

FOUR NEW SPECIES OF AUSTRALIAN DRYOPIDAE.

By H. J. CARTER, B.A., F.E.S., and E. H. ZECK.

(Plate xiv.)

SIMSONIA BROOKSI *n.sp.*

(Plate xiv., figs. 3 and 9.)

Elongate ovate, nitid purple bronze above, subnitid chocolate brown beneath, glabrous; antennae red, apical segments infusate, legs generally dark, tibia sometimes reddish.

Head closely and strongly punctate, eyes large and prominent

Prothorax bilobate, the lobes strongly convex and separated by a straight, wide and deep sulcus, extending the full width of the pronotum; widest behind middle, apex produced in middle, angles feebly advanced and subrectangular; base subtruncate, hind angles sharply rectangular, these emphasized by lateral sinuation; sides with well defined horizontal foliation, rather widely rounded on posterior lobe, with a shallow sinuation opposite the transverse sulcus, and a more abrupt posterior sinuation. Disk with rather large, close punctures, a short, inconspicuous lateral sulcus near hind angles.

Elytra considerably wider than prothorax at base, widest behind middle, a very narrow lateral horizontal border, becoming obsolete at apex; striate-punctate, seriate punctures round, large, close and regular, intervals flat and finely punctate, with some minute scattered setae. Sternal regions punctate, metasternum sulcate, abdomen impunctate, and glabrous. Prosternal process elongate, rounded at apex, carinate. Legs long.

Dim.: 2.1 x 0.8 mm.

Hab.: North Queensland, Cairns. (J. G. Brooks.)

We are indebted to Mr. Brooks for a long series of this distinct species, which we name after him. It is nearest *S. purpurea* Cart. in colour, but is readily separated by the deeper, straighter pronotal sulcus, wider lateral foliation and defined posterior sinuation; also the longer legs. Holotype presented to the Australian Museum.

AUSTROLIMNIUS METASTERNAIS *n.sp.*

(Plate xiv., figs. 2, 6 and 7.)

Widely ovate, subnitid black above and beneath, antennae, tarsi and underside of tibiae red.

Prothorax rounded and produced at apex, anterior angles defined; widest at base, sides thence lightly and arcuately narrowed to apex, lateral margins entire, hind angles rectangular, foliate margins separated from disk by sulcus, medial sulcus rather wide, of uniform width throughout, disk not discernibly punctate, of a silky surface.

Elytra as wide as prothorax at base, lateral ridges well raised, the innermost with a line of large punctures on the inside; seriate punctures well defined, small near base, increasing in size towards apex, intervals impunctate, latero-apical margins entire. Underside sublaevigate, metasternum with well raised medial carina, not quite extending to front margin, mesosternum with wide groove throughout bordering a carinate margin, angulate in middle. (In other species this border regular and entire.) Hind tibiae of ♂ enlarged and minutely spinulate on inside of apical half.

Dim.: 1.9 x 0.9 mm.

Hab.: Victoria. Bogong Plains, 6,000 feet altitude. (F. E. Wilson.).

Four examples taken in January, 1929, show a clear distinction from its congeners, though nearest to *diemenensis* in size. *A. victoriensis* C. & Z., the only other species having the tibiae of ♂ angulate, is smaller, more nitid, with very different meso and metasternal structure, the metasternum having carinate lateral borders. Holotype in Coll. Wilson.

NOTRIOLUS MINUTUS *n.sp.*

(Plate xiv., figs. 1 and 5.)

Short, widely ovate, nitid black, glabrous; antennae, tarsi and knees, a small shoulder spot, apical margins (narrowly) and the greater part of underside, red.

Head and prothorax finely, densely punctate.

Prothorax widest near base, apex emarginate, bisinuate, front angles prominent, base bisinuate, hind margins a little explanate, sides nearly straight for the greater part, arcuately narrowed behind, posterior angles obtuse. Disk flattened at middle, somewhat as in *N. subplanatus* C. & Z., the explanate margins more defined on front half.

Elytra widely ovate, wider than prothorax at base, a narrow, horizontal margin widened at apex, apices divergent and separately rounded; finely seriate punctate, striae subobsolete, intervals quite flat, with a glabrous, silky surface, the seriate punctures less evident than the rows of excrescences that appear to outline them. Prosternal process widely oval, its concave surface rather rugose; underside glabrous.

