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Twelve New Species of Chrysomelid Beetles from the West Indies (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae)

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All but three of the new species of chrysomelid beetles that are described in the present paper were taken on the Van Voast-American Museum of Natural History Bahama Islands Expedition. One of the remaining species was taken by R. G. Fennah on Dominica; the second, by A. M. Nadler at Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic; and the third, by E. A. Schwarz at Cayamas, Cuba.

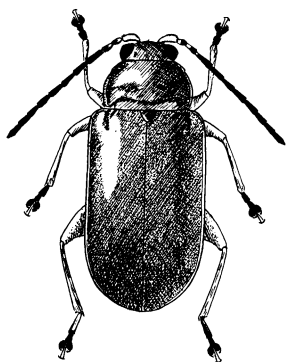
Chalcosicya androsensis, new species

Figure 2

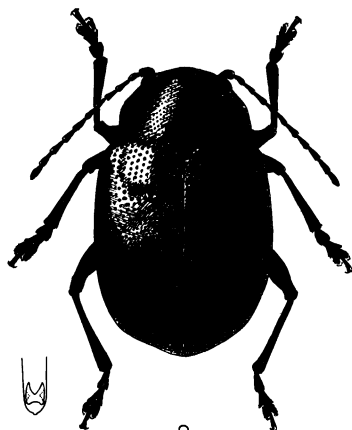
DIAGNOSIS: About 4 mm. in length, broadly ovate, shining, head and prothorax moderately coarsely punctate and with a short white hair from each puncture, elytra more coarsely punctate, punctures tending to be striate, dark, shining with a bronzy luster.

DESCRIPTION: Head shining, with numerous punctures, each with a very short white hair, bronzy, mouth parts reddish brown. Antennae not reaching middle of elytra, reddish brown, outer joints a little thicker. Prothorax somewhat convex, with rounded sides, widest at base, a short tooth at apical angle, surface with coarse, dense punctation, each punc-

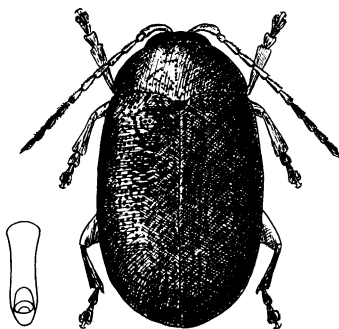
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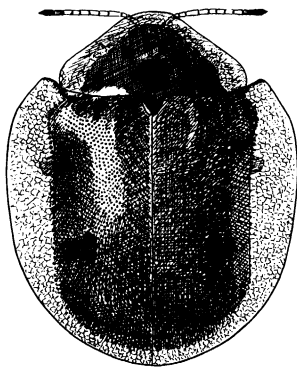
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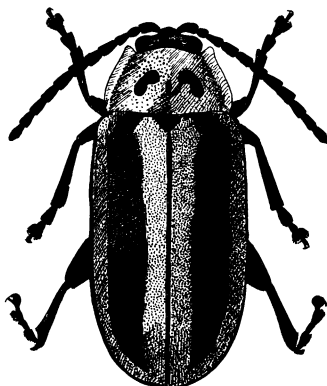
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4



5

FIGS. 1-5. 1. *Lactica nigripes*, new species. 2. *Chalcosicya androsensis*, new species. 3. *Apraea eleutherensis*, new species. 4. *Psalidonota calochroma*, new species. 5. *Oedionychus brachyscelus*, new species.

ture having a very short white hair, a smooth, impunctate, linear area in middle near base. Scutellum rounded, shining. Elytra with small, sharp, humeral prominences and shallow transverse depression below basal callosities; no sign of costae, apex in female a little prolonged; surface very coarsely but not densely punctate, the punctures tending to be striate and each with a minute white hair, very shiny, with a bronzy luster. Body beneath and legs entirely dark, punctate, each puncture with minute white hair, tibiae short, without emargination, slightly ribbed. Length, 4 mm.; width, 2.5 mm.

TYPE: Male, in the American Museum of Natural History.

