

NOTES ON SOME HISPINI AND CASSIDINI AND
DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES

(Coleoptera, Chrysomelidæ)

BY CHAS. SCHAEFFER

*Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York**Anisostena arizonica* Schaeffer, new sp.

Form and size of *nunnenmacheri*; color of upper surface reddish castaneous with more or less distinct dark metallic tint; underside dark metallic, legs and antennæ reddish, three intervals on each elytron distinctly costate. Head dull, alutaceous, with a few scattered punctures on each side of the deep frontal impression. Prothorax about as long as wide at base, sides scarcely arcuate and feebly narrowing to apical angles which are rather indistinct, basal angles distinct, disk closely and coarsely punctate. Elytra wider than prothorax at base, humeri obliquely rounded, three intervals on each side distinctly costate, the serial punctures between these coarse and close; lateral and apical margins entire, not serrate. Ventral segments subopaque, each with a transverse row of very fine punctures near apical margin. Length: 3 mm.

Arizona.¹

The darker coloration of upper and under side, each elytron distinctly tricostate, and the more densely punctate pronotum separates this species from *nunnenmacheri*, the only one of our species with which it could be confused. *A. nigrita* is a larger species with relatively stouter antennal joints and larger elytral punctures.

Anisostena texana Schaeffer, new sp.

Near *ariadne* in color and form, but the red color of prothorax is darker, the elytra are slightly narrower and a little longer, the first interval is feebly convex but not costate except apically, the second subcostate and the third narrow and acute; the space separating the serial punctures from each other, is not raised as in *ariadne*; the prothorax is longer and the third antennal joint is more elongate in *texana*. Length: 4.25 mm.

Brownsville, Texas, (O. Dietz).

This species is rather close to the Arizona specimens which the late Julius Weise doubtfully determined as *funesta* Baly, of

¹ Types of new species in collection of the author.

which one specimen has a very obscure reddish prothorax without metallic tint, except being darker along anterior margin as usual in the species with reddish prothorax. However, the prothorax in *texana* appears to be a little longer, the sides from an anterior view feebly diverging basally — in these *funesta* slightly converging — otherwise the sculpture of prothorax and elytra is nearly alike in both.

Anisostena kansana Schaeffer, new sp.

Head, underside and legs black with faint metallic tint; prothorax red; elytra bright bluish green. Head opaque, with the usual frontal impression. Prothorax at base as wide as long, sides moderately arcuate, slightly narrowing from about middle to apical angles which are feebly distinct; disk irregularly punctate, punctures almost absent at middle, a little more numerous at sides and base. Elytra a little wider than the prothorax at base, humeri obliquely rounded, lateral margins not serrate, apical margins feebly and distantly serrate; first and second elytral intervals, between the geminate rows of punctures, rather flat, the second convex apically, the third narrow, carina-like. Metasternum with a few punctures, ventral segments impunctate, except the last which is distinctly punctate. Length: 5 mm.

Medora, Kansas (W. Knaus).

The wider pronotum, with slightly more arcuate sides and sparser irregular punctuation, also the bright blue color of elytra with the first interval flat, and the second nearly so, distinguish this species from those that are bicolored above.

ANISOSTENA BICOLOR Smith

This species, described and recorded so far only from New Mexico, occurs also in Arizona.

ANOPLITIS ROSEA Weber

This species does not seem to be well recognized as I have seen it usually mixed in collections with *inæqualis*. The color and markings are the same and are as variable as in the latter; the antennæ in *rosea*, even in the darker specimens, are apparently always pale, in *inæqualis* usually black in the dark as well as pale specimens, though occasionally a specimen is found with pale antennæ. The elytra are very distinctly and rather suddenly dilated near apex in *rosea* as in *Baliosus ruber* and the apices are more broadly and feebly rounded than in *inæqualis*; the third costa is more distinctly arcuately elevated near apex and the second costa unites apically with the third in a

rather broad arc, in *inæqualis* usually when connected, in a more or less acute point.

The specimens with black or piceous elytra and the apex more or less pale are var. *philemon*.

It is not a rare species but apparently as common as *inæqualis*, at least in certain localities.

Anoplitis ancoroides Schaeffer, new sp.

Flavous, head posteriorly, antennæ, lateral margins of pronotum narrowly and a short, oblique, more or less distinct line on each side of middle black; elytral suture bluish black from the scutellum to about middle, dilated at its apex on each side into a short branch, reaching to and involving the first costa, another short oblique branch is situated on each side a little below the scutellum, slightly above the short apical branch on the second costa is a small obscure spot which is more or less connected with the apical branch producing a somewhat anchor-like design, laterally near apex are three small spots and below these from the first costa to the suture an oblique line black. Prothorax nearly parallel-sided to about apical third, thence obliquely narrowing to apex, apical angles produced, sub-acute; surface rather coarsely and densely punctate. Elytra parallel-sided, not wider apically, lateral and apical margins very indistinctly and distantly serrulate; surface with three costiform elevations and four geminate rows of coarse punctures. Body below black or piceous, last ventral segment and legs pale. Length: 3 mm.

