

XX. *Descriptions of New Species of Cryptoceridæ.* By
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[Read 18th March, 1867.]

THE present communication contains descriptions of four new species of the genus *Cryptocerus*, with references to seven others recently described by Dr. Mayr, and one by Dr. Roger; these, added to those previously enumerated, increase the number of the species of that genus, at present known, to forty-five.

Of the genus *Meranoplus*, three new species are described, increasing the number of that genus to sixteen species; whilst the genus *Cataulacus* is increased to ten species by the new one now added.

The new species of *Meranoplus* are from Champion Bay, Western Australia, only two having been previously described from that country; there can be little doubt that when the ants of that continent are carefully collected, many additional species will be discovered.

The forms of the species of the *Cryptoceridæ* are so varied and eccentric, that it is absolutely necessary to figure each species as well as to describe it; and in those cases in which the three forms are known, I am convinced of the necessity of figuring each sex, the differences between the male, female, and worker being so great, that direct observation of the insects in their formicarium can alone, in the majority of cases, enable naturalists to unite them. Mr. Bates has in this respect added more to our knowledge of this group than any previous traveller. In the Transactions of this Society will be found no less than fifty-two figures illustrative of the species of the *Cryptoceridæ*.

Fam. FORMICIDÆ.

Sub-fam. CRYPTO CERIDÆ.

Gen. CRYPTOCERUS.

1. *Cryptocerus conspersus*, n. sp. (Pl. XXVI. fig. 1.)

C. ater, thorace petioloque spinosis, tibiis femorumque apicibus rufo-testaceis, abdomine marginibus ferrugineo.

Worker. Length, $1\frac{1}{2}$ line. Black, and sprinkled with short bright silvery setæ; head wider than the thorax, the sides, before the eyes, broadly pale testaceous; the eyes prominent; the scape and basal joints of the flagellum

ferruginous. Thorax: rounded anteriorly, gradually narrowed posteriorly; the posterior margin of the metathorax deeply emarginate; the sides armed with six teeth; the apical half of the femora rufo-testaceous, as well as the tibiæ and claw-joint of the tarsi. Abdomen; the margins broadly rufo-testaceous; the nodes of the peduncle with a bent spine on each side.

Hab. Amazon.

This most closely resembles the worker of *C. minutus*, but the form of the metathorax will at once show that it is a very distinct species; I have only seen a single specimen, which is in the collection of W. Wilson Saunders, Esq.

2. *Cryptocerus exiguus*, n. sp. (Pl. XXVI. fig. 4.)

C. ater, thorace subspinoso postice bispinoso, capite ante oculos utrinque testaceo.

Worker. Length, $1\frac{1}{2}$ line. Black; the head and thorax with shallow punctures, the punctures having each a silvery white seta; the margins of the head, before the eyes, pale testaceous; the antennæ pale ferruginous. Thorax: the anterior margin rounded; the sides narrowed to the metathorax, with two short spines anteriorly; the metathorax with a short spine on each side at the base, and a longer curved one at the apical angles; the tips of the femora, the tibiæ, and the tarsi, ferruginous. Abdomen ovate, the margin, at the base, slightly pale; the nodes of the peduncle with a short spine on each side.

This species also resembles *C. minutus*, but a reference to the figure will show the difference in the form of the head and the nodes of the peduncle.

Hab. Mexico.

In the collection of W. Wilson Saunders, Esq.

3. *Cryptocerus scutulatus*, n. sp. (Pl. XXVI. fig. 3, 3 a.)

C. rufo-testaceus, capite thoraceque punctatis, abdomine brunneo-maculato.

Worker. Length, $2\frac{1}{3}$ lines. Rufo-testaceous; head wider than the thorax, the margins raised, dish-shaped above; the margins pale and crenulated; the disk with scattered punctures, in each of which is a minute shining seta. Thorax arched anteriorly, and having a short tooth in the middle of the sides, which narrow considerably

towards the metathorax; the sides of the thorax pale; above, regularly punctured, each puncture with a shining seta; legs stout; the tibiæ pale outside. Abdomen: the margins broadly pale-testaceous, finely punctured, the punctures with minute glittering setæ.

Hab. Mexico.

In the collection of W. Wilson Saunders, Esq.

4. *Cryptocerus angulosus*, n. sp. (Pl. XXVI. fig. 7.)

C. niger, thorace spinoso, capite ante oculos utrinque testaceo; antennis pedibusque pallide rufescentibus.

Worker. Length, $1\frac{3}{4}$ line. Black; punctured, each puncture with a short shining pale seta; the margins of the head, before the eyes, and the posterior angles, pale testaceous; the antennæ rufo-testaceous. Thorax: arched in front, and gradually narrowed to the metathorax, which is broadly emarginate posteriorly; the anterior and posterior angles acute; the sides pale testaceous, notched in the middle, with a short tooth in the notch; the tips of the femora, the tibiæ, and tarsi, pale rufo-testaceous. Abdomen ovate, and deeply emarginate in front; the margin pale anteriorly; the nodes of the peduncle produced on each side into a bent spine, which is pale at the tip.

Hab. Mexico.

In the collection of W. Wilson Saunders, Esq.

5. *Cryptocerus angustus*, Mayr, Sitzungsab. kais. Akad. Wissenschaft. 1866, p. 32, ♂.

Hab.———?

In the Museum of Halle.

6. *Cryptocerus crenaticeps*, Mayr, Sitzungsab. kais. Akad. Wissenschaft. 1866, p. 32, fig. 15, ♀.

