

A NEW MEGASOMA FROM ARIZONA

(COLEOPTERA, SCARABAEIDAE)

BY O. L. CARTWRIGHT,¹ *United States National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

The discovery of a new *Megasoma* in the United States is surprising since our only other species of these large beetles, *Megasoma thersites*, was described by Leconte in 1861, over ninety years ago. It is remarkable that so large a beetle has remained undiscovered for so long a time.

The first specimens submitted for determination were collected by Dr. Floyd Werner at night in an Arizona desert area having a shrub cover of mesquite and a sprinkling of Oak, Acacia, and Mimosa. Dr. Werner stated a second pair of the same species had been taken by Mr. F. H. Parker of Globe, Arizona. Mr. Parker generously loaned his specimens and wrote as follows concerning their capture, "Mine were collected on the same night, the male at dusk, on the three-inch trunk of an *Acacia greggii* to which I was fastening one side of my sheet, the female about midnight, about two feet from the sheet, walking on the ground towards my lanterns. This was about one-half mile from the mouth of Browns Canyon (in the canyon) which lies directly east of Baboquivari Peak. We were within one-quarter mile of the adobe building in which O. C. Poling (lepidopterist) lived during the summers that he collected in the Baboquivaris. There is a good deal of mesquite there, but many other trees and shrubs, too, including oak, sycamore, hackberry, *Acacia constricta* and *greggii*, *Condalia*, *Lycium*, ocatillo, many Agave and Opuntia." I am grateful to Mr. Parker for his letter and loan of specimens, and wish especially to thank Dr. Werner both for submitting the first specimens and for his permission to describe and retain the holotype in the U. S. National Museum collection.

A search for possible additional specimens in various museum collections has resulted in the finding of a badly broken male in the U. S. National Museum and a broken female in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard. A description of the new species follows.

***Megasoma punctulatus*, new species**

Male holotype.—Length 26 mm., width 15 mm. Oblong, dull brownish black, the lack of luster due to the fine, dense punctation, upper surface without pubescence. Head about half as wide as pronotum, frontal horn half as long as head, strongly arcuate backward, deeply bifurcate, the

¹Published with the permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

prongs slender, divergent; surface throughout densely, finely, deeply, somewhat roughly, punctate; clypeus thicker anteriorly, the upper edge carinate and nearly straight between two strong prominent, erect, widely-placed, triangular teeth, side margins elevated and strongly arcuate; labrum obscured by a fringe of dense, yellowish hair, through which protrude the sharp tips of the maxillae and the rounded teeth of the bidentate mandibles.

Pronotum convex, twice as wide as long, widest at middle where sides are bluntly angulate; from this point sides extend nearly straight back to the bluntly-rounded, posterior angles and forward to the noticeably-elevated, sharp, right-angled anterior angles, the anterior angles separated by a distance two-sevenths greater than the basal width of the head; pronotal base weakly, evenly arcuate, not margined, lateral bead fine and complete, surface uneven, being depressed inside the anterior angles, weakly explanate laterally and less so basally, more noticeably convex across base at basal fourth and centrally over basal two-thirds; viewed from side in outline, median line of pronotum appears evenly convex from base over basal two-thirds, then concave to anterior margin, surface densely, finely, deeply punctate throughout except for a small, smooth area near edge at middle of lateral margin.

Elytra one-sixth longer than wide, slightly constricted at basal fourth, very slightly wider at middle, surface finely, densely punctate throughout except for the shining, coarse, shallow punctures of the striae and intervals, five costae barely discernible. Scutellum finely punctate.

Undersurface and legs finely, densely punctate and, excepting a small central and two smaller lateral metathoracic spots and the middle of the abdomen and legs, covered by moderately-dense, decumbent whitish hair. Pygidium thinly, sparsely covered with semi-erect, whitish hair.

Tarsi long and slender, noticeably longer than tibiae which are subequal or slightly shorter than femora. Anterior tibiae strongly tridentate, second tooth about one-third closer to anterior than to medianly-placed, posterior tooth. Anterior spurs acuminate, strongly arcuate, two or three short heavy setae each side basally.

Female allotype.—Length 29 mm., width 16 mm. Similar to male, but much more shining and with different sculpture. Head as in male, but with horn replaced by a low, quite sharply rounded tubercle, surface somewhat more confused punctate-rugose behind tubercle, especially laterally, and with a median, smooth, basal area. Pronotum of usual shape, anterior angles somewhat depressed and not remote from head, surface with close, very coarse, deep punctures throughout, punctures separated by one to two diameters over most of disc, slightly smaller anteriorly and at sides where they tend to merge into groups and lines. Elytra shining and smooth, but with three types of punctures, basal disc with larger punctures of striae and intervals only very moderate in size, separated by three, four, or more diameters, these interspersed with very distinct, fine punctures; finally, more noticeably outward toward the sides and apex, with very close, faint, shallow, minute punctation. Larger

punctures become obsolete outwardly as minute punctation becomes more noticeable; costae barely traceable through shallow, outer striae of each elytron. Scutellum smooth. Pygidium transversely, strongly convex over basal third, strongly concave over remainder; basal third closely, finely punctate, less closely over middle third, and apically with increasingly very close, minute punctures; basal third with moderately close, semi-erect yellowish hair, apical two-thirds with a very few, scattered, erect hairs. Pubescence of underside yellowish and not so closely decumbent.

Paratypes.—Paratypes differ in that one male specimen is heavier and more fully developed than holotype, frontal horn being about as long as length of head, bifurcation about one-third its total length; pronotum at anterior third bearing a sharp, median, anteriorly-directed horn or tubercle, behind this, at basal third, a small, smooth, impunctate area, and lateral margin having a slight, depressed emargination before middle. Length of this specimen 33 mm., width 19 mm. Female paratypes vary from 27 to 31 mm. long and 16 to 17 mm. wide.

Holotype, U. S. National Museum No. 61078. Santa Rita Range Reserve, Pima Co., Arizona, 4000 ft., mesquite-desert grassland, 13 Aug. 1949, at light, F. Werner & W. Nutting. Allotype female, 2 mi. SW of Patagonia, Santa Cruz Co., Arizona, rich willow-cottonwood bottom, 4050 ft., 30 July 1948, at light, F. Werner & W. Nutting. Paratypes: ARIZONA: one female same data as holotype; one female, Phoenix, Liebeck Collection, in Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard; one male, Tucson, H. H. Brown, in USNM; one male and one female, Baboquivari Mts., 23 July 1949, F. H. Parker, in Parker Collection.

Megasoma punctulatus is quite near *M. thersites* Lec., but averages smaller in size, lacks the upper surface pubescence of that species, the median pronotal tubercle is not bifurcate in the specimens at hand as in *thersites*, and the median pronotal tubercle of the female is not binodose.

THE CALIFORNIA SPECIES OF MITE-BEARING STENODYNERUS

(HYMENOPTERA, VESPIDAE)

BY RICHARD M. BOHART, *University of California, Davis*

The subgenus *Parancistrocerus* was established by J. C. Bequaert in 1925 (Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. 51: 64) for the American and African species of solitary vespids with a mite chamber under the hind margin of the first abdominal tergite. The originally designated type was the well known eastern species, *Odynerus fulvipes* Saussure. With the nine described below, thirty-five species and subspecies are now known from the United States, and some of these are among the commonest small wasps.



Cartwright, Oscar Ling. 1952. "A new Megasoma from Arizona." *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 54, 36–38.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54979>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/56209>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Entomological Society of Washington

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.