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A NEW MEXICAN SPALACOPSIS

(COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE)

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ABSTRACT—*Spalacopsis* (*Spalacopsis*) **howdeni**, n. sp., is described from central Mexico.

The genera *Spalacopsis* Newman and *Dorcasta* Pascoe are the only members of the Spalacopsini (Lamiinae) that occur north of Central America. *Spalacopsis* is unique in having small circular eyes apparently resulting from the degeneration and loss of the lower lobe and connecting rows of facets, for a separate lower lobe has been observed in the genal region of another species; fimbriated antennal segments and a tapering head, the antennal bases being distal to the eyes which are in turn distal to the mouth parts (fig. 1,B).

To determine relationships within the genus, Mexican and Central American material is being examined to supplement a study of the forms from the West Indies and America north of Mexico. The following new species of *Spalacopsis* (*Spalacopsis*) was discovered while examining undetermined Neotropical specimens of the Entomological Research Institute of Ottawa, Canada.

***Spalacopsis* (*Spalacopsis*) **howdeni**, n. sp.**

*Male.* Antennae slightly longer than the body, sparsely fimbriated beginning with the apex of segment 3, penultimate segment equal to or slightly shorter than the last segment, scape with pubescence decumbent but with some larger recurved hairs, moderately dense but integument easily seen; eyes circular, coarsely fasciated with a single, anteriorly directed seta behind each eye; pubescence of head moderately dense, integument densely punctate and appearing rugose dorsally; pro-

