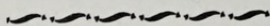


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CONCERNING *APHODIUS AEGROTUS* HORN
AND *APHODIUS GEOMYSI* CARTWRIGHT

OSCAR L. CARTWRIGHT

Emeritus Entomologist, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560

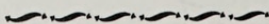
R. E. Woodruff, 1973:83, placed *Aphodius geomysi* Cartwright, 1939:356, in synonymy with *Aphodius aegrotus* Horn, 1870:127. Robert D. Gordon, 1977:8, accepted this synonymy.

For the following reasons I believe this placement to be in error. First, *Aphodius geomysi* has been taken only in Florida in the burrows of *Geomys pinetis* or at lights in the vicinity of such burrows. Second, *Aphodius aegrotus* was described from a single specimen collected in North Carolina, and no *Geomys* are known from north of the Savannah River. Third, the size of *aegrotus* was given as 4 mm. *A. geomysi* measures from 4.2 to 5.0 mm. Fourth, the mesosternum of *aegrotus* was said to be "flat." In *geomysi* the mesosternum is carinate between the coxae. Fifth, the color of *geomysi* is uniform or concolorous; in *aegrotus* the original description states the elytra are paler than the head and pronotum, and the sides of the pronotum paler than the disc. Therefore, I believe the 2 species should be considered separate and distinct.

Unfortunately the holotype of *A. aegrotus* Horn has been lost or destroyed. It cannot be found in either the Philadelphia Academy collection or in the Museum of Comparative Zoology collection. Although the 3 specimens remaining in the Horn Collection under the name *aegrotus* are conspecific with *geomysi*, they were all collected in Florida and added at a later date.

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