

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *AEGUS* FROM  
THE SOLOMON ISLANDS, WITH REMARKS ON  
OTHER STAGBEETLES

(Coleoptera: Lucanidae)

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The present paper contains the description of a new species of *Aegus* from the Solomon Islands, a characterization of *Ceratognathus tasmanus* Benesh and *C. westwoodi* Thomson, and a rectification of an error made by the writer in an earlier paper.

*Aegus pulverosus* Benesh, new species

This new species is sufficiently distinct that a cursory diagnosis will suffice for identification of the insect. Obovate, strongly convex; of olive-gray aspect, the dorsum being covered with very dense, abbreviated pile (giving the insect a pulverous appearance), intermixed with pronounced reddish-brown tufts.

*Female*.—*Head* transverse, anterior margin straight, angles rounded; sides diverging posteriorly and feebly arcuate to opposite the eyes; head cribripunctate, each puncture bearing a tuft of reddish-brown pile. Eyes large, parallel. Canthus slightly emarginate anterior to the eye and half-way circumscribing the eyes; postocular section converging to occiput. Mandibles shorter than head, laterally keeled, arcuate, apices acute; inner margin of right mandible with a bifid tooth, that of the left with a single, simple tooth; punctured on top and pulverose, apices and inner margins glabrous, black. Antennae stout, ferrugineous, the three terminal segments forming the clava, which is pubescent. *Pronotum* broader than long, anterior margin nearly straight, anterior angles produced and subacute; sides arcuate to lateral angles, which are obtuse, thence semicircularly excised and converging to base, basal angles obtuse, the base broadly arcuate; tufted irregularly throughout with brownish pile, without apparent punctuation. Scutellum invisible, squamose. Elytra broader than long, humeri rounded, sides arcuate, posterior margins rounded; pulverose throughout, with four, broadly spaced lines of brownish tufts, with alternate tufts between. *Legs* fairly stout and short, punctate throughout, pulverose and linearly tufted; anterior tibiae furcate, with three external spines; intermediate and posterior tibiae with one feeble spine at apical third. *Venter* ferrugineous; pro-, meso- and metasternum, inflexed portion of the elytra, and first ventral sternite shining, cribripunctate, the interior of punctures squamose; last four sterna impunctate, pulverose, and tufted. Mentum slightly broader than long, anteriorly and laterally rounded, base straight.

*Male* unknown.

<i>Measurements</i> (in millimeters):	Length	Width
Head .....	1.1	3.0
Pronotum .....	2.6	4.5
Elytra .....	4.1	4.7

*Holotype*: A female from PIVA RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, collected by B. D. Valentine in October, 1944. Deposited in the collection of B. Benesh at Chicago Natural History Museum.

CERATOGNATHUS TASMANUS Benesh and C. WESTWOODI Thomson

I have been asked to elucidate the specific differences between *C. tasmanus* and *westwoodi*, in order to facilitate identification of the two species. I do so herewith, utilizing the description of the first and comparing it with a specimen<sup>1</sup> in my collection, that is definitely determined as *westwoodi*. Incidentally, a specimen that had been received from the Australian Museum under the specific name *westwoodi* (identified by Mr. Oke), proved to be *C. flabel-latus* Boileau, a desideratum of long standing. The differences between the two species can be tabulated as follows:

<i>westwoodi</i>	<i>tasmanus</i>
Mandibles slender, arcuate, inner margins laminate and serratulate.	Mandibles at middle angulate, apices bifid, with two obtuse, distant teeth on top, one on the angulation, the other posterior to the apical fork.
Anterior margin of head produced at middle into a blunt point.	Anterior margin nearly straight, simple. Eyes larger.
Sides of pronotum nearly uniformly arcuate from anterior to basal angles.	Pronotal sides diagonally arcuate to middle, thence parallel to basal angles.
Scutellum longer than broad, uniformly cribripunctate.	Scutellum broader than long; punctuation circumscribed by an impressed line.
Elytra noncostate.	Elytra with a sutural and two lateral costae.

PLATYCERUS CRIBRIPENNIS Van Dyke

This species, described by Dr. Van Dyke as a variety of *P. piceus* Kirby (= *depressus* LeConte), was declared by me to be just a mutant of *P. marginalis* Casey. This opinion was based upon examination of a specimen whose owner asserted that it had been compared with the type and pronounced a good match<sup>2</sup>.

On a recent visit to the California Academy of Sciences I was able, through the kindness of Dr. Van Dyke, to examine the typical specimens and I found them to be distinctive. However, I do not

<sup>1</sup>Taken by the Harvard Australia Expedition on Mt. Kosciusko, New South Wales, 5-7,000 ft., Dec. 12, 1931.

<sup>2</sup>Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. LXXII, p. 173, 1946 (footnote).



consider the insects to be variants of *P. piceus*; I believe that they represent a separate species. *P. cribripennis* differs from *P. piceus* in the conformation of the mandibles, the cribriform sculpture of the pronotum, the more clear cut sculpture (with the walls of the punctures more straight, not sloping as in *P. marginalis*, and in its anthracite black color and higher luster. Specimens of *P. piceus* generally have only the head and pronotum feebly shining and the elytra are more or less opaque.

I take pleasure in rectifying my error, and thank Dr. Van Dyke for having made it possible for me to do so. I also wish to thank Mr. Rupert L. Wenzel, Chicago Natural History Museum, for reading and correcting this manuscript and for valuable suggestions.

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## TWO PALAEARCTIC ORTHOPTERA ESTABLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES

(Mantidae, Tettigoniidae)

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In a lot of several thousand western Orthoptera sent to me for identification from the University of California I found specimens of *Phaneroptera quadripunctata* Brunner and a species of *Iris*. Being unable to arrive at a confident determination of the *Iris* I sent specimens to Dr. B. P. Uvarov of the British Anti-Locust Centre, who has made extensive study of the genus. He informs me that the mantis is *Iris oratoria* (L.) and also reassures me on the identification of the *Phaneroptera*. Specific records are:

### IRIS ORATORIA (LINNAEUS)

Brawley, Calif., VII-11-1950, at light, 3 ♂ (K. W. Tucker); Imperial Valley, Calif., 1950, 2 ♂; Shafter, Calif., IX-6-48, 1 ♀ (R. V. C. Bosch) Sanger, Fresno County, X-14-50, 1 ♂ (O. G. Bacon); Palm Springs, VI-11-1940, 2 immature specimens (N. Reynolds); Palms to Pine Highway, 1000, V-24-1940, 1 immature (F. H. Rindge); Cathedral City, VIII-14-50, 1 ♂ (L. W. Isaak); Beaumont, VII-4-47, 1 ♀.

This mantis can be distinguished at once by the two tubercles on the frontal disc and the small spines at the tip of the middle and hind femora. Superficially it resembles a species of *Stagmomantis*.

### PHANEROPTERA QUADRIPUNCTATA BRUNNER

Mountain View, Calif., Sept. 9 - Nov. 29, 1941, 4 ♂ and 1 ♀ (Kenneth Frick); IX-13-43, 1 ♀ (K. Frick); Niles, Calif., IX-16-32, 1 ♂.



Benesh, Bernard. 1952. "Description of a new species of Aegus from the Solomon Islands, with remarks on other stagbeetles (Coleoptera: Lucanidae)." *The Pan-Pacific entomologist* 28, 136–138.

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