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THE CHECKERED BEETLES OF THE BAHAMA ISLANDS, BRITISH WEST INDIES (COLEOPTERA, CLERIDAE)

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Although 23 species of 13 genera of clerid beetles have been recorded from the Greater and Lesser Antilles (from Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Hispaniola, Guadeloupe, and St. Vincent), the two species recorded in this paper constitute the first record of the occurrence of the family Cleridae in the Bahama Islands. They belong to the genera *Callotillus* of the subfamily Tillinae and *Orthopleura* of the Enopliinae. Individuals are, however, far from abundant, since several collectors, during one month in 1950 and four months in 1951, at the Lerner Marine Laboratory of the American Museum of Natural History in the Bimini Island group, Bahamas, found only nine specimens. Perhaps the large numbers of wood-boring beetles of the families Buprestidae and Cerambycidae present in the Biminis and other Bahaman islands may be accounted for in part by this poor representation of the predaceous Cleridae.

The genera *Callotillus* and *Orthopleura* occur also in one or more of the Caribbean islands, one species of the former (*crusoe*) in the island of Puerto Rico, two species of *Orthopleura* in Cuba (*damicornis*, *lepida*), and one in Guadeloupe (*guadeloupensis*).

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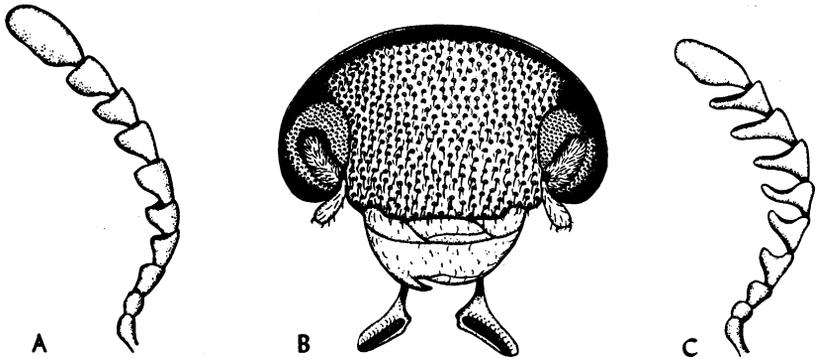


FIG. 1. *Callotillus bahamensis*, new species. A. Antenna, female. B. Head, female. C. Antenna, male.

GENUS *CALLOTILLUS*

Callotillus bahamensis, new species

Figure 1

Differs strikingly from the four known members of the genus in the presence of a large yellow humeral mark at the base of each elytron and in the absence of any other elytral marks, as oblique or transverse stripes, or smaller dots.

DESCRIPTION: Entirely black with blue-green reflections except for two large yellow humeral spots on the elytra which extend nearly to the suture, and testaceous mouth parts; clothed with dense, whitish pubescence.

MALE: Head not wider than pronotum, pubescent, punctures dense, touching; eyes deeply emarginate as figured (fig. 1B); maxillary palpi with last segment conical; antennae slightly longer than pronotum, serrated, first three segments round or elongate, fourth to ninth much broader, and broader than long, triangular in shape and acutely produced within, last segment elongate-oval and as long as the two preceding combined (fig. 1C). Pronotum longer than wide, subcylindrical, narrowing towards base which is a little more than half its greatest width, base margined, punctures as on head, all punctures with short, whitish, reclining, forward-directed hairs, interspersed with longer hairs. Scutellum transverse, clothed with a few coarse hairs. Elytra at base nearly twice as wide as pronotum at base, length about two and one-half times the width at base; humeri obtusely rounded; sides nearly parallel until apical third where slightly broadened, thence curved and narrowed to the conjointly rounded apices;

yellow humeral spots covering basal fourth of the elytra, their inner borders oblique from suture; punctures as on head and pronotum except in area of humeral spots where they are sparser and separated by at least their own diameter; pubescence on apical three-quarters as on pronotum but directed backward or towards lateral margins, pubescence on humeral spots sparser, longer, not reclining except towards rear, some of the hairs black.

Under side and legs sparsely, finely pubescent; meta-episternum and mesosternum seemingly impunctate; base of metasternum and most of first abdominal segment scarcely punctured; rest of abdomen finely and sparsely punctured, denser on sides. Abdomen with six ventral segments, the fifth slightly arcuately emarginate at apex. Length, 5 mm.

