

XVII. *On Macropsebium Cotterilli and other new species of Coleoptera, from Lake Nyassa.*
By H. W. BATES, F.L.S., Pres. Ent. Soc.

(Read June 5th, 1878.)

MR. H. B. COTTERILL, who has recently returned from a prolonged visit to Lake Nyassa, and who was the companion of Captain Elton on his adventurous journey of exploration overland from Lake Nyassa to Zanzibar, collected a few insects during his leisure hours in these little known regions. One of them, which he has kindly added to my collection, is a remarkable new form of Longicorn beetle, allied to *Necydalis*, but of gigantic size for this group, and showing Prionid affinities in the separation of the epistome. I venture to submit a description of this interesting insect, adding those of four other species from the same region, taken by other travellers.

Anthia vitticollis.

A. omostigmæ (Chaud.) affinis. Minus convexa, nigra vix nitida, thorace vitta antico-laterali elytrorumque margine flavo-tomentosis; elytris punctulato-striatis, interstitiis vix convexis sparsim setifero-punctulatis.

♂. Thorace postice bilobato-producto, antice paulo rotundato-dilatato ibique quam lobis vix latiori.

♀. Thorace breviter cordato, angulis anticis distincte productis.

Long. 20—24 lin.

A fine and distinct species, belonging to the group with spotted thorax, and differing from *A. thoracica* in the spot not being broad and rounded but narrow and vittiform, as in *A. omostigma*. The shape of the thorax is also very different, the anterior dilated part in the ♂ being but slightly rounded and not much broader than the posterior lobes. These latter, in fully developed examples, are oblique at the apex, the external angle acute, and the central dividing line deeply cleft. The ♀ is distinguished also by the sides of the thorax being

gently rounded and gradually narrowed posteriorly, with the anterior angles much advanced beyond the anterior margin.

Lake Nyassa; apparently abundant. Sent home in large numbers by Mr. Thelwall.

Anthia alternata.

A. Fornasinii (Bert.) affinis, at differt elytrorum interstitiis alternatim griseo-pubescentibus. Niger, capite thoraceque grosse sparsim punctatis, hoc (ut in *A. Fornasinii*) antice fortiter subangulatim dilatato, postice sinuatim fortiter angustato et declivi; elytris versus basin angustatis, humeris nullis, versus medium valde rotundato-dilatatis; interstitiis alternatim griseo-pubescentibus.

Long. 21 lin. ♂, ♀.

Von Harold has recently described an allied species, *A. Hildebrandti*, from Zanzibar, as having the alternate interstices of the elytra higher and broader; but in this all the interstices are smooth, with the exception of the usual lateral punctures near the striæ. In *A. alternata* the interstices 1 (sutural), 3, 5, 7, are elevated, widened and glabrous, whilst the alternate ones and the lateral margin are depressed, narrow and densely covered with yellow-grey hairs arising from punctures.

Lake Nyassa (or R. Shiré?). Brought by Mr. E. D. Young from his Expedition of 1867. It appears not to have been met with by recent collectors on Lake Nyassa.

Plocæderus hamifer.

Oblongus, latus, robustus, nigro-fuscus, palpis, pedibus et antennis piceo-rufis; his (♂) corpore plusquam duplo longioribus, articulo 11^{mo} longissimo, 3^{io} extus valde 4—6 brevius spinosis, 1^{mo} grosse transversim rugato; thorace transverso, transversim irregulariter plicato, spina laterali valida, hamata, tuberculo anteriori conico; elytris subtiliter coriaceis utrinque leviter bicostatis, apice bi-spinosis; corpore subtus fulvo-pubescenti; femoribus grosse transversim rugatis.

Long. 1 in. 8 lin.

A large robust species, brownish-black in colour, opaque except on the elytra, which are faintly shining. The thoracic spines are long, acute and recurved backwards, and the femora are crossed from base to apex with flexuous ridges. The antennæ are more than twice the length of

the body, dark chestnut-red and glabrous; the short, curved, clavate basal joint is transversely ridged like the femora, the 2nd to 6th are sparingly punctured; the 11th joint is slender and nearly one-fourth the length of the entire antenna.