TYPE LOCALITY: Andros Island, Fresh Creek, April 23, 1953, collected on Van Voast-American Museum of Natural History Bahama Islands Expedition by E. B. Hayden and L. Giovannoli. One other specimen, a female, collected on Cat Island, Bennett's Harbour, March 24, 1953, by E. B. Hayden, is in the United States National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

REMARKS: This species resembles *C. crotonis* (Fabricius) but is more coarsely punctate and has a differently shaped aedeagus.

***Metachroma haydeni*, new species**

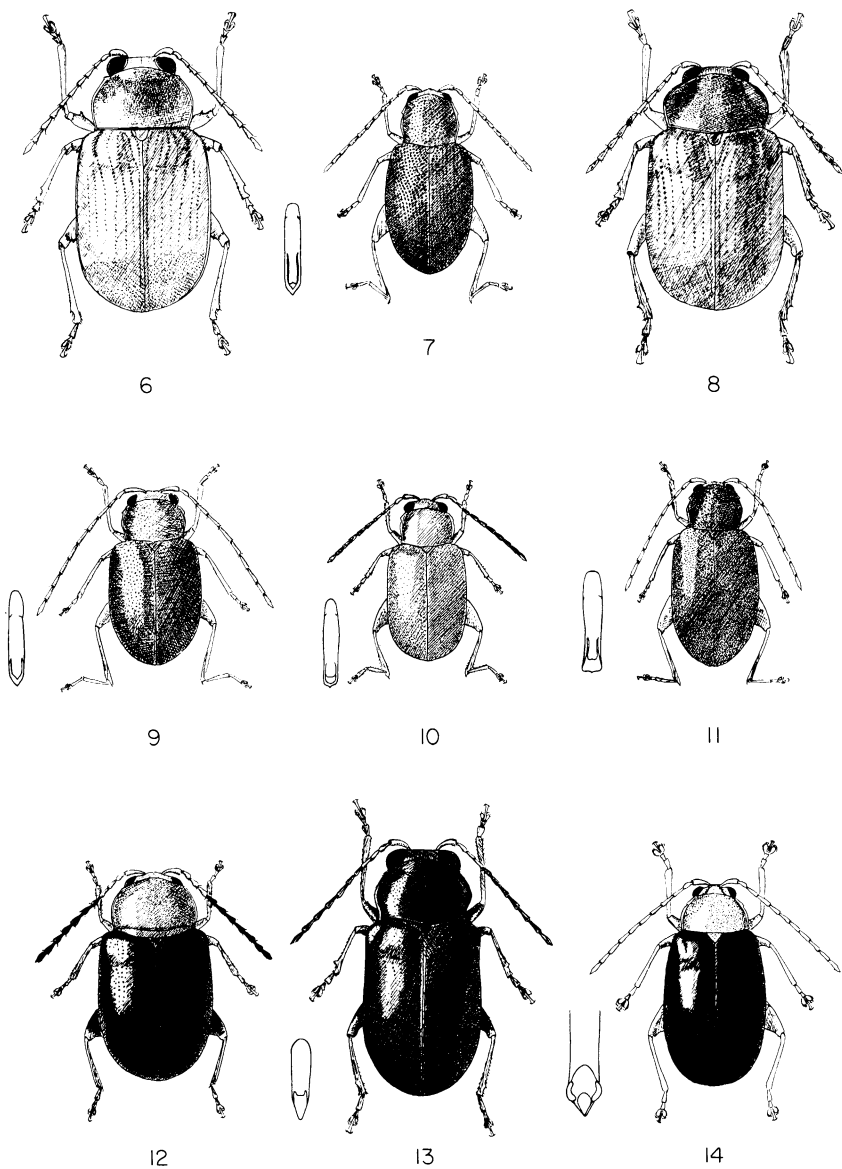
Figure 8

DIAGNOSIS: About 3.5 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, not at all alutaceous, entirely pale yellow-brown, the prothorax with the disc rather densely punctate, except about margin and at base, nearly as broad as elytra; elytra with rows of striate punctures becoming faint below middle.

