

**Micromalthus debilis LeConte in Hawaii. (Coleoptera:  
Micromalthidae)**

BY O. H. SWEZEY  
Experiment Station, H.S.P.A.

(Presented at the meeting of March 2, 1939)

While in Washington recently, at the National Museum, Mr. H. S. Barber called my attention to a recent paper on *Micromalthus debilis* in the Transactions of the Royal Entomological Society of London (27th Sept., 1938, pp. 271-290), and also to two papers of his own on the life history of the beetle (Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash., 15, pp. 31-38, pls. 2-3, 1913; Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 26, pp. 185-190, pl. IV, 1913). Mr. Barber also related some details of his experiences in the study of the habits and the rearing of the beetle.

As soon as I saw the illustrations of the beetle, its larvae and their work in rotten wood, I was immediately reminded of having seen similar larvae and their work in Hawaii, and had some recollection also of having secured a specimen of the beetle. On writing to Dr. Williams about it, by some search, he found the specimen and sent it to me in Washington. When examined by Mr. Barber, it was pronounced the same insect he had worked with, which was common, or abundant, in the rotten stumps and logs in the vicinity of Washington. On a field trip in Virginia, to a woodland about 30 miles away, Mr. Barber demonstrated the presence and work of the larvae in logs.

My specimen of this beetle was from Nor'west timber, Waipahu, Oahu, April 3, 1925. The larvae and their work were much in evidence. Some time previous to that, the larvae were found in abundance in the rotten butt of a telephone pole which had recently been pulled up for replacement on Makiki St., Honolulu. Apparently no record was made of this at the time.

This beetle has a wide distribution in the eastern portion of the United States: Washington to Florida, Michigan, Kentucky, Louisiana and New Mexico. It has recently been found injurious to mine timbers in the gold mines of the Transvaal, South Africa.

The adult beetles are seldom seen, even though the larvae may be very numerous. A very remarkable feature of the life cycle of this beetle is its larval reproduction. It has 2 or 3 forms of larvae: *triungulin*, *caraboid*, and *cerambycoid*. In my observations in Hawaii, the *cerambycoid* larval form was the only one that I noted. Further observations on this beetle in Hawaii will be made as opportunities present themselves.