Lake Nyassa. From Mr. E. D. Young.

Callichroma Nyassæ.

Gracile, cyaneum vel viridi-æneum, supra nitidum, subtus argenteo-sericeum, femoribus et tibiis 4 anticis (his basi exceptis) femoribusque posticis dimidio basali, rufis; antennis ♂ corpore longioribus, articulo basali apice extus spinoso, tertio sequenti paulo longiori, 3—10 lateraliter sulcatis, apiceque subtus incrassatis; thorace medio lævi, lateribus subtiliter sparsim striatis; elytris elongato-subparallelis subtiliter punctulatis et minute strigulosis, sed nitidis, glabris; femoribus posticis abdomine paulo longioribus, gradatim clavatis.

♀ Antennæ corpore vix breviores.

Variat: tibiis omnibus femoribusque posticis chalybeo-nigris; elytris lateribus violaceis.

Long. 9—10 lin.

A moderately narrow and elongate species, differing from the typical *Callichromæ* in the slightly clavate hind femora. The other characters are those of the genus, and the hind tibiæ are compressed and flexuous along their upper edge as in the typical species. The head is nearly smooth, having only a few faint longitudinal striæ. The thorax is rather longer than is the rule in the genus; the lateral spine less acute, and the other lateral prominences wanting. The anterior and posterior transverse constrictions also are very slight and marked only by a few fine furrows. The scutellum is scutiform and nearly smooth.

Lake Nyassa. From Mr. Thelwall's collection.

MACROPSEBIUM, nov. gen. (Sub-fam. *Necydalinæ*.)

Gen. *Psebio* (Pascoe) proxime affine. *E maximis* hujus subfamilie. Corpus elongato-oblongum, supra planatum. Caput exsertum; epistoma brevissimum, a fronte suturâ profundâ separatum, fere articulatum; oculi supra (♂) separati, minus subtiliter granulosi; palpi graciles, articulis terminalibus lineari-compressis. Antennæ (♂) corpore dimidio longioribus, articulis 3—11 subæqualibus, in laminas lineares compressis; 1^{mo} brevi, crasso, difformi.

Thorax inæqualis, lateribus grosse unituberculatis. Elytra abbreviata (metathorace vix longiora) apice angustata, singulo fere triangulum formanti, apice unispinoso. Pedes compressi; tibiæ anticæ curvatae; posticæ flexuosæ.

A remarkable African form of *Necydalis*, agreeing with the typical genus in the non-dilated terminal joints of the palpi, broad and posteriorly tapering mesothoracic episterna, salient anterior coxæ, with atrophied prosternum, and sockets elongated laterally and opened behind. In the excessively short muzzle and very long antennæ it agrees with the genus *Psebius*.

Macropsebius Cotterilli.

Castaneo-rufum, subopacum, elytris castaneo-nigris politis; capite, thorace, antennarumque articulis 2 basalibus obscurioribus; corpore subtus, capite, thorace et scutello, rufo-hirtis; pedibus breviter rufo-pilosis, antennis nudis; elytris supra planis, minutissime punctulatis, bicarinatis.

Long. (ad abdominis apicem) 15 lin. (ad alarum apicem) 18 lin. ♂.

The separation of the epistome from the head in this remarkable species is more complete than in the majority of the *Prionidæ*. The labrum is depressed between the base of the mandibles, and bears two long tufts of rufous hairs. The general colour of the insect is chestnut-red, with the head and thorax rather darker, opaque and minutely reticulate-punctate; the elytra are dark blackish-brown and highly polished, although finely punctured. Each elytron forms a curvilinear triangle, the apex of which at the inner side is prolonged into a stout spine. The ample metasternum is clothed with long, furry, rufous hairs, and similar hairs, but shorter, clothe all other parts of the body except the elytra and the antennæ; the latter being minutely granulate and opaque from the third joint. The excessively flattened antennal joints are slightly dentate at their apices on one side. The abdomen is broad and sessile.

Lake Nyassa. Discovered by H. B. Cotterill, Esq.



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