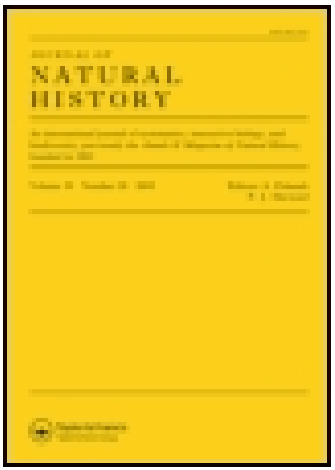

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XXII.—*Systematic Notes on Coleoptera of the Clavicorn Families.* By Gilbert J. Arrow.

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The following notes have been made at various times during several years past and are now published in order that the synonymy may be included in the forthcoming 'Catalogus Coleopterorum.'

Silphidæ.

Silpha superba, Kraatz, 1876, is *S. cœlestis*, Dohrn, 1875.

Silpha tetraspilota, Hope, 1835, is *S. rufithorax*, Wied., 1823.

Silpha formosa, Cast. (= *chloroptera*, Cast.), is not synonymous with *S. tetraspilota*, Hope, as given in the Munich Catalogue.

Silpha discicollis, Brullé, appears in that Catalogue as a synonym of *S. cayennensis*, Sturm, but from the figure and description that seems hardly possible. *S. cayennensis* has a transversely oval pronotum, with a small dark spot in the centre.

Silpha melanura, Hope, Gray's 'Zoological Miscellany,' 1831, p. 21, is omitted from the Catalogue. It is a very well-marked species, rather resembling *S. punctulata*, Oliv.

Silpha cæruleoviridans, Dohrn, 1885, is *S. micans*, F.

Ptomascopus carbunculus, Lewis, is *L. morio*, Kraatz, 1877. Mr. Lewis was deceived by his specimens bearing the locality "Amazons." This is certainly incorrect.

Necrodes osculans, Vigors, has a very extended distribution. The British Museum contains specimens from South India, Sarawak, Woodlark I., and Queensland.

Necrodes brevicollis, sp. n.

Niger vel piceus, antennis concoloribus, clava vix dilatata; prothorace valde transverso, lateribus arcuatis, basi fere recto, omnino subtiliter punctato, lateribus opacis; elytris crebre punctatis, acute costatis, postice attenuatis:

♂, elytrorum angulis apicalibus arcuatis, femore postico incrassato, subtus acute dentato, tibia postica fortiter arcuata, intus post medium dentata.

Long. 15–17 mm.; lat. max. 6–6·5 mm.

Hab. N. India.

The British Museum contains several specimens of this new species from India, one of them collected previous to 1848 by Capt. Boys. Two others are labelled Penang, which is perhaps incorrect. The insect is very like *N. nigricornis*, Har., but differs by the toothed hind tibiæ and rounded apical angles of the elytra in the male and the more transverse prothorax, with straight hind margin, in both sexes.

Necrophorus latefasciatus, Lewis, described from Japan, is the European *N. investigator*, Zett., which occurs also in Manchuria, Saghalien, Pekin, &c.

Several species of *Necrophorus* were described by J. Gistel in his 'Naturgeschichte des Thierreichs,' published in 1848 for the use of schools (!) and not unnaturally overlooked by systematists. The descriptions are fragmentary and the synonymy offers considerable difficulty. The genus *Oxelytrum* in that work, with three supposed new species, refers to *Silpha cayennensis*, Sturm, and the allied *S. analis*, Chevr., both of earlier date, but the precise attribution of the names is uncertain.

Nitidulidæ.

Lordites glabricola, Cand., 1861, is (*Nitidula*) *picta*, Macl. Annulosa Javanica, 1825, p. 40.

The genus *Megauchenia* of Macleay, described in the same work, has been overlooked. *M. setipennis*, Macl., the type of which, together with the others described in the work, is in the British Museum, is *Ischæna elongata*, Erichs., Germ. Zeits. 1843, p. 288. Both generic and specific names are therefore superseded by Macleay's.

Axyra setosa, Murr., very cursorily characterised in the Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1867, xix. p. 170, has not been included in the Munich Catalogue, and *Nitidula picea*, Bohem., referred to the same genus by Murray, has not been catalogued as such. *A. setosa*, Murr., differs from *A. elongata*, Murr., and *A. picea*, Bohem., by the closer and finer sculpture of its elytra, its rugose prothorax, and less flattened appearance, due to the absence of the wide lateral margins of thorax and elytra present in all the other species. A margin is formed at the posterior part of the elytra, however, by the pinching in of their central part. The body is 7·5 mm. long in the unique type.

In reviewing the genus *Platychora*, Murray (*l. c.* p. 175) mentioned a species "*P. deplanata*, Boh., from Natal." In the Munich Catalogue this is figured, by a curious mistake, as *Platychora deplanata*, Murr., Old Calabar. So far as I know, it has never been characterised. It is quite differently sculptured to the other species, the punctures being less evenly distributed. The prothorax and elytra are shining along their median part and moderately finely punctured, but the puncturation becomes much coarser towards the sides, where there is a clothing of stiff grey hairs, which form rows at the sides of the elytra. The head is finely and closely punctured and the pygidium is rugosely punctured and setose. There are broad margins to the prothorax and elytra. Length 7 mm.

