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A NEW SPECIES OF *ENCYMON* FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS (COLEOPTERA, ENDOMYCHIDAE)

BY H. F. STROHECKER¹

Encymon scintillans, new species

CHARACTERS OF *Encymon*: Mandibles with apex prolonged and aciculate, and with a sharp internal tooth; last joint of labial palp four or more times as broad as long; prosternum narrow between the coxae and not prolonged posteriorly; mesosternum with its intercoxal breadth much less than the diameter of middle coxa; elytra strongly convex in both axes.

HOLOTYPE MALE: Length, 8.6 mm. Head smooth, shining, with sparse and fine punctures, each of which bears a minute seta; antennal tubercles moderately prominent. Pronotum half again as broad as long (at middle), front margin with a small stridulatory membrane at its center, front angles produced and acutely rounded, side margins broadly rounded in anterior two-thirds, then a little contracted and parallel to base, hind angles slightly acute, basal transverse sulcus deeply impressed and continued laterally to the hind angles, lateral sulci narrowly impressed and short, disc of pronotum with very fine punctures. Elytra long-oval in outline, abruptly wider at humeri than pronotum but less so than usual in the genus, umbones only moderately prominent; from their bases the elytra are gradually widened to about mid-length, then evenly narrowed to their separately rounded apices; surface of elytra finely punctured. Last abdominal sternite with a small tubercle near its center, its hind margin broadly and shallowly excised. Front tibia with a low, blunt

¹ University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida.

tooth at the distal third of its inner face; middle tibia similarly armed and rather strongly incurved beyond the tooth; hind tibia simple, straight.

COLORATION: Under surface, head, antennae, pronotum, and tibiae black; elytra deep purple, almost black, each elytron with a large, oval, orange-red spot on its apical third. Femora black in basal half, orange-red in apical half, their extreme tips infusate. The entire upper surface is polished and of unusual brilliance.

ALLOTYPE FEMALE: Length, 8.8 mm. Differs from the holotype male in its slightly larger size, simple tibiae (both middle tibiae are missing), and rounded last abdominal sternite, which is without features worth remark.

TYPE MATERIAL: Holotype, male, and allotype, female, Malaita, Solomon Islands, in the American Museum of Natural History. Paratype, male, same data, in author's collection.

The elytra of this species of *Encymon* are narrower, relative to the pronotum, than in any other species known to me. All but three of the numerous species of the genus hitherto described have the elytra unicolorous; in *bipustulatus* Gorham (1873, *Endomycici Recitati*, p. 38) of Aru Island and New Guinea and the doubtfully distinct *erimae* Csiki (1900, *Termész. Füz.*, vol. 23, p. 123; 1902, *ibid.*, vol. 25, p. 31) the elytra are spotted as in *scintillans*, but these species have the pronotum red. In the male of *bipustulatus* the front tibia is unarmed. *Erimae* is known to me only from the descriptions of Csiki, but I strongly suspect that the red elytral margin cited by him is a teneral feature; otherwise his descriptions apply well to *bipustulatus*, which may have the femora bicolored or wholly black. The other spotted species is *regalis* Gorham (1874, *Trans. Ent. Soc. London*, p. 440) of the Philippines, in the male of which the front and middle tibiae are armed as in *scintillans*. *Regalis* is, however, a larger, less polished insect, and each of its elytra has two spots, one basal, the other pre-apical. The aedeagi of the males of *scintillans*, *bipustulatus*, and *regalis*, while very much alike, offer differentiating characters, but these are less readily perceived than are external features.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *Encymon* WITH SPOTTED ELYTRA

1. Pronotum orange-red.....2
Pronotum black.....3
2. Side margins of elytra of same color as disc.....*bipustulatus*
Side margins of elytra of same color as pronotum.....*erimae*
3. Each elytron with one spot (Solomon Islands).....*scintillans*
Each elytron with two spots (Philippines).....*regalis*