Roleta coracina gen. nov., sp. nov. (Coleoptera; Lampyridae, Pleotomini)

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Among specimens of Lampyridae received from Sr. F. H. Walz, Buenos Ayres, was one which was found to represent a new genus in the tribe Pleotomini. For the genus I propose the name *Roleta,* a feminine form of an anagram of the type locality, Loreto, and for the species *coracina,* "black as a crow," because of the general black color of the insect. The peculiar pronotal and elytral outlines are shown in the accompanying photograph. I wish to thank Mr. J. W. Green for calling my attention to the relationship of this species.

ROLETA gen. nov.

This genus has the usual characters of the Pleotomini—modified mandibles, ventral abdominal spiracles, and biramose antennae. It differs particularly from other pleotomid genera in the narrow form, the unusual shape of the pronotum, the apparently thick antennae with broad, closely folded rami, and the markedly narrowed elytra.

The new genus may be correlated with the other genera of the Pleotomini by the following modification of the key to the American Pleotomini given by Green (*Coleopt. Bull.* 1959, XV, p. 91):

2 Antennae with 13 or 14 segments, the branches short and stout.....**Pleotomus** LeConte
Antennae with 11 segments.....3
3 Branches of antennae long and slender 4
Branches of antennae short and broad.....5
4 Legs long and slender, femora extending beyond sides of body. Elytra dehiscent.....**Calyptocephalus** Gray
Legs short, femora extending only to sides of body. Elytra not dehiscent.....**Phaenolis** Gorham
5 Fore and middle legs short, posterior pair relatively long. Elytra dehiscent.....**Roleta** gen. nov.

The type species of *Roleta* is described below as *Roleta coracina* sp. nov. As will be seen from the foregoing key, this species has not only the general characters of the Pleotomini, but combines some of the generic characters of the species of *Pleotomus, Calyptocephalus,* and *Phaenolis.* So far as I am aware, no other lampyrid species exhibits this combination of characters, and it thus appears not to be closely related to any other species.

Roleta coracina sp. nov.

Type locality Loreto, Misiones, ARGENTINA. Collected in September, 1955.

Dimensions: 10.9 mm long from apex of pronotum to tip of pygidium, by 5.1 mm broad at humeri.

Outline generally parallel, but middle abdominal segments somewhat widened.

Pronotum *ca.* 2.6 mm long by 2.5 mm broad. Lateral edges parallel from apical 4th to basal angles, and reflexed; anterior 4th angulate, apex rounded and reflexed. Base nearly straight as seen from above but sinuate in vertical plane. Angles much rounded, *ca.* 90°. Disk papillate-rugose, angularly convex, with a longitudinal median carina particularly evident at base and apex. Plane and reflexed areas around disk coarsely but not confusedly punctate; no visible pubescence. A basal line of deep punctures and a line of similar punctures on each side of disk. Entirely a somewhat dull black except for a U-shaped dark orange mark on the disk, the bottom curvature nearly reaching the base.

Scutellum black, rather narrow, apex truncate; mesonotal plates dull black.

Elytra 6.8 mm long, shorter than the abdomen, reaching only to about middle of tergite 6; 2.55 mm wide at humeri; much narrowed from basal 4th to about 0.55 mm, the narrowed portions arcuately dehiscent, the apices approaching somewhat; apices rounded. Sutural edges not raised; no explanate margins; two indistinct costae; epipleura basally broad and deflexed, short, ending about where the narrowing begins. Uniform

black, rather densely rugose, and with a very short, dense pubescence. Wings greyish, not completely folded under elytra.

Head small, deeply set in prothorax, the front limited to the narrow spaces above and below the contiguous antennal sockets; vertex black, somewhat rugose. Gula apparently membranous. Maxillary and labial palpi of the usual lampyrid form. Eyes mediocre, 1.2 mm across in frontal view, and 0.64 mm between them; interocular margins straight and vertical in frontal view. Mandibles of the modified type, the distal portions very slender and sharp; reddish brown. Clypeus pale, distal edge straight.