DESCRIPTION: Head with the usual groove around inner margin of eyes, occiput and front shallowly and rather coarsely punctate, the lower front more distinctly so, pale yellow-brown, with darker mouth parts. Antennae pale, with outer joints thicker and a little darker, not reaching middle of elytra. Prothorax nearly as broad as elytra, not very convex, with curving sides, densely punctate in anterior half, on sides and base nearly impunctate, entirely pale yellow-brown. Scutellum pale brown. Elytra with distinct basal callosity and transverse depression below, a short intrahumeral sulcus, striate punctation distinct to middle of elytra, disappearing toward apex, shining, entirely pale yellow-brown. Body beneath and legs shining pale yellow-brown. Length, 3.5 mm.; width, 2 mm.

TYPE: Female, in the American Museum of Natural History.

TYPE LOCALITY: Turks and Caicos Islands, West Caicos Island, taken at light February 4, 1953, on Van Voast-American Museum of Natural



FIGS. 6-14. 6. *Metachroma dentatum*, new species. 7. *Longitarsus felis* Blake. 8. *Metachroma haydeni*, new species. 9. *Longitarsus rosensis*, new species. 10. *Longitarsus* ? *seminulus* Suffrian (from Cuba). 11. *Longitarsus providensis*, new species. 12. *Hermaphysa bahamensis*, new species. 13. *Metachroma castaneum*, new species. 14. *Homoschema longense*, new species.

History Bahama Islands Expedition, by E. B. Hayden, L. Giovannoli, and G. B. Rabb.

REMARKS: This species closely resembles *M. obesum* Blake from the Dominican Republic in size and shape, but lacks the elytral spotting and the darker pronotum.

***Metachroma dentatum*, new species**

Figure 6

DIAGNOSIS: About 3.5 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, the prothorax finely punctate in middle, the elytra striately punctate in basal half, prothorax flattened, with reddish brown areas, rest of beetle pale yellow, all femora toothed, eyes large.

DESCRIPTION: Head with interocular space less than half of width of head, eyes large, the usual groove around eyes and a median depression on vertex; occiput and front finely punctate, entirely pale yellow. Antennae not reaching middle of elytra, entirely pale, outer joints a little wider. Prothorax flattened, with curved lateral margin and a tooth at apex and base, lower margin straight, not at all sinuous, anteriorly depressed over head, surface very shiny, with fine punctures in middle; yellow-brown, with reddish brown areas in middle. Scutellum pale. Elytra smooth, with faint transverse depression below a small basal callosity, not very convex, striae punctures apparent in basal half, fading out below middle; entirely pale yellow. Body beneath pale, all femora toothed, the front femora with an unusually large tooth. Length, 3.6 mm.; width, 2 mm.

TYPE: Female, in the American Museum of Natural History.

TYPE LOCALITY: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, collected March 3, 1955, by A. M. Nadler.

REMARKS: This species resembles the group of the genus *Metachroma* to which *M. chapini* Blake and *M. gracile* Blake belong in having toothed femora. But unlike those species, which are narrowly oblong, it is broadly oblong oval, resembling in this respect such species as *M. adjustum* Suffrian. Again it differs from the narrower species in having a more conspicuous tooth on the front femora. The prothorax also is distinctive in being unusually flat.

***Metachroma castaneum*, new species**

Figure 13

DIAGNOSIS: Approximately 2.5 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, prothorax finely and not densely punctate, elytra with striae punctation

visible only along suture and in transverse depression below basal callosities; castaneous brown, with the body beneath, legs, and basal joints of antennae paler reddish brown.

DESCRIPTION: Head with large eyes, interocular space less than half of width of head; occiput and front shining, smooth, inconspicuously and finely punctate, deep brown, with yellowish labrum. Antennae with four basal joints paler and remaining joints deeper brown. Prothorax with rounded sides and acute tooth at basal angle, lower margin somewhat sinuate, disc not very convex, a little depressed behind eyes; finely punctate, with the punctures fading out on sides and near base, polished deep reddish brown. Elytra not much wider than prothorax, with distinct basal callosities and a transverse depression below them in which striate punctation is visible, punctures also along suture and in intrahumeral sulcus, otherwise nearly impunctate; surface polished, entirely dark reddish brown. Body beneath with sides of prosternum and metasternum, abdomen, and legs paler reddish brown. Length, 2.7 mm.; width, 1.3 mm.