Merchantville, New Jersey.

This species looks at first sight like a more feebly marked specimen of the variable *inæqualis*, however, the elytra are not wider apically and the elytral markings are different, that is, the laterally pale specimens of *inæqualis* never have the suture marked as in *ancoroides* but in great part pale.

Brachycoryna lateralis Schaeffer, new sp.

Form and coloration of *longula* but larger, pronotum shining, with punctures less close and usually well separated. Head black with faint greenish tint, on each side of the moderately impressed median line an irregular row of punctures which are more or less longitudinally confluent. Pronotum luteous, wider than long, sides nearly straight and feebly narrowing near apex, surface with moderately large punctures, sparsely placed at middle, more closely at sides and base. Scutellum black. Elytra rather elongate-oval; humeri obliquely rounded; lateral and apical margins not dentate; surface with three costiform intervals and four geminate rows of moderately large punctures; color flavous with two

dark spots on each elytron, one at about apical third near the elevated suture and one, slightly above the latter, on the second elevated interval. Body beneath dark metallic green; legs pale, tarsi black. Length: 2.5 mm.

Fort Collins, Colorado.

This species looks like a larger specimen of *longula* but the pronotum is less densely punctuate and more shining, the elytral punctures are less coarse and the interval between the second and third costæ is nearly equal to that between the third and lateral margin and has two distinct rows of punctures, while in *longula* the interval between the second and third costæ is much wider than between the third costa and lateral margin, and has three or four very confused irregular rows of punctures as in the other species of the genus. The tarsi are formed similar to those of *Stenopodius flavidus*, that is, the third joint is short not dilated nor prolonged on each side and subequal in size to each of the preceding joints.

The tarsal structure of this species somewhat bridges over the difference between *Brachycoryna* and *Stenopodius*.

Stenopodius flavidus texanus Schaeffer, n. var.

Same coloration, form, sculpture of prothorax and elytra as in typical *flavidus*, but slightly smaller, the median prothoracic lobe at anterior margin narrower, the impression between the latter and lateral angles deeper and darker colored, causing the anterior angles and the narrow median lobe to appear more prominent. The ante-scutellar basal lobe is rather indistinct. Length: 3.5 mm.

Brownsville, Texas.

A small number of specimens collected by the late Ottomar Dietz and myself. They were taken by sweeping in and around old and neglected cotton fields.

MICRORHOPALA RUBROLINEATA Mann

The majority of specimens taken in the Huachuca Mountains, Arizona, have the lateral red vitta on each elytron very wide below the humeral callus as in the variety *vulnerata*, in only a few specimens is this vitta narrow, occupying not more than the wider fourth interval as in the California specimens.

MICRORHOPALA RUBROLINEATA VULNERATA Horn

This variety occurs also in New Mexico (Ft. Wingate, Aug.)

The lateral yellowish elytral vitta is reduced in the single specimen from the latter locality to a wide, elongate, humeral spot not quite extending to the middle of the lateral margin.

PENTISPA SUTURALIS VITTULA Weise

This variety, listed in the Leng catalogue, was described from Mexico but apparently does not occur in the United States. It differs from the typical form in the possession of a blue discal vitta on each elytron which is very narrow basally, but becomes very wide apically.

Mr. Julian Weise¹ has placed my *Microrhopala arizonica* as a synonym of *Pentispa suturalis*, possibly correctly so. However, my Arizona specimens do not entirely agree with Baly's description of *suturalis*. The underside and the scutellum of the latter species are said to be black, both distinctly blue in *arizonica*, in the latter there is a dark blue median vitta on the pronotum, variable in length but always present, and lateral margins narrowly dark, the apical and also lateral margins of elytra in about apical third are narrowly blue, all of which is not mentioned in the description of *suturalis*. The apical and lateral margins in typical *suturalis* are apparently reddish like the rest of the surface as Weise says of the variety "auch der Seitenrand (of elytra) ist an der hinteren Aussenecke dunkel gesäumt", so this is apparently not so in typical *suturalis*.

CASSIDA FLAVEOLA Thunb.

A specimen of this European species was collected at Milford, Pa., July 2, by Mr. A. Nicolay, and Mr. Bowdoin has taken specimens near Baltimore, Md., in May, which extends its distribution further south than recorded so far.

CASSIDA NEBULOSA L.

