A new species of the genus *Cryptopleurum* Muls. from Central America

(Coleoptera, Hydrophilidae)

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Cryptopleurum Mulsant is a rather small genus of the terrestrial hydrophilid beetles belonging to the subfamily Sphaeridiinae, tribe Megasternini. It is almost worldwide distributed (it seems to be missing in the Australian region) and includes about 20 species at present. Only 1 species, *C. impressum* Sharp, has been known from the New World, south of the United States border (Mexico).

During my work on the revision of the subfamily Sphaeridiinae of America north of Mexico, I had the opportunbity to study a short series of a new species of this genus from the Panama Canal Zone. This is the first strictly neotropical species of *Cryptopleurum*.

In the following, I present the description of this distinctive new species and a key to the 2 New World species of *Cryptopleurum* known to occur south of the United States border.

Cryptopleurum tenue, new species

Rather narrowly oval, convex, shiny; dark rufobrunneous with head darker (except clypeus), elytra gradually becoming paler apically; an indistinct vague darkening of lateral portions of elytra in about basal third present in most specimens; palpi and antennae testaceous; legs darker testaceous with paler tarsi; undersides rufobrunneous with more or less darker, sometimes almost piceous, sterna. Head with extremely fine punctation, intervals between punctures on vertex distinctly larger than diameter of punctures; surface without microsculpture; suture separating clypeus very fine, narrowly interrupted in middle, punctation of clypeus slightly denser. Pronotum transverse, narrowed in front, punctation sparser and slightly coarser than that on head, surface without microsculpture. Each elytron with sutural stria and 9 striae; striae 1-5 not at all impressed in basal half, rather indistinct, represented merely by serial punctures which are only slightly coarser than punctures on intervals; striae gradually becoming slightly impressed towards elytral apex; in general striae 6 and 7 weak and indistinct; 6th stria rudimentary, very indistinct and formed only by few punctures, however, not fused with 7th stria; striae 8 and 9 developed as in other species of this genus, but again fine and inconspicuous; intervals with fine and rather sparse punctation, surface without microsculpture; both strial and interval punctures bearing golden-yellow hairs which gradually become more distinct towards elytral apex. No secondary sexual characters on 5th visible abdominal sternite. Prosternum finely rugose, subopaque. Mesosternum coarsely and rather densely punctate, no microsculpture between punctures. Elevated middle portion of metasternum not impressed, finely and sparsely punctate; surface without microsculpture. Aedoeagus and genital segment as in Figs. 4-6.

Length 1.25-1.30mm; width 0.75mm.

Holotype (male) and allotype (female): "Ft. Clayton C.Z. 1.-21.45" "Pres. by K. E. Frick Collector." Deposited in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.

Paratypes: 1♂ and 1♀, same data as the holotype. Deposited in the same collection as the holotype, and in the Canadian National Collection, Ottawa.

Etymology: The specific name is the Latin adjective *tenuis, -e* (fine); it refers to the fine

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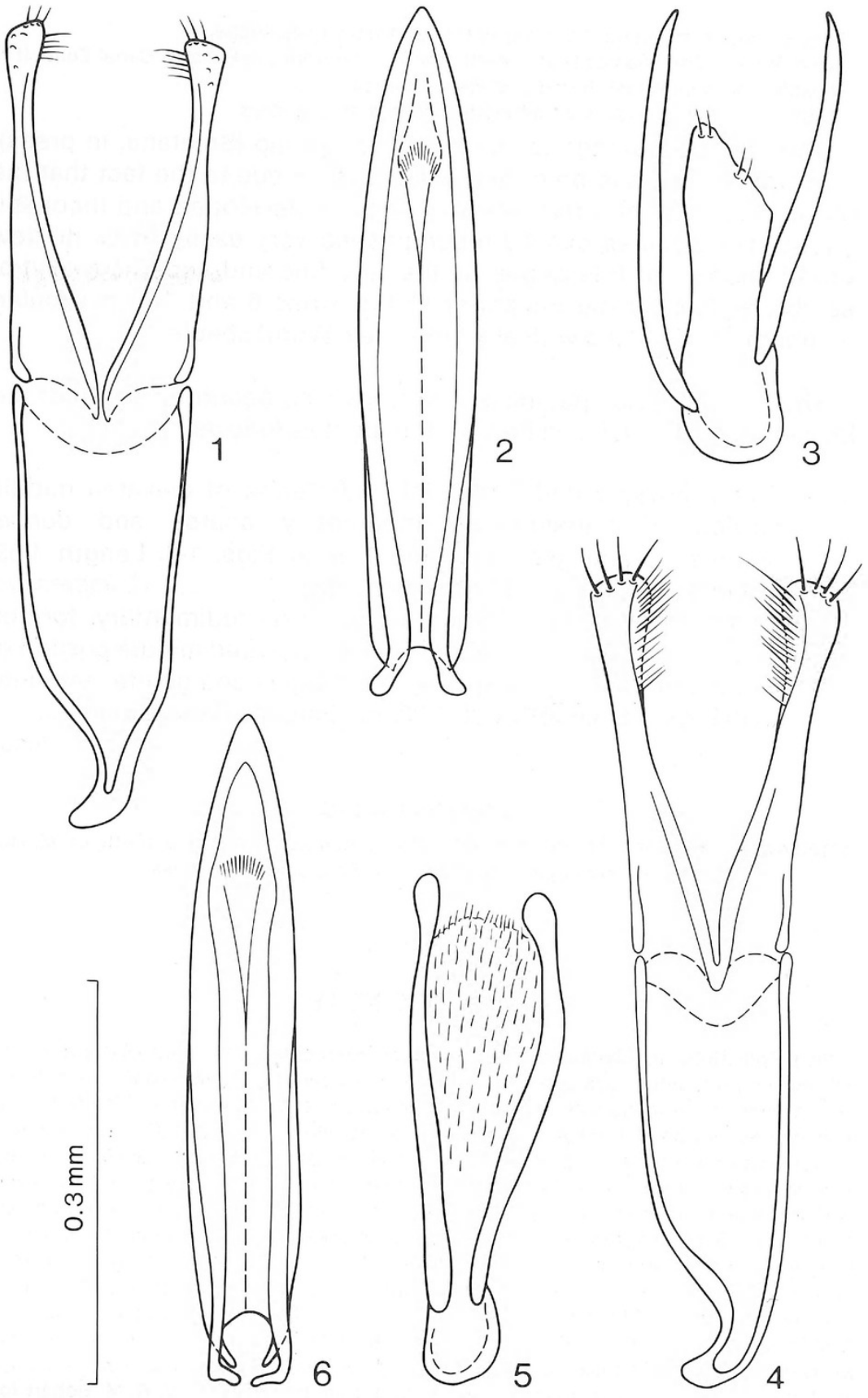

