

## A New *Plagithmysine* beetle from Sandalwood (Col. *Cerambycidae*)

J. L. GRESSITT<sup>1</sup> AND C. J. DAVIS<sup>2</sup>

The following new species, one of the largest endemic Hawaiian cerambycids, and perhaps the most striking *plagithmysine* in appearance, is the first species to be associated with sandalwood. It is interesting that this species survived the near extinction of sandalwood in Hawaii, and that the adult was never found by entomologists before 1969.

This beautiful species was obtained by rearing from sandalwood collected on the west side of Mauna Loa, Island of Hawaii, with the help of Mr. Sherwood Greenwell, after whom the species is respectfully named. We are very grateful for Mr. Greenwell's assistance. Davis collected larvae 15 years ago from the same general area, but there was no success in rearing.

This species runs to bract 30 in our key (1969, Proc. Haw. Ent. Soc. 20(2): 364), where it separates out by having a single triangular golden patch on otherwise black elytron, rather than a stripe or extensive pale pubescence. It constitutes a new species group in the typical subgenus *Plagithmysus*.

### GREENWELLI-GROUP

This group is characterized by very broad body, black color, gold markings, stout and strongly tuberculate prothorax, short elytron, and stout and hairy hind femur and hind tibia. It differs from the *diana* group in being more hairy, with more swollen and tuberculate prothorax, shorter elytron, and stouter hind femur and hind tibia, and in lacking an elytral stripe.

***Plagithmysus*** (s. str.) ***greenwelli*** Gressitt and Davis, new species (FIG. 1)

♀. Body rather shiny black, a little less shiny on more hairy portions. Body in large part clothed with short oblique black hairs, shorter and sparser on pronotum and posterior 1/2 of elytron, longer and denser on legs, particularly on hind tibia and hind tarsus; marked with 3 areas of thick orange golden pubescence forming compact spots: 1st triangular, anterior to middle of elytron and close to suture, 2nd rounded-oblong, on posterior 1/2 of metepisternum, 3rd on side of abdominal segment 2; also a few similar sparser hairs on side of remaining abdominal segments.

*Head* slightly narrower than apex of prothorax, declivous on occiput

<sup>1</sup>Bishop Museum, P. O. Box 6037, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818.

<sup>2</sup>State of Hawaii, Dept of Agriculture, 1428 S. King St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96814.



FIG. 1. *Plagithymis* (s. str.) *greenwelli* Gressitt and Davis, n. sp., holotype ♀.

which is reticulate to granulose posteriorly and rugulose-punctate anteriorly; vertex obtusely concave, finely punctured; frons distinctly deeper than wide, suboblong, slightly narrowed apically, punctured to subreticulate; gena rugulose-punctate, about as deep as eye. *Antenna*  $\frac{2}{3}$  as long as body; segment 1 gradually thickened to apex, barely longer than 3; 2 not quite  $2 \times$  as long as broad; 3-5 similar, increasing slightly in length; 6 about as long as 3; 6-10 gradually shorter; 11 about as long as 9, blunt apically. *Prothorax* barely broader than long, subobtuse at side, widest just behind middle; disc strongly raised, with a high subrounded tubercle near middle of apex, its posterior face with small tubercles or subtransverse carinules, a broader and very slightly lower tubercle near middle of base, with an anterior and a dorsal transverse carinule forming an area suggestive of a cicatrix, and its hind portion granulose; also a large arcuate sublateral crest which appears granulose in side view but rather even in dorsal view;

rest of pronotal surface finely punctured, but coarser between median tubercles; lower side partly smoother. *Scutellum* short, rounded behind, smooth, glabrous and impunctate. *Elytron* exceeding side of pronotum by only about 1/4 its width, nearly  $5 \times$  as long as broad, slightly narrowed in basal 1/2, then more strongly narrowed posteriorly, slightly dehiscent, rounded at sutural angle and subacute ectoapically; disc finely and closely punctured, more weakly and sparsely so, and weakly granulose, posteriorly. *Legs* large, particularly hind leg; femora swollen, with hind femora thickest a short distance before apex and granulose to subasperate, exceeding elytral apex; hind tibia strongly flattened, slightly concave internally and slightly arched, nearly as wide as widest part of hind femur, granulose; hind tibia distinctly longer than mid tibia, with segment 1 longer than following combined and slightly deeper than wide, 2 longer than 3, and last longer than  $2 + 3$ . Length 14.6 mm to apex of elytron, 18 to apex of wing; breadth 3.3.

Holotype ♀ (BISHOP 8956), Kahuamoia alt. 1396 m, NW side Mauna Loa, Island of Hawaii, 31.III.1969, reared from dead branch of *Santalum* (sandalwood) 15 cm in diameter, C. J. Davis.

Differs from all other species of subgenus *Plagithmysus* from Island of Hawaii in being black with only a single spot of golden on each elytron, in dorsal view, and with 2 golden spots beneath. Differs from *diana* Sharp of Kauai in same characters, and in having much stronger pronotal tubercles and broader prothorax, as well as being stouter and with more hairs on legs.