

A NEW TORTOISE BEETLE FROM TEXAS (COLEOPTERA, CASSIDINAE).

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In 1901 Spaeth (Zool.-Bot. Gesell. Wien, Verhandl. 51: 346) established the generic names *Orectis* for *Cassida rugosa* Boh., 1854, of Mexico and *Parorectis* for *Cassida callosa* Boh., 1854, of Texas. The types of both generic names are thus automatically fixed, and since *Parorectis* was proposed as a subgenus of *Orectis* no question of precedence remained when he disregarded these subgeneric distinctions in his 1914 catalog. From this catalog the first name was adopted for use in our records (Barber, 1916; Leng, 1920), but samples have been very infrequently received by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine and much remains to be learned. A pale form collected at Carrizo Springs, Texas, by Harrison, in the course of a special survey conducted by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in the vicinity of ports of entry, attracts attention by the almost total suppression of the elytral tubercles and infusate markings, so that it was mistaken for *Gratiana pallidula*. The five specimens were found on leaves of string bean, but this was noted by the collector as "probably accidental," and since samples of *O. callosa* have been found breeding on *Physalis* or feeding on *Solanum* it is surmised that a similar host association will be proven normal for the new form. Samples of *callosa* are from several localities in Texas, Florida, and South Carolina. The apparent scarcity of the latter species is probably due to collectors' neglect of the host plant, and perhaps also to its being mistaken for small-sized individuals of the rough-backed tortoise beetles of potato or eggplant, *Plagiometriona clavata* in the East and *P. diversicollis* in the Southwest; but in the latter genus the claws are broadened at base into a large lamelliform tooth, and the prothoracic carina surrounding the retracted head is not abruptly interrupted behind the eye to receive the retracted antenna. In *Orectis* the claws appear simple, but under sufficient magnification a finely crenulate carina on each side of the under surface becomes visible.

Orectis sublaevis, n. sp.

Broadly oval, pale brown without dark markings, the last two antennal segments infusate; surface shining and smooth except for the very coarse strial punctures on the elytra, these

punctures unevenly spaced due to vestiges of the obsolescent tubercles occupying the same relative positions as the prominent ones in *O. callosa*. Pronotal disc as in *callosa* but without the pair of round infusate spots near the scutellum, the disc convex, a small transverse prescutellar depression and large rounded ill-defined depressions over the eyes and near the hind angles. Basal margin of elytra strongly crenulate from the scutellum to opposite the hind angles of the pronotum. Length 5.2–5.5 mm., width 4.0–4.2 mm.

Type locality.—Carrizo Springs, Tex.

Type and four paratypes. United States National Museum No. 57962. Another paratype in the collection of the Ohio State University is labeled, "Davis Mts. Tex. VII. 9, J. W. Green, W. H. Wenzel Collection."

Minute Pirate Bug Notes.—An *Anthocoris musculus* (Say) was observed while feeding on a male aphid, *Clavigerus smithiae* (Monell), on a willow twig at Riverdale, Weber County, Utah, on October 3, 1942. The writer has also collected *musculus* at American Fork, July 25, 1940, Ogden, October 3, 1942, and in Logan Canyon, in Utah.

Anthocoris melanocerus Reuter was observed to feed on a pea aphid, *Macrosiphum pisi* (Kalt.), in an aphid-infested alfalfa field at Moab, Utah, June 26, 1943, near willows and poplars. Predacious insects were abundant in this field, 162 pea aphids, 2 *A. melanocerus*, a convergent ladybird beetle, 3 *Nabis alternatus* Parsh, 2 predacious *Collops* beetles, 3 *Orius tristicolor* (White), 1 adult and 2 larval Chrysopidae were taken in 5 sweeps of the insect net. *A. melanocerus* also has been collected at Logan, July 22, 1940, Wallsburg, Provo, Altamont and Beaver Canyon, in Utah; also Logan Canyon, Utah, July 20, 1940 (Knowlton-D. G. Hall); Liberty Canyon, Utah, July 5, 1940 (Knowlton-F. C. Harmston); feeding on the aphid *Periphyllus americanus* Baker on Sycamore maple at Logan, Utah, October 1, 1941; feeding on *Eriosoma americana* (Riley) at Hyrum, Utah, June 1942; abundant in leaves folded by *Thecabius populi-conduplicifolius* (Cowen) at Naples, Utah, July 25, 1945. At Maeser in Uintah Basin, one was found to be feeding on a small pear-shaped aphid, *Pseudoeopameibaphis glauca* G.-P. which was numerous on sage, beneath a large poplar tree which was heavily infested with *Pemphigus* aphids and their galls.

Anthocoris antevolens White was collected at Logan, Utah, June 21, 1941.—G. F. KNOWLTON, Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah.



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