A NEW STAPHYLINID GENUS FROM CALIFORNIA.

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During a recent collecting trip, I came across about 40 specimens of a very odd-looking Staphylinid ; the beetle was living in the nest of the common red and black ant, under boards in the back yard of the Gally Cottages in Nordhoff, California. I spent a whole morning in removing the boards and following the crowds of ants, and was rewarded, aside from the above-mentioned specimens, with another specimen of a new inquilinous Staphylinid, also belonging to Aleocharinæ subfamily. This unique specimen will have to be left unnamed until further material will allow the study of the mouth parts.

This is the first time, to my knowledge, that guests of the common ant of our State have been found ; possibly the aggressiveness of this ant has kept collectors from exploring the more hidden parts of the nests.

Following is the description of the new genus and the unique species belonging to the same :

SYMBIOCHARA, gen. nov. (Subfamily Aleocharinæ).

Related to Apteroina, Wasm., and to Sceptobius, Shp.; more robust than the former, with larger elytra and shorter antennæ and legs ; without sexual differences on antennæ or legs, differing in this respect from Sceptobius ; body apterous.

Antennæ eleven-jointed, closely articulated from the third joint on ; joints one and eleven long, robust, subequal ; two and three obversely conical, longer than wide ; four to ten gradually longer, the former transverse, the latter quadrate.

Head moderately large, transverse, rounded ; eyes small, somewhat approximated to the oral parts.

Labrum not clearly visible, possibly obsolete ; mandibles simple, pointed ; mentum very transverse, feebly bisinuate at apex.

Inner lobe of the maxillæ membranaceous, corneous only narrowly along the outer margin, inner margin at apex with about six comb-like spines, towards the base with numerous hair-like spines ; outer lobe almost entirely membranaceous, transparent, longer than the inner lobe, with delicate hair-like spinules at the apex.

Maxillary palpi four-jointed ; joint three long, thick, cylindrical ; four rather short, very thin.

Ligula seemingly very short, consisting only of two very small divergent lobes.

Labial palpi three-jointed, the joints subequal, gradually decreasing in thickness.

September, 1909

Middle coxæ narrowly separated.

Front tarsi four-jointed ; joint one elongate, as long as two and three together ; four as long as one.

Middle and hind tarsi five-jointed ; joint one very long, longer than two to four together ; five about as long as three and four together.

Symbiochara lativentris, n. sp.—Rather broad, moderately convex, gradually wider towards the abdominal apex.

Head castaneous, shining ; prothorax darker castaneous, shining ; elytra and abdomen castaneous-piceous, opaque ; antennæ and legs yellow.

Antennæ moderate, a little longer than the head and prothorax together, almost imperceptibly incrassate towards apex ; joint 1 long, thick, much longer than wide ; 2 shorter than 3 ; 4-10 almost equally wide ; 11 almost longer than 9 and 10 together.

Head almost as wide as the prothorax, a little narrower in front than behind ; on the front vaguely impressed ; almost invisibly, very sparsely punctate, very sparsely pubescent ; eyes small, much shorter than the tempora ; genæ not margined.

Prothorax narrower than the elytra, transverse, subquadrate, widest near the apex, sides hence subparallel, hind angles rounded ; often broadly depressed on almost the entire disc, and with two round, subbasal impressions nearer to the sides than to each other ; almost invisibly, very sparsely punctate, not very densely pubescent, with numerous stiff, short black hairs on the disc and the sides.

Elytra almost shorter, and at base about one-fifth wider, than the prothorax ; sides divergent towards apex ; together much wider than long ; the sutural margin shorter than the lateral one ; very finely and very densely punctate, with dense silky pubescence and with a few stiff black short hairs on the disc.

Abdomen oval, widest at about the sixth dorsal segment, where it is much wider than the elytra ; segments not impressed transversely at the base ; very finely and very densely punctate, with dense silky pubescence and a few stiff black short hairs on the segments and on the rather narrow margin.

Legs elongate, slender, all their parts elongate.

Length, 2.3 mm.

Nordhoff, Southern California.

This species was first discovered by the late G. R. Crotch. Several specimens are in the Hubbard and Schwarz collection.