

## The Small Banana Weevil (Coleoptera).

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(Presented at the meeting of March 1, 1923.)

***Polytus mellerborgi*** (Boheman).

***Sitophilus mellerborgii*** Boh., Schoenherr, *Genera et Species Curculionidum*, vol. 4, p. 976, 1837. Hab., Java.

***Calandra remota*** Sharp, *Memoirs on the Coleoptera of the Hawaiian Islands*. *Sci. Trans. Roy. Dublin Soc.*, vol. 3 (Ser. 2), p. 254, 1885. Hab., Oahu. (?) Immigrant.

***Polytus* n. gen. for *mellerborgi*** Boh., Faust, J., *Curculionidae von Birma*. *Ann. Mus. Genova*, Ser. 2, vol. XIV (XXXIV) 1894. Hab., Rangoon.

I first took specimens of this small weevil in Fiji, 1913, commonly in stems of growing banana, closely associated with the ordinary banana borer, *Cosmopolites sordidus* (Germ.). In fact, so closely were they associated with the larger weevil that for a time I considered them starved specimens of *sordidus*.

Returning to Hawaii, I sent specimens with other material to both the U. S. National Museum and to the British Museum for identification. Mr. Schwarz of the former institution determined them as *Calandra remota* Sharp. Just recently, in going over this material, I discovered that the specimens returned from the British Museum labeled "*Polytus mellerborgi* Boh." were the same species.

Looking up the original description of *mellerborgi*, it was evident that *Calandra remota* must be a synonym for this small banana borer. I wrote Dr. Guy Marshall of the British Museum for further confirmation, stating that we have exotic specimens in Honolulu collections from Borneo, Java, Amboina, Malay Peninsula, China and Fiji. In his reply of December 16, 1922, he states *Calandra remota* Sharp, is undoubtedly a synonym of *Polytus mellerborgi* (Boh.), which is widely distributed throughout tropical Asia.

I was interested in reviewing the literature to find that Faust says, "Einem Zwerg von *Cosmopolites sordidus*," which de-

scribes it perfectly, for it is an exact miniature of the larger weevil borer.

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCES.

Sasscer, E. R., Important foreign insect pests collected on imported nursery stock in 1915, Journ. Econ. Ent., vol. 9, p. 218, 1916.

Banana plants from the Philippines riddled by *Cosmopolites sordidus*, were reported to be also infested with *Calandra remota* Sharp. In the abstract of this report (see Rev. Appl. Ent. (Ser. A) vol. 4, p. 199) the reviewer has substituted *Polytes mellerborghi* Boh., placing *Calandra remota* Sharp in parentheses.

Notes on this species, under the name *Calandra remota* have appeared in the Proceedings of the Hawaiian Entomological Society as follows:

Vol. 1, p. 113, Giffard took 20 specimens from decaying banana stems on Tantalus.

Vol. 3, p. 269, Giffard took a specimen in beating "ieie" vines.

Vol. 3, p. 388, Bridwell found the larvae feeding in the base of banana stems.

Vol. 4, p. 76, Bridwell reported that specimens collected by Muir in China, Malay Peninsula, Java, Borneo and Amboina belonged to this species.

Vol. 4, p. 464, Swezey found nine specimens in the decaying corm of a banana plant at Kaimuki, and again (p. 472) he took 65 of these weevils from beneath the dried-up leaf sheaths of one banana plant at the same place. These had apparently matured from larvae that had developed in the corm below the surface.