Temnochilidæ.

Two different insects have been united under the name of *Gymnochila squamosa*, Gray. That described and figured by Gray is an Australian *Leperina*, since described as *L. decorata*, Erichs., and the type of Hope's genus *Lepidopteryx*, which antedates by four years the name *Leperina*. The species described by Murray under the same name in the Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1867, xix. p. 335, is the common African *Gymnochila varia*, F.

Lophocateres nanus, Olliff, is not distinguishable from the widely-distributed *L. pusillus*, Klug.

Cucujidæ.

Mr. Blackburn has been misled in declaring *Ipsaphes mœrosus*, Pascoe, a synonym of *Platisus obscurus*, Erichs. As to the advisability of merging the two genera I am inclined to agree with him, in spite of a considerable difference in the form of the head; but the two species are so different that it is obvious Mr. Blackburn does not know Pascoe's insect, which is not only entirely different in colour but double the size and quite differently proportioned. I am surprised, however, that Mr. Blackburn has rejected *Ipsaphes bicolor*, Olliff (which he seems to have rightly identified), from the genus. The tarsi of this (the types of both species of *Ipsaphes* are in the British Museum) are quite different from those of *Cucujus*, all but the last joint being very short and of equal length. Olliff's species differs little from Pascoe's, except in the differently coloured and relatively shorter abdomen and elytra.

Lamophlœus breviceps, Sharp, is *L. reitteri*, Grouv.

Telephanus gracilis, Sharp, Biol. Centr.-Am., Col. ii. pt. 1, 1899, p. 553, is antedated by *T. gracilis*, Schauf., Nunq. Otiosus, 1890, iii. p. 600. It may be called *T. sharpi*.

The genus *Hymœa*, described by Pascoe in 1869 as belonging to the Heteromera, is a curious form allied to *Psammœchus*. Pascoe was deceived by the heteromerous tarsi of the male.

Colydiidæ.

Colobicus conformis and *parilis*, Pasc., are the same species, which seems to have been divided by Pascoe mainly on account of the different habitat of his types, which are from Lombok and Batchian respectively. The range of the species is far greater than the describer seems to have thought possible, and I have gathered together a series from Damma I., Ceram, Mysol, Timor, Lombok, Batchian, Borneo, Andaman Is., Penang, Assam, Hong Kong, and North Australia.

Xuthia siccana, Pasc., has an exactly similar distribution, and I am unable to distinguish from it *X. maura* and *X. rufina* of the same author, nor can I recognize the genus *Xuthia* as distinct from *Bitoma*. The African species *B. rufipes*, Kolbe, is very closely related to *B. siccana*.

B. latiusculus, Fairm., is a species of *Neotrichus*.

A North American insect was described as *Nematidium filiforme* by Leconte in March 1863, and the same name was used by Pascoe for an Amazonian species in April of the same year. Dr. Sharp's discovery of the localisation of the species of the genus in Central America seems to preclude the possibility of Leconte's and Pascoe's being the same, and it will be well to change the name of the latter to *N. pascoei*.

The name *Pycnocephalus* used by Dr. Kraatz in 1895 for a genus allied to *Sosylus* was previously used by Dr. Sharp in 1891, and must be changed. It may be called *Cephalopycnus*.

The specimens which Dr. Sharp has described in the Biol. Centr.-Amer., Col. ii. pt. 1, 1895, p. 488, under the name of *Lithophorus succineus*, Pasc., do not belong to the species actually described by Pascoe, who confused two different forms under that name. Pascoe quotes as localities Rio and Para, but, while he labelled as his type a specimen from Rio, his description does not apply to that, but to the different species

from Para, from which place he examined and labelled an example in the British Museum. This, the only one from that locality, I regard as the real type. Other specimens in Pascoe's collection were brought from Ega, while two were labelled Rio by him, probably in error. In this species the prothorax has only very slight rudiments of dorsal costæ and the elytra bear widely interrupted, instead of continuous, carinæ. In that described by Dr. Sharp from Central America there are strongly elevated ridges upon the prothorax, which is rather longer and less wide at the front margin, and the ridges upon the elytra form continuous costæ. I propose to call this *L. ornatus*, the name at first intended for it by Dr. Sharp. The type is from Paso de San Juan, Mexico. I cannot distinguish from this the form labelled "type" by Pascoe.

Bothrideres musivus and *merus*, Pasc., both belong, in my opinion, to *B. vittatus*, Newm., and *B. lobatus*, *B. versutus*, and *B. servus*, Pasc., also form a single species. The types of all these are in the National Collection.

Bothrideres simplex, incidentally mentioned in the Biol. Centr.-Amer., Col. ii. pt. 1, 1895, p. 489, is not, as Dr. Sharp supposed, a species described by Pascoe and must therefore be called *B. simplex*, Sharp. It is from Rio de Janeiro.

Pycnomerus sophoræ, Sharp, is the species described long previously as *Lyctus depressiusculus*, White *.