Hab. Columbia.

In the Museum of Halle.

7. *Cryptocerus patellaris*, Mayr, Verhandl. k. k. zool.-botan. Gesell. Wien, xvi. 907, tab. xx. fig. 15, ♀ (1866).

Hab. Brazil.

8. *Cryptocerus notatus*, Mayr, *ibid.* fig. 16, ♀.
Hab. Brazil.
9. *Cryptocerus hamulus*, Roger, Berl. Ent. Zeitsch.
(1863) sp. 103.
Hab. St. Domingo.
10. *Cryptocerus flavomaculatus*, Mayr, Verhandl. k. k.
zool.-botan. Gesell. Wien, xii. 757. (1862).
Hab. Brazil.
11. *Cryptocerus punctatus*, Mayr, *lib. cit.*, p. 762.
Hab. Amazon.
12. *Cryptocerus spinosus*, Mayr, *lib. cit.*, p. 761.
Hab. Amazon.

Genus MERANOPLUS, Smith.

1. *Meranoplus fenestratus*, n. sp. (Pl. XXVI. fig. 6.)

M. thorace spinoso, quadrimaculato, abdomine ovato.

Worker. Length, 2 lines. Ferruginous, the head and thorax finely shagreened, and with a series of longitudinal carinæ; the thorax with four sub-ovate translucent spots, the posterior pair largest; the anterior margin rounded, the posterior emarginate, with a rounded notch in the middle of the emargination; the anterior angles slightly produced and acute, the posterior spinose, and a minute tooth at the sides a little beyond the middle; the metathorax truncate, and with a long acute spine on each side at the margin; the legs, margins of the head before the eyes, and the antennæ, paler than the body, the club fuscous; the eyes black, the antennæ nine-jointed. Abdomen ovate, and very delicately shagreened; the nodes of the petiole coarsely rugose, the first node sub-ovate, the second transverse; the entire insect thinly sprinkled with erect hairs.

Hab. Champion Bay.

In the British Museum. Captured by Mr. F. H. Du Boulay.

2. *Meranoplus diversus*, n. sp. (Pl. XXVI. fig. 2.)

M. rufo-brunneus, capite thoraceque longitudinaliter rugosis, thorace spinoso; abdomine cordato.

Worker. Length, 3 lines. Reddish-brown; the head rounded behind at the angles, the margins produced anteriorly into a blunt spinose process, the clypeus being sunk into a deep fossulet, and bidentate at the anterior margin, which is deeply emarginate, and fringed with long hairs; the antennæ and legs paler than the body; the antennæ nine-jointed. The thorax with acute lateral angles anteriorly, the sides with two blunt spines; the posterior margin with two short blunt spines in the middle; the metathorax abruptly truncate, with a long acute spine on each side at the margin. Abdomen heart-shaped, and with a black longitudinal spot on the basal segment; the nodes of the petiole rugose, the anterior one wedge-shaped, the second sub-ovate. The insect sprinkled with erect hairs.

Hab. Champion Bay.

In the British Museum. Captured by Mr. F. H. Du Boulay.

3. *Meranoplus dimidiatus*, n. sp. (Pl. XXVI. fig. 8.)

M. capite thoraceque nigris, abdomine castaneo-rufo, antennis pedibusque ferrugineis.

Worker. Length, 2 lines. Head and thorax black, and coarsely punctured; the head longitudinally carinated, with punctures more or less strongly impressed between the carinæ; the tips of the mandibles, the legs, and antennæ ferruginous, the scape more or less obscure above; the lateral margins of the head anteriorly are slightly elevated and obscurely ferruginous. The thorax nearly quadrate above, the anterior margin rounded, and produced laterally into prominent acute angles or spines; at the sides an angular shape or tooth, produced in the middle; the posterior margin emarginate, the lateral angles produced into blunt spines; the metathorax abruptly concave-truncate, with an elongate acute spine on each side in the middle of the lateral margin. Abdomen smooth, shining, chestnut-red; the first node of the petiole subquadrate, the second transverse.

Hab. Champion Bay.

In the British Museum. Captured by Mr. F. H. Du Boulay.

Genus CATAULACUS, Smith.

1. *Cataulacus prætextus*, n. sp. (Pl. XXVI. fig. 5.)

C. capite thoraceque nigris, abdomine obscure ferrugineo, scapo pedibusque ferrugineis.

Worker. Length, 2 lines. Black: reticulated, the abdomen more finely so than the head and thorax; the margins of the head and thorax crenate; the margins of the head, before the eyes, narrowly pale ferruginous, the scape and basal joint of the flagellum of the same colour. Thorax: rounded anteriorly, gradually narrowed to the apex of the metathorax, which is emarginate posteriorly, and terminates at the posterior angles in acute spines; the legs ferruginous, the base of the femora obscure. Abdomen oblong-ovate; the base, with the margins, narrowly testaceous.

Hab. Borneo.

In the collection of W. Wilson Saunders, Esq.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XXVI.

- Fig. 1. *Cryptocerus conspersus*, worker.
 2. *Meranoplus diversus*, worker.
 3. *Cryptocerus scutulatus*, worker.
 4. *Cryptocerus exiguus*, worker.
 5. *Cataulacus prætextus*, worker.
 6. *Meranoplus fenestratus*, worker.
 7. *Cryptocerus angulosus*, worker.
 8. *Meranoplus dimidiatus*, worker.



Smith, Frederick. 1867. "Descriptions of new species of Cryptoceridae."
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