species are given where appropriate, as the genera have not yet been monographed.

Abbreviations have been used to indicate the institutional source of studied material as follows: BMNH — British Museum (Natural History), London; MHNG — Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva; MM — Manchester Museum; ZML — Zoological Museum, University of Lund.

***Corticarina baranowskii* sp.n.**

Length 1.33 - 1.52 mm; head breadth 0.31 - 0.33 mm; pronotal breadth 0.42 - 0.49 mm; elytral breadth 0.64 - 0.70 mm; antennal length 0.51 - 0.56 mm. Colour dark, brownish-black, head and elytra often brownish; legs yellowish-brown; antennae with the basal segment yellowish-brown, stem paler basally, increasingly infuscated in the apical half or so. Antennal segments moderately long, slender; segment 8 quadrate to slightly longer than broad; 9 conical and markedly longer than broad; 10 about as long as broad, the club narrow and gradual. Body rather markedly convex. Pronotum moderately broad, 1.26 - 1.36 times as broad as long, broadest around middle, sides moderately rounded; post median depression distinct, lateral impressions absent; surface rather shining, alutaceous microsculpture fine and distinct; puncturation moderate, rather close, discal punctures c. half a

diameter apart or less; hind angles toothed. Elytra somewhat short oval, 2.50 - 2.71 times as long as pronotum, 1.38 - 1.41 times as long as broad, broadest around middle; sides moderately curved; surface shining, not reticulate; elytral pubescence feebly curved, almost flat, the hairs c. 0.04 - 0.048 mm, barely overlapping. Winged. Male: anterior tibial tooth moderate, ventral, situated close to the apical third; aedeagus fig. 1.

Holotype male. Mexico — Chiapas: 18 km E San Cristobal, 2500 m, 30.ix.1986, sifting litter under shrubs in pine-oak forest, leg. R. Baranowski (ZML).

Paratypes. Mexico — same data, 1 female (ZML); 17 km SE San Cristobal, 2400 m. 26.ix.1986, sifting litter in pine-oak forest, leg. R. Baranowski, 1 female (ZML); 23 km W San Cristobal, 2200 m, 25.ix.1986, sifting leaf litter under shrubs, leg. R. Baranowski, 1 female (ZML); 23 km W San Cristobal, 2200 m, 25.ix.1986, sifting leaf litter under shrubs, leg. R. Baranowski, 1 male (ZML); Pueblo Nuevo, 1400 m, 20.ix.1986, sifting leaf litter in mixed deciduous forest, leg. R. Baranowski, 1 female (ZML).

This species can be easily recognised by the characteristic aedeagus. On external features: dark colour, shining surface, convexity, and antennal club structure, the species seems not to have any close congeners. Other Mexican species are *hoegei* Johnson (Johnson, 1979) and *subfusca* Sharp, although males of the latter are not yet known.

Corticarina reidi sp.n.

Length 1.66 mm; head breadth 0.35 mm; pronotal breadth 0.48 mm; elytral breadth 0.68 mm; antennal length 0.56 mm. Head and pronotum black, elytra dark brownish-black; legs dark brown, tarsi with basal segment lighter, apical segment darker; antennae with basal segment dark brown, segment 2 light brown, stem segments 3 - 7 increasingly infuscated apically, club brownish-black. Antennal segments moderately long, slender; segment 8 broader than long, 9 slightly longer than broad, 10 about as long as broad, club rather narrow and gradual. Body somewhat strongly convex. Pronotum relatively narrow, 1.19 times as broad as long, broadest in front of middle, sides almost moderately curved; post median depression feeble, lateral impressions absent; surface little shining, alutaceous microsculpture fine and distinct; puncturation somewhat fine, moderately close, shallow; hind angles finely toothed. Elytra long oval, 2.6 times as long as pronotum, 1.53 times as long as broad, broadest around middle; humeri effaced, callus absent; sides moderately curved; pubescence slightly curved, a little raised, the hairs c. 0.035 mm, slightly overlapping. Brachypterous, wings narrower and distinctly shorter than an elytron. Male: anterior tibial tooth somewhat small, ventral, situated in front of the middle; aedeagus fig. 4.

Holotype male. Colombia — Laguna de Tota, 72°50' W, 5°30' N, 3000 m, 21-30.vii.1982, swept from *Typha/Scirpus* on lake shore, leg. C. Reid (MM).