The specimens from Panama (with the exception of one from Tolé), referred to *Ethelema sobrina*, Sharp, in the description of that form, belong in reality to another species which I describe here :—

Ethelema gracilis, sp. n.

Nigra, omnino setosa; elytris post medium griseo-fasciatis, postice fuscis; prothorace valde convexo, marginibus lateralibus depressis, vix denticulatis, angulis posticis obsoletis.
Long. 3·5–4 mm.

Hab. Panama: Chiriqui, Bugaba, David, Tolé.

The prothorax is very convex, with the lateral margins depressed and not distinctly serrated, and the hind angles are rounded off. The elytra are decorated with a band of grey scales behind the middle, enclosing a dark spot on each side, and the part lying behind this band is dark.

* It may be mentioned here that *Lyctus retractus*, Walker, is a species of *Ptilinus*.

E. luctuosa, Pasc., has almost the same markings, but the prothorax is flatter and more quadrate.

In *E. sobrina*, Sharp, the grey scales are more evenly distributed, forming no definite band. There is no difference between the species in the nature of the clothing, as supposed by Dr. Sharp.

Adimeridæ.

The genus *Adimerus*, described by Dr. Sharp in 1894 and forming this family, is *Monœdus* of Horn, dating from 1882. Horn discovered only one small joint, instead of two, between the basal and claw joints of the tarsus. Five species in all have now been recognized, viz.: *M. guttatus*, Lec., *lecontei*, Fleut., *crispatus*, Sharp, *setosus*, Sharp, and *dubius*, Sharp.

Byrridæ.

Cyphonicus, Sharp, is synonymous with *Byrrinus* of Motschulsky.

Erotylidæ.

The name *Episcaphula* was introduced by Crotch for a mass of species which he distinguished in no way from the previously existing *Plagiopisthen*, Thomson, to which a part at least belong, and until a fresh division is made it seems necessary to regard the two names as synonymous.

Engis annulatus, Macl., is a species of *Micrencaustes* and not a synonym of *Episcaphula oculata*, Lac., as Crotch believed. Lacordaire, notwithstanding Mr. Gorham's remark to the contrary (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1889, p. 614), expressed the opposite opinion. The specimen figured by the latter (pl. lxi. fig. 2), although identical in its marking with the true *annulata*, Macl., is so extremely different in shape that it seems impossible that it is really the same. A similar pattern is shared by a number of Javan Erotylidæ, of which the following is yet another.

Episcapha pavo, sp. n.

Nigra, dense punctata, pubescens, singulo elytro flavo bi-annulato, annula prima ad marginem anticam, intus et postice paulo dentata, secunda ad apicem fere producta, sed ad margines vix attingente; antennis longitudine ad caput et prothoracem conjunctim æqualibus.

Long. 12 mm.; lat. max. 5·5 mm.

Hab. Java.

It is not very slender and the antennæ are only of moderate

length. The black spot at the base and apex of each elytron is almost exactly round, but the enclosing yellow rings are minutely produced along the elytral margins and the anterior one is also toothed towards the suture and the apex.

The readiest positive means of distinguishing *Episcapha fortunei*, Crotch, and *E. taishoensis*, Lewis, has not been pointed out. In the former the eyes are rather close and in the latter they are wide apart. Both species seem to exist in China and Japan.

Megalodacne chinensis, Crotch, is also very similar, but has the second joint of the antenna longer and the lateral margins of the pronotum thicker.

Mycotretus tigrinus, Oliv., is distinct from the Central American species described and figured under that name by Mr. Gorham, in Biol. Centr.-Amer., Coleopt. vii. 1887, p. 48. The latter may be called *M. centralis*. Besides the differences noted by Mr. Gorham, it is a rather more massive species and the metasternum, which is well punctured in *M. tigrinus*, is very smooth.

The Mexican form recorded as *Mycotretus sobrinus*, Guér., by Mr. Gorham in the same work must similarly be distinguished from that Brazilian species. It is much smaller, relatively shorter, the knees blacker, and the abdominal lines more marked. It may be called *M. distinguendus*.

Amblyopus rubens, Hope (Gemm. & Har.), is a species of *Neotriplax* very near *N. lewisi*, Crotch, but larger and with longer antennæ.

Amblyopus præpositus, Walk. (Gemm. & Har.), is *A. cinctipennis*, Lacord., and not *A. vittatus*, Oliv.

Triplax brouni, Pasc., belongs to the genus *Cryptodacne* and is exceedingly near *C. synthetica*, Sharp, from which it seems to differ in its smooth elytra.

Aulacochilus subrotunda, Macl., appears to be the same as *A. 4-pustulatus*, F., as Lacordaire believed, but Macleay's two specimens are of a peculiarly narrow form.

Prepopharus spilotus, Gorh., is a species of *Morphoides*.

Hoplaspis of Motschulsky, according to a specimen from Bakewell's collection which I believe to be a cotype, is a Tenebrionid of the genus *Arrhenoplita*. There can be no doubt, I think, that Motschulsky was mistaken in regarding all the tarsi as five-jointed.