TYPE: Male, in the United States National Museum (U.S.N.M. No. 67556).

TYPE LOCALITY: Cayamas, Cuba, collected by E. A. Schwarz, October 5.

REMARKS: Although of approximately the same size, this species differs from the description of Suffrian's two species, *Metachroma laeviusculum* and *M. sordidum*, both from Cuba, in being deep castaneous brown instead of yellow or yellowish brown.

Oedionychus brachyscelus, new species

Figure 5

DIAGNOSIS: About 7 mm. in length, elongate oblong oval, dull alutaceous, densely and moderately coarsely punctate, head mostly black, with reddish brown areas, antennae stout and black, prothorax pale yellowish brown, with a median elongate spot and dark kidney-shaped marking on each side; elytra pale, with sutural and marginal edges dark and a wide median black vitta; abdomen, except pale tip, and legs dark.

DESCRIPTION: Head with interocular space more than half of width of head, occiput densely and rugosely punctate, frontal tubercles a little swollen, a short and rather broad carina; occiput dark, with two reddish brown spots, cheeks reddish brown, remainder piceous. Antennae not reaching middle of elytra, stout and entirely dark, third joint longer than fourth, remainder subequal, with apical three a little thinner. Prothorax with anterior angles projecting beside eyes, a small basal tooth, margin

explanate, disc densely and coarsely punctate and a little depressed in middle near base; pale yellowish brown, with a median short elongate spot, on each side a kidney-shaped spot. Scutellum dark. Elytra elongate, rather flat, with a short intrahumeral sulcus, densely and shallowly punctate, surface alutaceous, pale yellowish brown, margin and sutural edges narrowly dark, a wide median piceous vitta. Body beneath with metasternum and middle of abdomen dark, sides and apex pale, legs dark but reddish brown near base, hind femora enlarged and punctate, all tibiae short, hind tibiae with spur. Length, 7 mm.; width, 3.3 mm.

TYPE: Male, in the American Museum of Natural History.

TYPE LOCALITY: Grand Bahama Island, West End, collected on the Van Voast-American Museum of Natural History Bahama Islands Expedition, May 12, 1953, by E. B. Hayden and G. B. Rabb.

REMARKS: No other species of *Oedionychus* from the West Indies has been described with this coloration. The stout dark antennae and short legs characterize it.

***Longitarsus providensis*, new species**

Figure 11

DIAGNOSIS: About 1.5 mm. in length, oblong oval, not very shiny, the prothorax quite dull and densely punctate, elytra more coarsely punctate, yellow-brown.

DESCRIPTION: Head with a fovea on each side of occiput and a short groove from this to frontal tubercles; carina prominent and extending down front. Antennae moderately long, extending to middle of elytra. Prothorax rather convex, with nearly straight sides, surface dull alutaceous, densely and rather coarsely punctate. Elytra more shiny and more coarsely and less densely punctate. Body beneath usually deeper reddish brown. Length, 1.5 mm.; width, 0.8 mm.

TYPE: Male and four paratypes in the American Museum of Natural History. One paratype in the United States National Museum.

TYPE LOCALITY: New Providence Island, 5 miles west of Nassau, collected on Van Voast-American Museum of Natural History Bahama Islands Expedition, April 6-16, 1953, by E. B. Hayden.

OTHER LOCALITIES: Eleuthera Island, Governors Harbour, March 31, 1953, Great Inagua Island, Matthew Town, January 31, 1953, on the Van Voast-American Museum of Natural History Bahama Islands Expedition, collected by E. B. Hayden, G. B. Rabb, and L. Giovannoli.