The occurrence of this European species in North America is apparently based on a single specimen received by the late Dr. Horn from A. Bolter and said to have been collected near the Santa Anna River in California. If the specimen really came from California the species does not seem to have gained a foothold there as I am not aware that it has ever been found again. The doubtful New York locality in the Leng catalogue is a specimen of *flaveola* which I had taken at Suffern, New York, and recorded quite some years ago in one of the meet-

¹ Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg. vol. 55, p. 73, 1911.

ings of the N. Y. Entomological Society as being possibly the European *C. nebulosa*.

***Chelymorpha phytophagica luteata* Schaeffer, n. var.**

Differs from typical *phytophagica* in being flavous above with the usual black spots on prothorax and elytra; below flavous except a median fascia on each of the first four ventral segments, also femora at apex and tibiae laterally black. Punctuation and pubescence of upper surface as in typical *phytophagica*. Length: 9 mm.

Tucson, Arizona, August.

This is possibly only an individual color variation, regarding the largely pale underside and legs, the yellowish color above may be due to sexual immaturity. However, it resembles *cassidea lewisi* so closely that it is apt to be mistaken for that form. It differs from the latter in having the upper surface pubescent and the elytral epipleuræ very distinct in its entire length, the epipleuræ in *lewisi* apically is entirely different and formed as in *cassidea* and its two varieties *geniculata* and *17-punctata*.

***Psolidonota texana* Schaeffer, n. sp.**

Rotundate, flavo-testaceous; elytral punctures more or less castaneous, the suture more or less and the post-scutellar sutural gibbosity, reddish; body beneath more or less black, except laterally and ventral segments and legs, which are pale; antennæ pale, last joint black. Prothorax transverse, the base rather feebly sinuate on each side, median lobe broad and truncate; sides straight, oblique; anterior margin broadly arcuate, anteriorly and laterally widely hyaline and reticulate; surface smooth and impunctate. Elytra wider than the prothorax, deeply sinuate on each side of the base, apices conjointly rounded; humeral callus distinct; disc convex, with a rather strong, transverse, post-scutellar gibbosity, and rows of coarse punctures which are irregularly interrupted by smooth elevated spaces, two of these smooth lines extending obliquely from the base of the gibbosity to the lateral hyaline margin or nearly so, producing a more or less distinct wishbone-like pattern; the margins rather widely expanded anteriorly, becoming much narrower apically, subhyaline and reticulate. Length: 8 mm.

Brownsville, Texas.

This is the species identified, I believe, by the late Dr. Horn as *leprosa* and is so listed in our catalogue. However, *leprosa* is a much larger species, 11 mm. in length, has the under side entirely pale and on each elytron, below middle, one oblique

smooth space which becomes much wider externally. It agrees much better with the description of *marmorata* but that species is 9-9.5 mm. in length and has the elytra feebly gibbous, while in *texana* the elytra are rather strongly gibbous and even more suddenly so anteriorly than in *leprosa*, that is, if the outline drawings on plate 10, figs. 1a and 2a of Vol. VI, pt. 2 of the *Biologia* are correct.

WHY PERPETUATE ERRORS?

A number of errors have crept into the nomenclature of our insects that seem to call for a protest. I will mention three here that are already causing confusion in the minds of some of our younger entomologists and the longer they are in use the more difficult it will be to correct them. In 1926 Barnes and Benjamin published in the Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Sciences a Check List of the Diurnal Lepidoptera of America north of Mexico, in which use was made of Hubner's Tentamen, a leaflet not accepted by the International Committee on Zoological Nomenclature. Unfortunately a number of the invalid names there adopted from the Tentamen are being used by some of our California lepidopterists. Another erroneous name for which we are indebted to Barnes and Benjamin is the use of Phalænidæ in place of Noctuidæ. Linnæus used Phalæna as a group name dividing it into a number of what would now be considered as genera, and for none of which did he use his name Phalæna. Lamarck in 1801 was the first to use the name Phalæna in the modern generic sense and he used it for a geometrid moth which thus becomes its type. As a family name it will thus displace the name Geometridæ, and in this sense it was used by Packard and other early entomologists. An error for which we are not indebted to Barnes and Benjamin is the use of Hemiptera in place of Heteroptera by those who split that order. Personally I consider the dividing of this order as illogical as would be the dividing of the order Lepidoptera into Rhopalocera and Heterocera, confining the term Lepidoptera to the diurnals. There is absolutely no justification for the division of either of these orders. Those in doubt on these points should take the time and trouble to look up the history of these names before adopting the change.—E. P. Van Duzee.



Schaeffer, Charles. 1933. "Notes on some Hispini and Cassidini and descriptions of new species (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae)." *The Pan-Pacific entomologist* 9, 103–109.

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