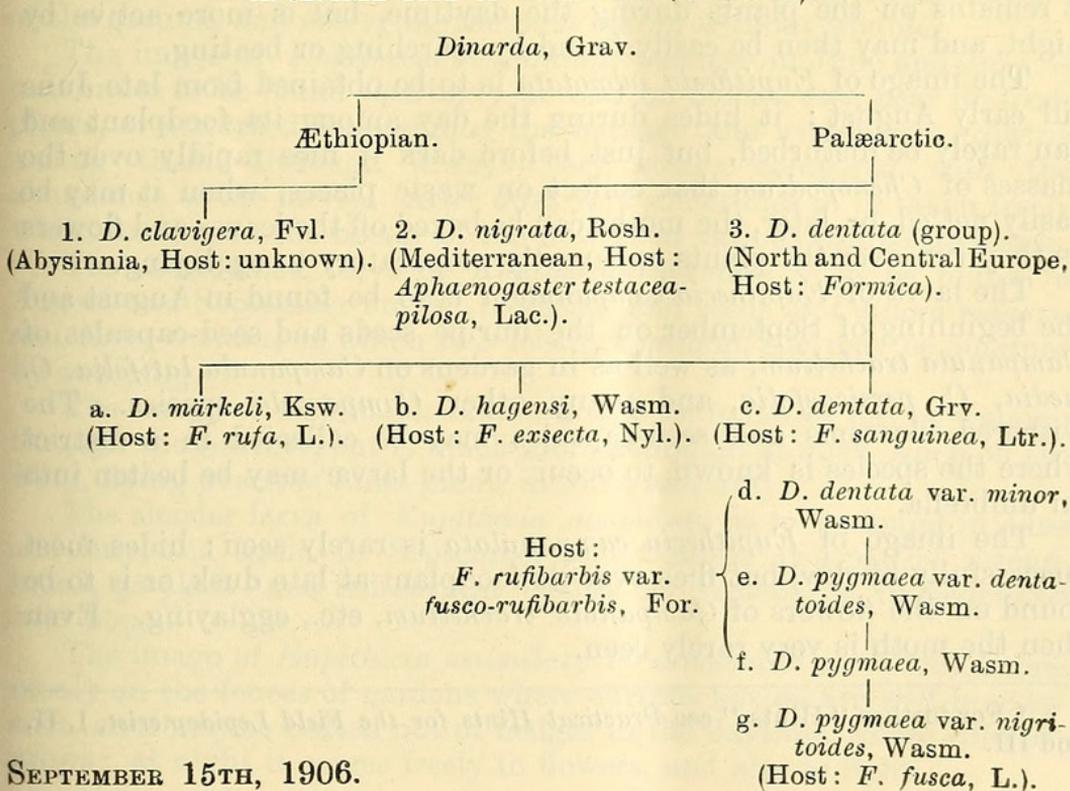


Dinarda pygmaea, Wasmann (Deutsch. Ent. Zeit., 1894, p. 277), a species of Myrmecophilous Coleoptera new to Britain.

By HORACE ST. J. K. DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.E.S.

Having heard that it has been asserted that *Dinarda hagensi* is the same species as *D. dentata*, or at least, as the beetle taken by Mr. Keys in Cornwall, two or three years back, and which was named *D. dentata* for him, and the ant with which it was taken *Formica fusca*, I compared *Dinarda hagensi* with my Woking specimens of *Dinarda dentata*, and of course, found them distinct species, as I had done before with my Wellington College *D. dentata*. It then occurred to me that I had got a specimen of Mr. Keys' insect which he had kindly given me, and which I had put into one of my "ants'-nest drawers." On comparing this with *D. hagensi* and *D. dentata*, I found it was quite distinct from both of them, so I at once sent it to Father Wasmann, and told him it had been taken with *Formica fusca*; also that *Atemeles paradoxus* had been taken in the same nests both by Mr. Keys and myself. He returned it to me as *Dinarda pygmaea*, Wasmann. He pointed out, however, that *Atemeles paradoxus* does not occur with *Formica fusca* (and neither, of course, does *Dinarda dentata*), but both it and *Dinarda pygmaea* are found with *Formica rufibarbis* var. *fusco-rufibarbis*, For. Mr. Keys, on hearing from me, went to get some of the ants, and he sent me specimens from three of the nests, which I sent on to Father Wasmann, and they are all *Formica rufibarbis* var. *fusco-rufibarbis*, For. This is exactly what was to be expected, as true ants'-nest beetles are exceedingly constant in keeping to their own hosts, a point which one begins to appreciate after a good many years collecting in ants' nests, and which I should like to impress upon coleopterists. When one does get a species away from its own hosts, it is only by chance, and singly. The following is a table showing the relationship of the *Dinarda* family and their hosts:—

ANCESTRAL TYPE OF DINARDINII (UNKNOWN).





Donisthorpe, Horace St. John Kelly. 1906. "Dinarda pygmaea Wasmann, a species of myrmecophilous Coleoptera new to Britain." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 18, 217-217.

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