FEMALE: Similar to male except that the antennae are somewhat shorter, not serrated, the fifth to the ninth segments broader than the preceding segments but not broader than long, triangular but not acutely produced within (fig. 1A); the abdomen is more densely punctured, and the fifth segment without emargination. Length, 6 mm.

TYPE MATERIAL: Holotype, male, South Bimini Island, Bahamas, British West Indies, June 13, 1950 (Cazier and Rindge); allotype, female, same locality, June, 1951 (M. Cazier, C. and P. Vaurie), both specimens in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History.

DISCUSSION: This species appears blue or blue-gray in daylight. It could easily be mistaken at first glance for *Enoclerus schaefferi* Barr (*humeralis* Schaeffer), from the United States, which is less hairy but has nearly the same color and pattern and the same enlarged labial palpi (fig. 1B). However, the 10-segmented antennae of *bahamensis* with their triangular segments and lack of club (fig. 1A, 1C) and the longer, narrower pronotum without a subapical transverse depression show that it is not an *Enoclerus*.

Callotillus bahamensis is most similar in shape, size, the dense, over-all pubescence, and the elytral sculpture of dense, non-seriate punctures to *C. intricatus* Wolcott and Dybas from Costa Rica and *C. crusoe* Wolcott from Puerto Rico. It differs notably from them in the elytral pattern, as stated above, and dark antennae; it differs further from *crusoe* by having the abdomen punctate and no subbasal elytral tubercle "clothed with a tuft of long, black hairs" (Wolcott, 1923). It is true that there is in *bahamensis* a scarcely perceptible swelling on each elytron subbasally which

has a few black hairs, but it could not be called a "tubercle" nor is there a "tuft" of hairs. Even in the type of *crusoe*, which I have examined, the "tubercle," although more prominent, seems hardly more than a swelling.

Of the other members of the genus, *C. elegans* Erichson, recently separated by Barr (1950) into two subspecies, nominate *elegans* and *C. e. vafer*, occurs in the southwestern United States, in Central America, and northern South America; it is smaller than *bahamensis*, has the elytral punctures seriate, the elytra fasciate, and the terminal antennal segment longer (as long as the preceding three segments combined). In *C. eburneocinctus* Wolcott, 1911, a rufous species from Key West, Florida, and the type of the genus, "the terminal segment of the maxillary palpi is subcylindrical, the eyes are emarginate internally and the abdomen has but five visible segments," and the elytra are "strongly tuberculate at base" (1923). I have not seen this species, which was described from a single specimen, so that I cannot tell exactly what Wolcott meant by the "internal" emargination of the eyes. The eyes in *bahamensis* are the same as in *elegans* and *crusoe*, both of which I have seen, and these were said by their authors to be emarginate "anteriorly."

GENUS ORTHOPLEURA

Orthopleura damicornis (Fabricius)

Tillus damicornis FABRICIUS, 1798, Supplementum entomologicae systematicae, p. 117.

- TYPE LOCALITY: "America boreali."

NEW RECORDS FOR BAHAMA ISLANDS: South Bimini Island, May, June, July, 1951, seven specimens; Fresh Creek, Andros Island, May, June, 1917, one specimen.

DISCUSSION: This species has been recorded in the literature from Canada, the United States, Mexico, and Cuba; the above specimens represent the first records for the Bahamas. It has the head black, the pronotum red or reddish orange, often darkened near the borders, the elytra blue or blue-black, with a faint, sometimes not visible, narrow, oblique, testaceous median fascia on each elytron behind the middle. On the apical third of the elytra, behind the fascia, the punctures are nearly obliterated, whereas they are large and dense in the basal two-thirds. In the above series, as also in a series of 11 specimens in the American

Museum from the United States, there is great variation in size, two females measuring 12 and 13 mm., and the smallest male measuring but 5 mm. The antennae are 11-segmented with an exaggerated three-segmented club that is half as long as the funicle in the female, twice as long in the male.

At least three, probably more, of the Bimini specimens were collected at night, two from the bark of trees and one from the collecting sheet. This species has been recorded in the literature from trees infested with buprestid and cerambycid larvae on which it is predaceous. On South Bimini, however, it is uncommon, whereas the buprestids and cerambycids are very common.

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