REMARKS: This species closely resembles *L. felis* Blake in its rather coarse elytral punctuation, but the aedeagus is very different. The pro-

thorax, also, is dull and not so shiny. It is difficult to separate the two species except by a comparison of the aedeagi, the aedeagus of *L. providensis* being wide at the tip, that of *L. felis*, acutely pointed.

***Longitarsus rosensis*, new species**

Figure 9

DIAGNOSIS: About 1.5 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, not at all alutaceous, prothorax very lightly punctate, elytra distinctly punctate; yellow-brown, the body beneath in many cases darker, antennae nearly as long as body.

DESCRIPTION: Head with a groove running from a fovea on each side down to frontal tubercles, otherwise impunctate and shining, a distinct carina down front. Antennae nearly as long as body. Prothorax shining, in some specimens only indistinctly punctate, in others the punctures more apparent in basal half. Elytra shining, more distinctly punctate than pronotum, punctures toward apex becoming less apparent. Body beneath tending to be darker brown, with the metasternum dark. Length, 1.5 mm.; width, 0.8 mm.

TYPE: Male and 10 paratypes in the American Museum of Natural History, two paratypes in the United States National Museum.

TYPE LOCALITY: Grand Bahama Island, Pine Ridge, collected on the Van Voast-American Museum of Natural History Bahama Islands Expedition, May 13, 1953, by E. B. Hayden and L. Giovannoli.

OTHER LOCALITIES: Rose Island, 3 miles northeast of New Providence Island, April 5, 1953; Eleuthera Island, Governors Harbour, March 31, 1953; all collected on the Van Voast-American Museum of Natural History Bahama Islands Expedition by E. B. Hayden and L. Giovannoli.

REMARKS: The shinier and less coarsely punctate surface distinguishes this species from *L. felis* Blake. It is also distinguishable from other small brown species by its very long antennae, which are nearly as long as the beetle. For the sake of comparison there have been included in this paper drawings of *Longitarsus felis* Blake (fig. 7) and an individual of *Longitarsus* from Cuba that answers to the description of Suffrian's *Longitarsus seminulus* (fig. 10).

***Apraea eleutherensis*, new species**

Figure 3

DIAGNOSIS: From 3 to 4 mm. in length, broadly oblong oval, faintly shining, surface rugose, with irregularly placed coarse punctures, dirty

yellowish brown, in some cases with irregular darker areas on elytra, not very convex, eyes large, nearly meeting on vertex.

DESCRIPTION: Head with enormous eyes, a short, blunt, knoblike carina between them, lower front declivous. Antennae extending nearly to middle of elytra, basal joint very long, second joint short and swollen, remainder subequal, tending to become piceous in outer joints. Prothorax widening from behind eyes to basal margin, not very convex, sinuate over scutellum. Elytra irregularly punctate, the punctures in some specimens tending to be geminate striate, not at all regularly costate but with short, irregular, horizontal, and in some cases vertical ridges, dirty yellowish brown, some with darker reddish brown areas nearly covering elytra. Body beneath yellowish brown, finely punctate, legs short, all femora stout, the hind ones more enlarged, tibiae short, middle and hind ones channeled, hind ones with a spur. Length, 3.4-4 mm.; width, 2-2.4 mm.

TYPE: Male, in the American Museum of Natural History.

TYPE LOCALITY: Eleuthera Island, Governors Harbour, March 31, 1953, taken on the Van Voast-American Museum of Natural History Bahama Islands Expedition by E. B. Hayden and L. Giovannoli.

OTHER LOCALITIES: Crooked Island, Landrail Point, March 5, 1953; Grand Bahama Island, West End, May 13, 1953; Andros Island, Fresh Creek, April 23, 1953. All were collected on the Van Voast-American Museum of Natural History Bahama Islands Expedition by E. B. Hayden and L. Giovannoli.

REMARKS: This species is closely related to the Cuban species, *Apraea clathratum* (Suffrian) and *A. interstitialis* (Suffrian). The main difference is in the elytral punctation, which in these specimens is not at all regular or with costate ridges between as in the Cuban species. They are unlike the Puerto Rican species (*A. puertoricensis* Blake), in being more irregularly punctate. The aedeagus has a broader point than is found in either the Cuban or Puerto Rican species.