Dim.: 2.5 x 1.3 mm.

Hab.: North Queensland. Coen. (L. Wassell.).

Three examples kindly sent by Mr. Wassell are the smallest in the genus and clearly allied to *N. subplanatus* C. & Z., and *N. taylori* C. & Z., in structure, which three form a distinct group by their wide form and prosternal process. Holotype in the Australian Museum.

NOTRIOLUS TROPICUS *n.sp.*

(Plate xiv., figs. 4 and 8.)

Ovate, black, moderately nitid and convex. Underside black; tarsi reddish, antennae red with two basal and the apical segments black.

Head finely punctate, eyes little prominent.

Prothorax widest at basal third, thence obliquely narrowed to apex, more gradually narrowed to base; base bisinuate, marked by narrow transverse depression near base; lateral border narrowly horizontal, forming a subacute angle in front, subrectangular behind; disk evenly, densely, punctate.

Elytra considerably wider than prothorax at shoulders, widest behind middle, with narrow horizontal border, apices separately rounded; striate-punctate, the striae well marked near suture, elsewhere rather indistinct, striae punctures round and close, the two sutural intervals lightly raised, the others flat; all finely punctate. Prosternum strongly and closely, metasternum more coarsely and distantly, punctured; prosternal process bluntly rounded at apex, its margins raised.

Dim.: 3.8 x 1.7 mm.

Hab.: N. Queensland. Ravenshoe & Millaa-Millaa. (Mr. J. G. Brooks.).

About 30 examples sent show a species closely allied to *N. allynensis* Cart., but clearly distinct as follows:—Size larger, prothorax widest at basal

third (at, or near, base in *allynensis*) ; elytral intervals not wrinkled, under-side darker and considerably more coarsely punctate. Holotype in Coll. Carter.

N.B.—Under a lens *N. allynensis* can be readily distinguished from the other all-black species by its transversely wrinkled elytra.

N. subplanatus var. Some examples from Ravenshoe, sent by Mr. Brooks, have a small, pale shoulder spot, not found in typical specimens.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XIV.

- Fig. 1. *Notriolus minutus*.
 „ 2. *Austrolimnius metasternalis*.
 „ 3. *Simsonia brooksi*.
 „ 4. *Notriolus tropicus*.
 „ 5. Sternal process of *Notriolus minutus*. x 42.
 „ 6. Sternal process of *Austrolimnius metasternalis*. x 42.
 „ 7. Mid-tibia and tarsus of male *Austrolimnius metasternalis*. x 96.
 „ 8. Sternal process of *Notriolus tropicus*. x 42.
 „ 9. Sternal process of *Simsonia brooksi*. x 42.

A NEW NAME FOR AN OLD SHELL.

By TOM IREDALE.

Mr. Melbourne Ward has returned from a six months' cruise on H.M.A.S. Moresby, on which he was acting as naturalist. He has brought back from the Northern Territory an exceedingly interesting collection of molluscs, and one of the most notable was the curious Fusoid whelk known as *Galeodes* or *Melongena cochlidium* Linné or Lamarck. Reference showed that *Murex cochlidium* Linné (Syst. Nat., Ed. x., p. 753, January 1, 1758) was based solely on Argenv. conch., t. 12, Fig. A, without locality. The figure represents a shell quite unlike the one under notice, and this accounts for the citation to Lamarck, who had used Linné's name for our shell. Apparently no one has rectified this error, though the shell has been well figured by Reeve (Conch. Icon., Vol. iv., Pyrula, pl. i., fig. 2, May, 1847; Raine's Island, Torres Straits), and the animal by Hombron and Jacquinot (Voy. Pôle Sud., Atlas, Moll., pl. 22, fig. 37, 1851; Raffles Bay). I (Proc. Mal. Soc. (Lond.), Vol. xii., p. 323, 1917) showed that *Galeodes* was invalid, and that *Volema* Bolton, 1798, should supersede *Melongena* Schumacher, 1817, but the present species differs generically. I therefore propose the new generic name *Volegalea*, the shell being stoutly fusiform, the canal short and broad, the spire about equal to the aperture and the columella smooth, the outer lip sharp, the thick operculum leaf-shaped. I select for the specific name *wardiana*, citing Reeve's description and figure, and will discuss the variation later.



1938. "Four new species of Australian Dryopidae." *The Australian zoologist* 9, 170–172.

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