The body shape and convexity of this species is reminiscent of the European *Corticaria impressa* (Olivier), but with *Corticarina* characters. Amongst the neotropical members of its genus, *reidi* occupies an isolated

position, differing markedly in body shape, convexity and other features from the Costa Rican *kraussi* Johnson, the only other known brachypterous species (Johnson, 1981). The aedeagi of both species are very characteristic.

***Corticarina blatchleyi* sp.n.**

Length 1.20 - 1.36 mm; head breadth 0.29 - 0.33 mm; pronotal breadth 0.40 - 0.48 mm; elytral breadth 0.61 - 0.72 mm; antennal length 0.41 - 0.43 mm. Body entirely reddish, elytra usually somewhat infuscated and darker; legs and antennae pale, entirely reddish-yellow. Antennal segments rather short; segment 8 broader than long, 9 \pm as broad as long, 10 markedly broader than long, club rather narrow, hardly abrupt. Body moderately convex. Pronotum rather broad, 1.27 - 1.38 times as broad as long, broadest around middle, sides moderately curved; post median depression distinct, lateral impressions not apparent; surface little shining, alutaceous microsculpture fine and distinct; puncturation fine, very shallow, rather spaced, discal punctures 1.5 - 2 diameters apart; hind angles moderately toothed. Elytra almost short oval, 2.51 - 2.86 times as long as pronotum, 1.30 - 1.36 times as long as broad; broadest around middle, sides moderately curved; elytral pubescence very fine and short, almost flat, hairs c. 0.03 mm, not overlapping. Winged. Male: anterior tibial tooth ventral, moderate in size, situated in front of the middle; aedeagus fig. 2.

Holotype male. USA — Florida: Dunedin, leg. W.S. Blatchley (BMNH). Paratypes. USA — same data, 5 females (BMNH).

This species comes between *clayae* Johnson from Guyana and the nearctic *cavicollis* (Mannerheim) in general appearance, colour, shape and sculpture. All three species can be easily separated by their male aedeagi (Johnson, 1972b, 1981).

***Corticarina fukiensis* sp.n.**

Length 1.40 - 1.68 mm; head breadth 0.36 - 0.40 mm; pronotal breadth 0.46 - 0.53 mm; elytral breadth 0.66 - 0.78 mm; antennal length 0.46 - 0.56 mm. Colour very dark brown, head and pronotum often brownish-black; legs pale brown; first antennal segment pale brown, stem with at least segment 2 and usually most of segments 3 - 8 yellowish, club darkened. Antennal segments rather short, 8 broader than long, 9 about as long as broad, 10 very slightly broader than long, club short and little abrupt. Body moderate convex. Pronotum 1.32 - 1.41 times as broad as long, broadest somewhat in front of middle, sides somewhat moderately curved; post median depression distinct, lateral impressions absent; surface little shining, alutaceous microsculpture fine and distinct; puncturation moderate, very close; hind angles moderately toothed. Elytra long oval, rather narrow, 2.80 - 2.98 times as long as pronotum, 1.41 - 1.46 times as long as broad, sides rather weakly to almost moderately curved; elytral pubescence curved, very slightly raised, hairs c. 0.04 - 0.08 mm, slightly overlapping. Winged. Male: anterior tibial tooth moderate, ventral, situated almost at the apical third; aedeagus fig. 3.

Holotype male. China — Fukien: Kuatun, Tschung Sen, 20.x.1946, leg. J. Klapperich (MM). Paratypes. China — same data but 20.ii. - 2.iv.1946, 20 males, 36 females (MM).

In aedeagus structure and general form, this species is allied to the north Indian *biharensis* Johnson and *strandii* Johnson, although closest to the latter in aedeagal details and body size. On external features, *fukiensis* is very difficult to distinguish from *strandii*, but is immediately separable on aedeagal features — the aedeagus is larger and more twisted, differently shaped in profile (see Johnson, 1972a, 1979).