***Hermacophaga bahamensis*, new species**

Figure 12

DIAGNOSIS: Between 1.5 and 2 mm. in length, ovate, shining, elytra distinctly but rather sparsely punctate, prothorax with a transverse basal groove; head, prothorax, tibiae, and tarsi reddish brown; basal four joints of antennae pale, the rest dark, femora tending to be dark, body beneath except prosternum dark, elytra lustrous green.

DESCRIPTION: Head with a cluster of punctures near eye forming a

short groove to frontal tubercles, carina between antennal sockets and extending down short front, head reddish brown. Antennae not reaching middle of elytra, basal four joints reddish, remainder dark. Prothorax lustrous reddish brown, impunctate, a basal transverse groove. Scutellum dark. Elytra with basal callosity and slight depression below; surface lustrous green, with rather sparse punctation tending to be striate and at apex becoming indistinct. Body beneath except prosternum dark and shiny, femora tending to be dark but tibiae and tarsi dark reddish brown. Length, 1.8 mm.; width, 1.1 mm.

TYPE: Female, in the American Museum of Natural History.

TYPE LOCALITY: Long Island, Clarence Town, collected March 13, 1953, on the Van Voast-American Museum of Natural History Bahama Islands Expedition by E. B. Hayden and L. Giovannoli. One other specimen is in the United States National Museum which was collected on Exuma Cays, Bitter Guana Cay, January 13, 1953, by L. Giovannoli on the same expedition.

REMARKS: This is one of several similarly colored species of *Hermaeophaga* from the West Indies. It is smaller than *H. jamaicensis* Blake, *H. darlingtoni* Blake, and *H. punctata* Blake, and less strongly and less regularly punctate than *H. constanzae* Blake.

***Homoschema longense*, new species**

Figure 14

DIAGNOSIS: About 2.5 mm. in length, oblong oval, lustrous, the pronotum inconspicuously and finely punctate, the elytra a little more distinctly punctate, pale reddish brown, the elytra violaceous.

DESCRIPTION: Head with a fovea on each side of vertex and a line from that to frontal tubercles, a knob between antennal sockets not extending at all down front; lower front flat and a little declivous. Antennae slender, third joint shorter than fourth, the rest subequal, entirely reddish brown. Prothorax not very convex, with rounded sides, very finely punctate and lustrous reddish brown. Scutellum reddish brown. Elytra with an intra-humeral sulcus and a well-defined basal callosity below which there is a transverse depression, surface very lustrous violaceous and finely punctate. Body beneath and legs reddish brown. Length, 2.5 mm.; width, 1.5 mm.

TYPE: Male, in the American Museum of Natural History.

TYPE LOCALITY: Long Island, Deadman's Cay, collected on the Van Voast-American Museum of Natural History Bahama Islands Expedition, May 11, 1953, by E. B. Hayden.

REMARKS: Only one specimen of this species is known. It was among a series of 15 bearing the same locality label and date, all of which are a different species, *Homoschema androsense* Blake. The two species have quite differently shaped aedeagi, the aedeagus of *H. longense* bearing a resemblance to that of the group consisting of *H. felis* Blake, *H. nigriventre* Blake, and *H. ornatum* Blake from Cat Island, Puerto Rico, and Cuba, respectively. The face of this species differs from that of *H. androsense* in having a flat lower front instead of a well-marked median carina, in this respect resembling *H. ornatum* rather than the other two species of the group.

***Lactica nigripes*, new species**

Figure 1

DIAGNOSIS: About 4 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, nearly impunctate, pale yellow-brown, elytra a little deeper orange-yellow, antennae, except three basal joints, piceous, tarsi, except claws and first hind tarsal joint, dark.

