

AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 68

April 12, 1923

59.57,620:16,9

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF STAPHYLINIDÆ PARASITIC ON A SOUTH AMERICAN OPOSSUM

BY HOWARD NOTMAN

The interesting beetle here described came into my hands through the kindness of Dr. Joseph Bequaert. It was found on the skin of a Brazilian opossum in the collection of the American Museum's department of mammalogy. Although closely related to the species of the genus *Amblyopinus* Solsky, both in form and habits, it cannot be placed in the subfamily Habrocerinæ with *Amblyopinus* because of the absence of elytral epipleuræ. Not only are the epipleuræ entirely indistinguishable but there is almost no lateral declivity. It thus becomes necessary to place this beetle in the subfamily Trichophyinae as defined by Ganglbauer (1895, 'Käfer Mitteleur,' II, Staphylinoidea 1, p. 16). No specimens of *Amblyopinus* are available to me for study but that genus is placed in the Habrocerinæ of Ganglbauer in the 'Coleopterorum Catalogus,' part 67, 1916, by Bernhauer and Schubert. The most noticeable point of resemblance between this beetle and *Amblyopinus jelskyi* Solsky, besides its general form, is the peculiar compressed, subserrate antennæ, with the terminal joint obliquely truncate. The form of the head and the position of the eyes differ, however, and the eyes, if such they are, are without trace of facets, which leads me to suppose the beetles may be blind. The proposed new genus may be separated from *Trichophya* as follows.

Eyes without facets, very small, placed at the posterior angles of the head. Elytra without lateral declivities. Antennal joints broad and compressed.

OMALOXENUS, new genus.

Eyes faceted, large, placed laterally. Elytra with strong lateral declivities. Antennal joints hair-like, verticillate. TRICOPHYA Mannerheim.

OMALOXENUS, new genus

GENOTYPE.—*Omaloxenus bequaerti*, new species.

Maxillary palpi 4-jointed; first joint rather small, second and third elongate, subequal in length, the third slightly larger, the fourth small, short, conical.

Labial palpi 3-jointed; first joint short, stout, second long, strongly incrassate apically, third smaller, more slender, conical.

Ligula not distinguishable from the paraglossæ, which are broad and membranous. Two prominent median setæ.

Mentum short, very transverse, subtruncate apically, with two long setæ. Labrum strongly bilobed, lobes rounded.

Antennæ compressed, scarcely at all incrassate; first joint stouter, second and third somewhat elongate and subequal, inserted at the base of the mandibles.

Eyes placed in the posterior angles of the head, without facets and possibly not functional; the covering submembranous.

Side of the head broadly and deeply grooved throughout, the antennæ being at the anterior extremity of the groove and the eyes at the other. The lower margin of the groove prominent and projecting.

Head trapezoidal, widest at the base, where it is strongly and abruptly constricted; a constriction also across the occiput separating the head from the neck. The posterior angles acute, prominent.

Sterna very short; coxæ large, anterior and intermediate contiguous, posterior triangular, without an outer lamella. Metasternum emarginate at apex.

Anterior tarsi strongly dilated and pilose beneath; intermediate feebly dilated and pilose; posterior elongate.

Elytra very short, without epipleuræ, scarcely inflexed.

Abdomen margined and densely pubescent.

Body fusiform.

***Omaloxenus bequaerti*,¹ new species**

Form rather broad, depressed and fusiform. Color rufo-testaceous; head with four minute black spots on the vertex, arranged in a trapezoid, the anterior pair more approximate, smaller and less distinct; thorax with a small black spot either side behind the middle and a black transverse line before the scutellum sometimes indistinct. Head and thorax glabrous, strongly shining; head rather coarsely and closely punctured; thorax very distinctly less coarsely and closely and more indistinctly punctured. Elytra rather densely pubescent, feebly shining; punctures rather fine and dense, subasperate. Abdomen more shining than the elytra; punctuation coarser, sparser and more asperate; pubescence coarser, more conspicuous posteriorly. Head with two setæ at the posterior angles; thorax with a lateral seta slightly before the middle and two basal setæ near the posterior angles; elytra with a lateral seta near the humerus; abdominal segments with several lateral setæ; all the setæ black. Head transverse, one-half wider than long and three-fourths the width of the thorax, base distinctly arcuate, triangular; antennæ reaching the base of the thorax, not incrassate; joints 4-11 obconic, about as broad as long. Thorax two-thirds wider than long, slightly wider than the elytra, widest behind the middle, sides arcuate, more strongly convergent anteriorly; all the angles rounded, base feebly bisinuate. Disk with two oblique cariniform tuberculations before the middle; an indistinct lateral tuberculation extending from the anterior angles as far as the middle; basal area with an indistinct tuberculation either side. Elytra very short and transverse, nearly three times broader than long; apex strongly emarginate, outer angles broadly rounded. Suture about one-third the length of the thorax. Abdomen narrower than the elytra; segments unimpressed, increasing regularly in length posteriorly. Eight dorsal segments visible, the seventh a third longer than the

¹Named in honor of my friend Dr. Joseph Bequaert.

preceding, the eighth deeply bimarginate, the median projection obtusely rounded at apex. Length, 5.5–6.75 mm.; width, 1.75 mm.

MALE.—Seventh dorsal abdominal segment with apex broadly rounded; seventh ventral with a triangular emargination as broad as deep and one-third the apical width of the segment; apex narrowly rounded.

FEMALE.—Seventh dorsal abdominal segment with a small oval emargination as broad as deep and about one-fifth the apical width of the segment, posterior to which the segment is slightly compresso-carinate; seventh ventral broadly subtruncate.

Type, ALLOTYPE, and PARATYPE.—Alto Itatiaya, Setto do Itatiaya, Brazil; E. G. Holt; found on a small Brazilian opossum, *Monodelphis*. Collection of The American Museum of Natural History.

Three paratypes with same label. Collection of the author.

*Amblyopinus*¹ *jelskyi* Solsky of the same size was taken on two species of Peruvian mice, and appeared to produce a diseased irritation of the skin with the loss of the hair. *Amblyopinus mnischechi* Solsky, 14 mm. in length, was taken on a species of Peruvian cavy or guinea pig.

¹1875, Hor. Soc. Ent. Ross., XI, p. 10, Pl. 1, fig. 3a-f.