***Corticarina carinifrons* sp.n.**

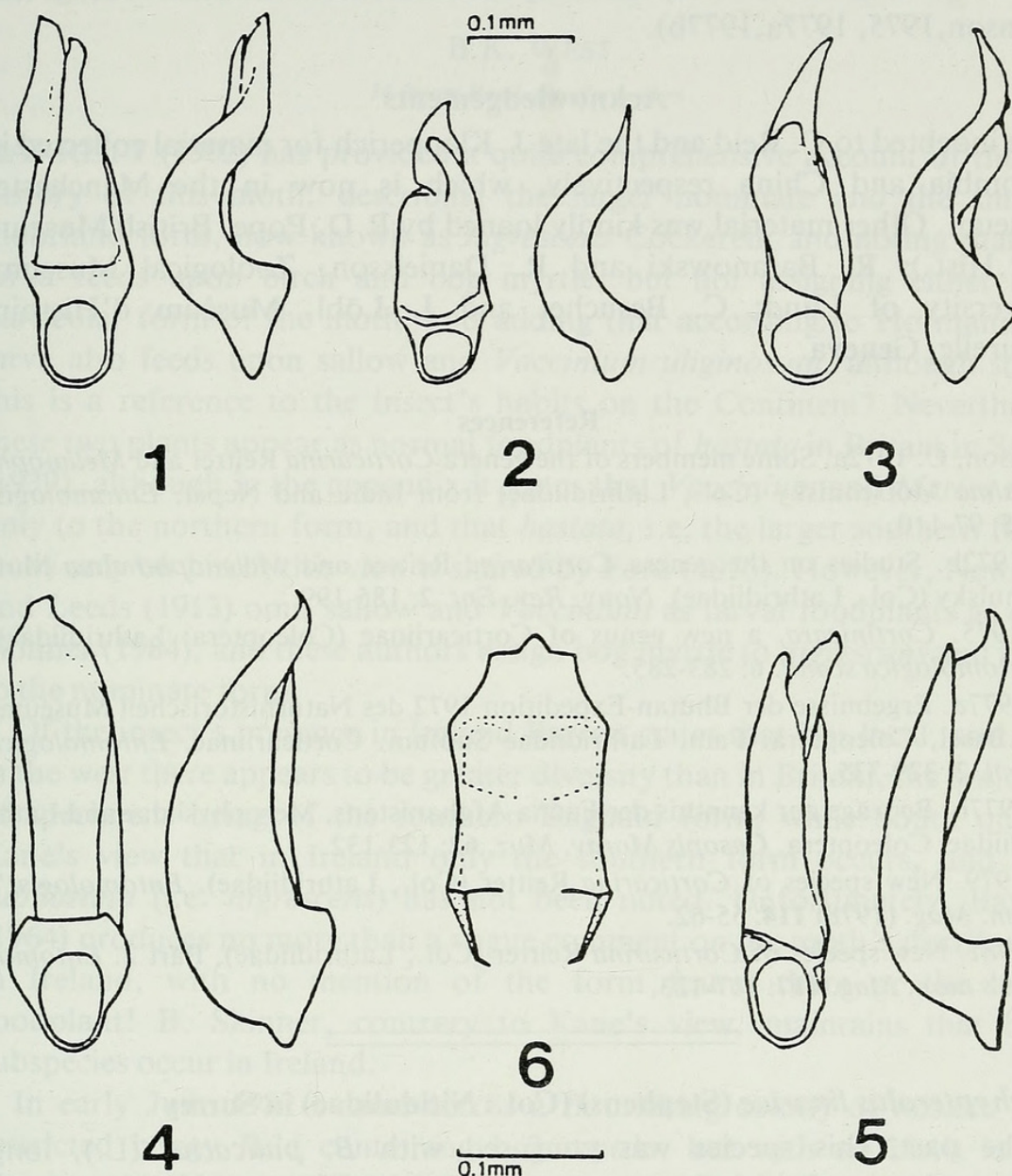
Length 1.49 - 1.66 mm; head breadth 0.33 - 0.37 mm; pronotal breadth 0.44 - 0.50 mm; elytral breadth 0.69 - 0.80 mm; antennal length 0.56 - 0.64 mm. Colour dark brown; legs pale brown; first antennal segment pale brown, stem paler, yellowish-brown; club $\frac{1}{8}$ infuscated and darker than first segment. Antennal segments rather long, 8 as long or slightly longer than broad; 9 and 10 conical, longer than broad; club long and narrow. Body rather markedly convex, especially the somewhat humped elytra. Head with a median longitudinal carina. Pronotum rather small, 1.21 - 1.31 times as broad as long, broadest somewhat in front of middle, sides moderately curved; post median depression and lateral impressions well-developed; surface little shining, alutaceous microsculpture feeble; puncturation moderate, very close, punctures almost touching and interstices somewhat ridge-like; hind angles rather finely toothed. Elytra long oval, 2.90 - 3.02 times as long as the pronotum, 1.39 - 1.47 times as long as broad, sides moderately curved; elytral pubescence curved and slightly outstanding, hairs c. 0.07 - 0.08 mm, long and conspicuously over-lapping. Winged. Legs slender; hind tarsi with basal segment long and thin. Male: anterior tibial tooth moderate, ventral, situated at the apical third; aedeagus fig. 5.