DESCRIPTION: Head with interocular space a little more than half of width of head, a cluster of punctures on each side near eye, frontal tubercles well marked, a short, knoblike swelling between antennal sockets, but not extending at all conspicuously down lower front which is flat and a paler yellow than occiput. Antennae piceous, with the three basal joints more or less pale, third joint not much longer than second, fourth at least twice as long as third. Prothorax about twice as wide as long, with rounded sides and a basal sulcus limited at ends and sinuate over scutellum, a slight lateral depression before middle; surface shining, with a few punctures. Scutellum pale. Elytra with small humeral prominences and an intrahumeral sulcus, shining, nearly impunctate, pale orange-yellow. Body beneath entirely pale, legs pale except tarsi which are dark, with first joint of hind tarsi pale and claws pale. Length, 3.9 mm.; width, 2 mm.

TYPE: Female, in the United States National Museum (U.S.N.M. No. 67508).

TYPE LOCALITY: Greenhill Estate, 800 feet, Dominica, collected July 3-12, 1941, by R. G. Fennah.

REMARKS: This species is closely related to *L. corallina* Fleutiaux and Sallé, described from Guadeloupe. As its name suggests, *L. corallina* is a coral-red beetle, and *L. nigripes* is paler orange-yellow, with only the tarsi dark. In *L. corallina* the tibiae and tarsi are both dark and the antennae entirely dark, whereas in *L. nigripes* the basal joints of the antennae

are more or less pale.

Psalidonota calochroma, new species

Figure 4

DIAGNOSIS: About 11 mm. in length, rotund, elytra with a slight convexity behind scutellum, shining, elytra evenly and not very coarsely punctate, a wide hyaline margin about prothorax and elytra; upper surface (in life) iridescent golden overlying rosy and green tints, the golden green prevailing at base, apex, and along sides of elytra and on sides of prothorax; in middle of prothorax a round dark spot, also a dark spot on each elytron below middle and near side; body beneath golden green, with bluish tints, dark along sides of prosternum, metasternum, and abdomen, head in the middle of front with a green band, legs yellow-brown, with femora dark-ringed in middle; antennae not very long, pale yellow, with two apical joints dark, all these iridescent colorings fading to pale yellow-brown in dry specimen.

DESCRIPTION: Head concealed from above by hyaline margin of prothorax, eyes large, with interocular space less than half of width of head, a bulging transverse area below antennal sockets of shining green, lower front yellow-brown, mouth parts dark. Antennae short, not extending out horizontally much farther than base of elytra; third joint as short as second, fourth joint about twice as long, the rest shorter than fourth, all filiform. Prothorax a little convex, with wide hyaline margin, surface nearly impunctate, a few punctures near base, but in live specimen dense punctures shining through from below head and above scutellum; in life, color iridescent green and gold over sides, rosy over head, a dark spot in middle near base. Scutellum dark. Elytra with a wide hyaline margin, protruding forward somewhat along side of prothorax, diminishing toward apex; middle of elytra behind scutellum a little convex; densely punctate, punctures rather small on surface but appearing coarser and nearly contiguous from below surface when beetle is alive; color in life iridescent golden over green at base, sides, and apex, and rosy in middle, a dark spot on each elytron on side below middle; in dry specimen color uniformly pale yellow-brown. Body beneath golden green, with blue tints and dark piceous along sides of prosternum, metasternum, and abdomen; legs yellow-brown, femora with a dark band in middle; claws simple. Length, 11 mm.; width, 8.7 mm.

TYPE: Sex undetermined, in the American Museum of Natural History.

TYPE LOCALITY: Andros Island, Driggs Hills, near South Bight, collected April 27, 1953, by E. B. Hayden and L. Giovannoli on the Van

Voast-American Museum of Natural History Bahama Islands Expedition.

REMARKS: The dried specimen is a rather uniform yellow-brown, but upon boiling (for relaxing) the iridescent coloring was temporarily restored. In the dried state the elytral punctation appears much finer and in this respect differs from that of *P. dorsopunctata* (Klug). The punctation is also evenly distributed over the elytra, which is not the case in either *P. jamaicana* Spaeth or *P. dorsopunctata* (Klug).