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Fig. 1

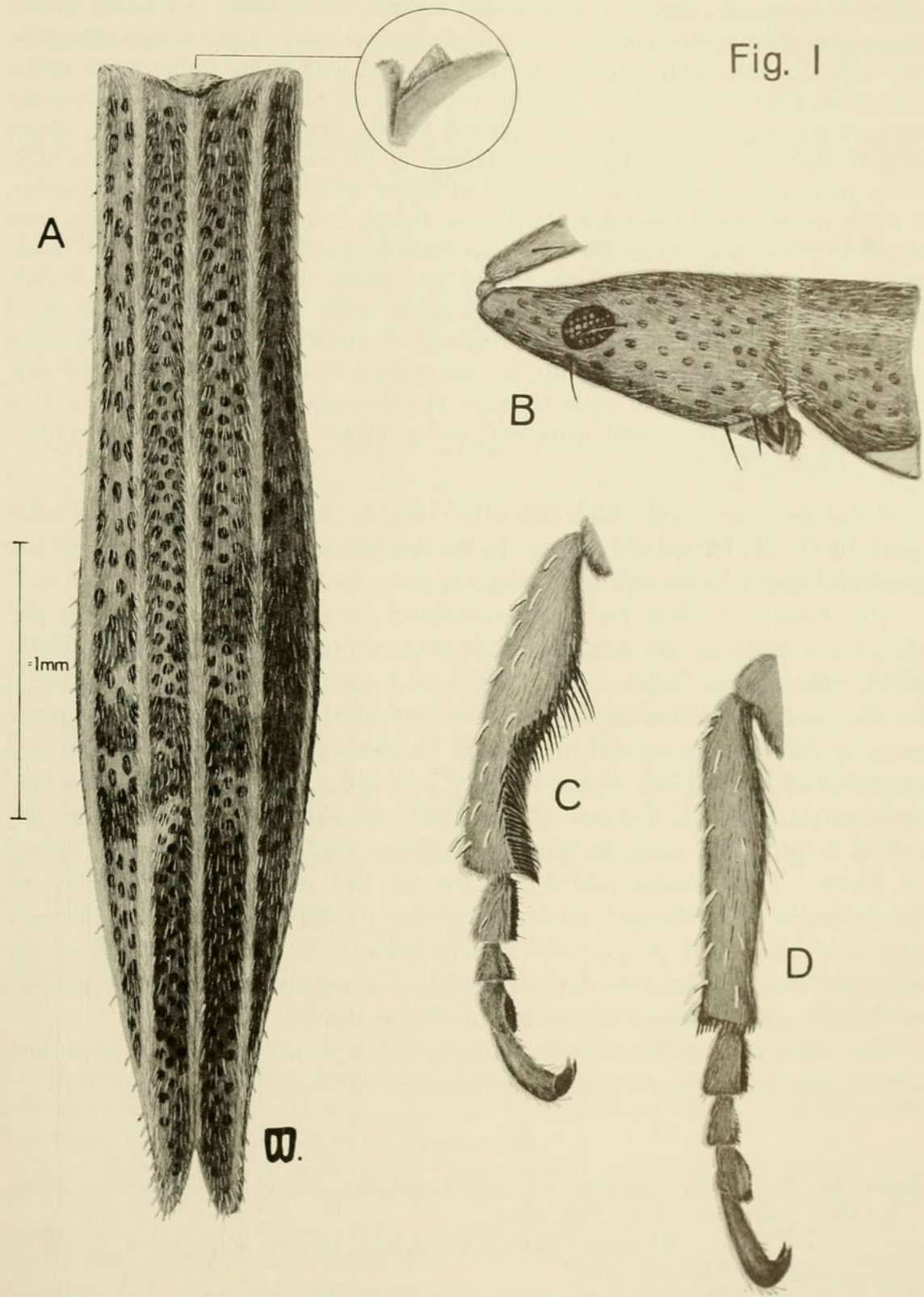


Fig. 1. *Spalacopsis* (S.) *howdeni*, n. sp.: A, dorsal view of elytra; B, lateral view of head; C, mesal view of protibia and tarsi; D, mesal view of metatibia and tarsi.



notum cylindrical, elongate with a small, smooth, ovoid callus at middle, pubescence brownish at middle with a vague white line on each side; scutellum triangular but with the apical end directed dorsally, covered with white pubescence; apterous; elytra fused, costae elevated with a sutural, 2 discal and a lateral costa present on each elytron, elytra widest just beyond middle, then tapering to apex, apices slightly prolonged and asymmetrical (typical of the subgenus), pubescence moderate, punctation easily seen, basal area of elytra with lighter hairs on the costae, a white patch laterally at apical third, some lighter hairs on first discal costa from apical third to apex, apical third of elytra with irregular integumental dark markings; legs with pubescence dark, femora and tibiae with many recurved white setae, protibia with a groove at ventral apical third and this groove margined with a large comb of dark setae from ventral third to apex (fig. 1,C), mesotibia similar to protibia, metatibia with an apical setal fringe (fig. 1,D); tarsal segments 1-3 with pubescent pads beneath, apical segment as long or longer than first 2 segments, claws apical, divergent; under surface of body yellow-grey pubescent. Length, 6.5 mm.

Holotype male, EL SALTO DE AGUA, S.L.P., MEXICO, 23-24-VIII-1960 (H. Howden). Type to be deposited in the collection of the Entomological Research Institute, Ottawa, Canada.

This species differs from all examined forms of *Spalacopsis* in the shape and size of the scutellum. It differs from *similis* Gahan (1892:260), *phantasma* Bates (1885:371), and *protensa* Pasco (1871:278), by the less dense fimbriations of the antennal segments and the presence of dark integumental markings. It further differs from *similis* and *protensa* in having the elytra slightly inflated. Although similar in size and shape to *fusca* Gahan (1892:260), it differs in the lack of the raised impunctate area on the sides of the disc of the elytra as found in *fusca*. The integumental pattern of the elytra is suggestive of *Spalacopsis* (*Euthuorus*) *variegata* Bates (1880:129), but the densely punctate head and pronotum (nearly smooth in *variegata*) will easily separate them. The fused elytra will also separate this species from *variegata* and all other members of the subgenus *Euthuorus*.

The author takes pleasure in naming this species for Henry Howden, whose specimens have proven invaluable in this study.

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