Holotype male. China — Fukien: Tschung Sen, 17.ii.1946, leg. J. Klapperich (MM). Paratypes. China — same data but 17.ii. - 2.iv.1946, 3 males, 6 females (MM).

This species is very reminiscent of the Himalayan *cognata* Johnson (Johnson, 1972a), especially on account of the long basal segment to the hind tarsi and the well-developed lateral impressions on the pronotum. However, the carinate frons and aedeagal structure are quite unique in the genus.

***Cortinicara luzonica* sp.n.**

Length 1.22 - 1.41 mm; head breadth 0.29 - 0.32 mm; pronotal breadth 0.34 - 0.39 mm; elytral breadth 0.57 - 0.64 mm; antennal length 0.39 - 0.43 mm. Colour reddish, legs and antennae yellowish, apical tarsal segments and antennal club feebly infuscated. Head with moderately large eyes, temples minute. Antennal segments rather short; segment 8 quadrate to broader than long, 9 somewhat conical and about as broad as long, 10 about as long as broad, club rather narrow and gradual. Pronotum rather small, slightly broader than head, 1.1 - 1.2 times as broad as long, broadest somewhat around middle, sides moderately rounded; transverse impressions distinct; surface rather shining, alutaceous microsculpture $\frac{1}{8}$ well-marked; puncturation moderate, close; hind angles feebly toothed. Elytra long oval, c. 2.8 times as long as pronotum, c. 1.5 times as long as broad, sides somewhat



Figures 1 - 5, aedeagi of new species of *Corticarina*, ventral and lateral views: 1, *baranowskii*; 2, *blatchleyi*; 3, *fukiensis*; 4, *reidi*; 5, *carinifrons*. Figure 6, *Cortinacara luzonica* sp.n., aedeagus, ventral view. (Scales: figures 1 -5, top; figure 6, bottom.)

moderately curved; surface shining, not reticulate; interstices with oblong punctures in a single row, these punctures almost as long but much narrower than the striae punctures; elytral pubescence short, c. 0.04 mm, feebly curved, nearly flat, barely overlapping. Winged. Male: anterior tibial tooth situated close to the apical fifth or so; aedeagus fig. 6.

Holotype male. Philippine Islands — Luzon: Latan Cave, nr. Sagada, 15-19.xii.1979, leg. Deharveng & Orousset (MHNG).

Paratypes. Philippine Islands — same data, 2 males (MHNG).

This is a typical member of the *Corticicara gibbosa* (Herbst) group, species of which are best separated by their characteristic male aedeagi (see Johnson, 1975, 1977a, 1977b).

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Brachypterolus linariae (Stephens) (Col.: Nitidulidae) in Surrey

In the past, this species was confused with *B. pulicarius* (L.), long recognised as a British insect. In a paper establishing the identity of *B. linariae* (Stephens) and recording its presence also in Britain, my friend Mr C. Johnson (1967 *Entomologist* **100**: 142) listed a few localities for the species but these did not include Surrey. I should like, accordingly, to record that I collected eight specimens of *Brachypterolus* from flowers of *Linaria vulgaris* Mill. from a site near Cheam, Surrey on 15.viii.89. As it turned out, all were males; four proved to be *B. linariae* and 4 were *B. pulicarius*.

The presence of equal numbers of *linariae* and *pulicarius* in this, albeit small, sample, is in marked contrast to what I have found in other districts. There, *pulicarius* has always greatly outnumbered *linariae*. It could be interesting to see, over the next few years, whether the Cheam site maintains this equality in the two species. — J.A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.



Johnson, C. 1990. "New exotic species of Corticariinae (Col.: Latridiidae)." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 102, 11–16.

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