Figs. 1-3. *Cryptopleurum impressum.* Fig. 1. Tegmen with parameres. Fig. 2. Median lobe. Fig. 3. Genital segment. Figs. 4-6. *Cryptopleurum tenue.* Fig. 4. Tegmen with parameres. Fig. 5. Median lobe. Fig. 6. Genital segment.

elytral sculpture and to the relatively narrow and small body shape.

Distribution: The species is at present known only from the Panama Canal Zone. It is probably more widely distributed in Central America.

Bionomics: Nothing is known about the habits of this species.

The species belongs to the *impressum* group (Smetana, in press); however, it seems to be rather isolated there due to the fact that the 6th and 7th elytral striae are only vaguely developed and inconspicuous. The species can be distinguished very easily from all New World species of this genus by the very fine and superficial elytral sculpture, and by the indistinct elytral striae 6 and 7 in particular. It cannot be confused with any other New World species.

The 2 New World species of *Cryptopleurum,* occurring south of the United States border, can be distinguished as follows:

1 (2) Elytral striae 6 and 7 distinct. Punctation of elevated middle portion of metasternum moderately coarse and dense. Aedoeagus and genital segment as in Figs. 1-3. Length 1.50-1.60mm. Mexico and Southern Arizona . . . . . *C. impressum*

2 (1) Elytral striae 6 and 7 indistinct, 6th stria rudimentary, formed only by few punctures. Punctation of elevated middle portion of metasternum fine and sparse. Aedoeagus and genital segment as in Figs. 4-6. Length 1.25-1.30mm. Panama Canal Zone. . . . . *C. tenue*

Literature Cited

Smetana, A. Revision of the subfamily Sphaeridiinae of America north of Mexico (Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae). Mem. Ent. Soc. Canada, in press.

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

Prey Specificity in Clypeadon (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae).—In 1962 (Behaviour, 19: 239-260) I reported that each species of *Clypeadon* appears to prey upon only one species of harvester ant, sometimes rejecting other species in the close vicinity. The following new records may be of interest. In Larimer Co., Colorado, *C. laticinctus* (Cresson) appears to prey only on worker *Pogonomyrmex occidentalis* Cresson (as it does elsewhere), hardly a surprising fact since these are the only members of their respective genera occurring in north central Colorado. At Hasty, Bent Co., in southeastern Colorado, I have taken *C. dreisbachi* Bohart capturing worker *P. rugosus* Emery at their nest entrances, thus confirming a similar record from Zacatecas, Mexico. At Tornillo, El Paso Co., Texas, in May 1974, I took a female *C. utahensis* (Baker) taking workers at a nest entrance of *P. californicus* (Buckley). This wasp had previously been reported preying upon *P. barbatus* (Smith) in California. The Texas record is from the eastern extremity of the range of both wasp and prey, and it is possible that in this area *C. utahensis* replaces the usual predators on *P. californicus* (e.g. *Listropygia bechteli* Bohart). I am indebted to Dr. R. M. Bohart for identifying the *Clypeadon* and to Dr. A. C. Cole for identifying the *Pogonomyrmex*. — **HOWARD E. EVANS,** *Department of Zoology and Entomology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523.*