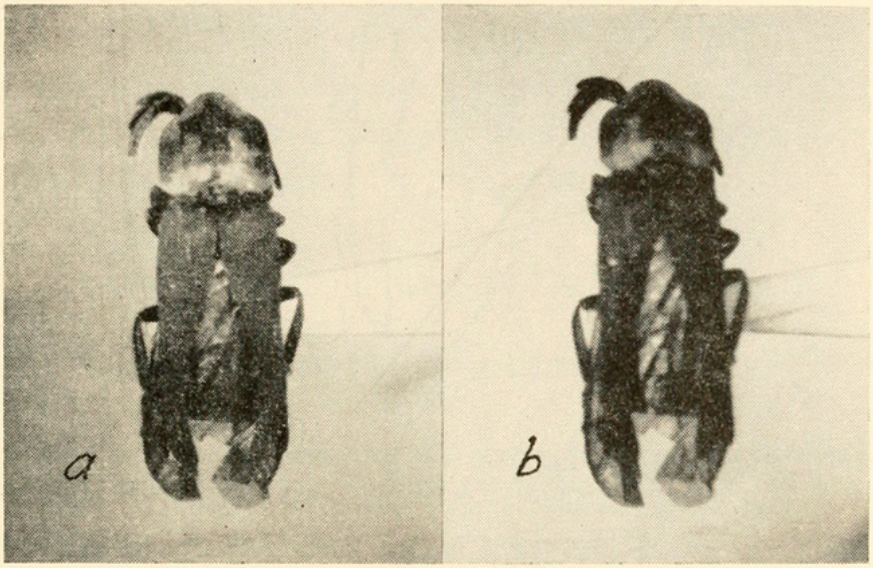

FIG. 1. *Roleta coracina* sp. nov. In the specimen the pronotum is at an angle to the elytra. View *a* is taken at right angle to the pronotum; view *b* at right angle to the elytra.

Antennae short, *ca.* 2.6 mm long, biramose, 11-articulate, and apparently thick owing to the mostly closely folded rami; the latter nearly flat, most of them somewhat curved, 0.25 to 0.3 mm broad by 0.9 to 1.0 mm long, apices rounded; clothed with a very short black pubescence. 11th article similar to a ramus. Sockets large, pale, contiguous.

Prosternum ventrally black, pale orange laterally; anterior edge broadly emarginate, with a median intumnescence. Meso-

and metasterna black, the latter somewhat bulbous. Sterna papillate-rugose, slightly shining, and with a short appressed pubescence.

Tergites all black, with large pointed lobes, each about one-third of total width; 4th to 7th wider than the distance across the external edges of the elytra. All granular-rugose, somewhat shining. Pygidium black, rugose, trilobed, the median lobe smaller and more acute than the laterals.

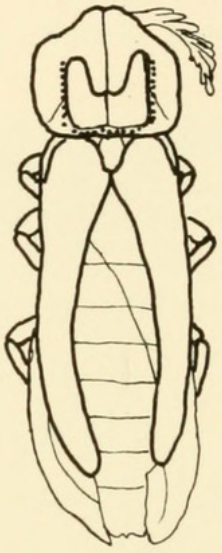

FIG. 2. *Roleta coracina* sp. nov. This drawing shows the peculiar outlines of the pronotum and elytra, and the arrangement of the wings.

Ventral abdominal segments black, granular-rugose, somewhat shining, and with small pointed lobes; 4th to 7th not emarginate; 8th with a truncate apex, medially incised and with lateral flecks representing the larval luminous organs; 9th (genital) small, paler, and medially incised.

Abdominal spiracles near middle of margins of the lateral lobes, visible in ventral aspect.

Legs black, claws simple. Fore and middle tarsi not markedly long; posterior tarsi nearly as long as femora and about ⅔ as long as tibiae; 1st article as long as 5th, 2nd shorter than 1st, and 3rd shorter than 2nd; 4th very small, hidden, and bilobed.

No corresponding female is known.

The type specimen is being deposited in the U. S. National Museum.

In Fig. 1, photographs *a* and *b* were taken with the specimen in different positions, because the pronotum was at an angle to the elytra; *a* emphasizes the pronotum, and *b* the elytra. The sketch, Fig. 2, shows the outlines of the insect more distinctly than does the photograph.

A Pictorial Review of the North American Chipmunk Fleas. Part III, Monopsyllus fornacis, M. eutamiadis, and M. Polumus [1]

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The three remaining western Chipmunk fleas have been described from southern California and northwestern Mexico. The first of these to appear in print was

Monopsyllus fornacis Jordan 1937

1937 *Monopsyllus fornacis* Jordan, *Nov. Zool.* 40: 263. Female described.

1940 *Monopsyllus fornacis* Jordan, Jellison, *P.H.R.* 55: 491. Male described.

Although siphonapterists have constantly likened this flea and the two which follow to *Monopsyllus eumolpi* (Roths.) it has always seemed to the writer that they are much more closely related to one another than to *M. eumolpi.* It seems likely that when someone has the courage to attack and revise that portion of the genus taken off chipmunks and pine squirrels *M. eutamiadis* and *M. polumus* may become subspecies of *M. fornacis,* or *M. polumus* may become a subspecies of *M. eumolpi.*

It should be noted that the writer has never collected in the area where these three fleas are found, and that his only experience with them has been through mounted specimens or from the original papers.

[1] Part I of this series dealt with *Monopsyllus eumolpi* (Roths.) (Entom. News 60: 253–261), and Part II with *M. ciliatus* (Baker) (*Ibid.* 73: 7–16). Reprints are available.