

## Some Elaterid Beetles from New Guinea

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The writer is indebted to Dr. J. Balfour-Browne, Senior Scientific Officer, Department of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History) and to E. C. Zimmerman of the Experiment Station, H.S.P.A., for the opportunity to examine some 800 Elateridae from New Guinea and its nearby islands. The collection is mainly the result of Miss L. E. Cheesman's work in that region; it supplies one new locality record, and three new species. Types of the species described in this paper are in the British Museum (Natural History).

### *Alaus spinicollis* n. sp.

20-30 mm. long; 6-9 mm. wide. Robust. Dark brown, color obscured by pubescence which, on upper surface, is generally whitish; dappled, on pronotum and particularly on elytra, with spots of black pubescence; base of elytra and of pronotum rusty brown intermixed with white; a vaguely triangular patch of black on outer edge of each elytron, behind middle. Pubescence beneath, uniform tawny, darker on last sternite.

Head concave medianly. Antennae short, reaching to slightly beyond middle of prothorax (male) or less (female); 3rd segment subtriangular, slightly longer than 2; 4-10 broadly triangular, 11 narrowed on distal one-third.

Prothorax slightly longer than wide, widest just before middle; sides narrowing behind, undulate. Anterior margin of pronotum with acute spine on either side of middle. Pronotum strongly convex on sides; disc flattened, the surface unevenly undulate on either side; basal declivity abrupt, strongly excavate on either side so that median, posterior part of disc projects on plane of disc in a well-defined triangle, tuberculate at apex. Hind angles acute, divergent, strongly unicarinate.

Scutellum flat, declivous in single plane, longer than wide; widest at about distal one-third.

Elytra as wide as prothorax across hind angles, strongly convex in cross section; strongly tuberculate on 3rd interval, well behind apex of scutellum. Sides subparallel to about middle (male), or beyond (female); tips individually emarginate, both angles of emargination strongly mucronate and of about equal prominence. Striae faintly impressed; intervals flat.

Described from Dutch New Guinea: Holotype female, Humboldt Bay Dist., Bewani Mts., September 1937, W. Stüber, B.M. 1938-177. Allotype male, Cyclops Mts., Sabron, Camp 2, 2000 ft., June 1936, L. E. Cheesman, B.M. 1936-271. Paratypes, 7 females as follows: Humboldt Bay Dist., 1937, W. Stüber, B.M. 1938-177; Humboldt Bay Dist., Bewani Mts., September 1937, W. Stüber, B.M. 1938-177; Cyclops Mts., Sabron, 930 ft., April 1936, L. E. Cheesman, B.M. 1936-271; same data, but May 1936; Cyclops Mts., Sabron, Camp 2, 2000 ft., L. E. Cheesman, B.M. 1936-271; Hollandia, January 1937-8[sic], 140° E long., 3° 10' S, 300-600 m. alt., W. Stüber, B.M. 1938-481 (2 specimens); paratypes, 11 males as follows:

Humboldt Bay Dist., 1937, W. Stüber, B.M. 1938-177; Cyclops Mts., Sabron, Camp 2, 2000 ft., June 1936, L. E. Cheesman, B.M. 1936-271 (2 specimens); Hollandia, January 1937-8, 140° E long., 3° 10' S, 300-600 m. alt., W. Stüber, B.M. 1938-481 (2 specimens).

In outline and proportions this insect closely resembles *Alaus sericeus* Candèze, from Queensland and New Guinea; however, *spinicollis* differs from it not only in the color of its pubescence, but, most strikingly, by the pair of well-developed spines on the anterior margin of the pronotum. These spines are approximately 0.33 mm. long, and are similar in nature to those found in *Alaus bicornutus* Heller and in *A. cornutus* Gahan; however, in these last-named species the spines arise from the frontal margin of the head, rather than from the pronotum. The relative dimensions of the prothorax as stated above, are measured along the middle lines, and do not include the hind angles.

### ***Tetrigus cristatus* n. sp.**

*Female*.—About 13 mm. long (head and prothorax bent downward from body axis); 3 mm. wide. Slender, elongate. Dark chestnut; basal half of elytra lighter, almost rufous, darkening posteriorly to become almost black toward the sides. Pubescence tawny, fairly coarse, denser and more conspicuous on basal half of elytra.

Frontal margin truncate, with sides broadly rounded; punctuation on head uniform, moderately coarse. Antennae about two-thirds length of prothorax; segments 4-10 sublamellate, lamellations progressively weaker as distal end is approached; 11th segment entire, acutely oval.

Prothorax markedly longer than wide; pronotum strongly convex in cross section; punctuation as on head, uniform; sides parallel from anterior one-third backward; hind angles parallel, continuing outline of sides, bluntly unicarinate. Basal declivity fairly abrupt, with a median crest sharply defined on anterior portion, weakening behind.

Scutellum declivous, parallel-sided, nearly twice as long as wide, coarsely pubescent.

Elytra as wide as prothorax; sides parallel to posterior one-third, thence conjointly narrowed to dehiscent, mucronate tips. Striation feeble basad, stronger behind; intervals convex except distally.

Body beneath concolorous with upper surface; similarly punctate; mucral cavity declivous; hind margin of 5th sternite subtruncate, faintly emarginate on middle.

Holotype female, Dutch New Guinea, Waigeu, Camp 1, Mt. Nok, 2500 ft., May 1938, L. E. Cheesman, B.M. 1938-593. British Museum Loan No. 2403.

The bicolored elytra and the median crest at the base of the pronotum distinguish this species from all others known to the writer. The groove just above the lateral carina of the prothorax, so conspicuous in some other *Tetrigus*, is absent or ill-defined in this species.

### ***Tetrigus flabellatus* (Germar)**

A new geographical record for this species is supplied by two females in the British Museum collection from Dutch New Guinea, which are indistinguishable from specimens identified by M. Edmond Fleutiaux from Java and the Philippines. They are from Humboldt Bay Dist., 1937, W. Stüber, B.M. 1938-177; and Humboldt Bay Dist., Bewani Mts., September 1937, W. Stüber, B.M. 1938-177. This appears to be the first record of *T. flabellatus* from New Guinea.

**Neoprstilophus novaguinensis** n. sp.

23-30 mm. long; 7.5-9 mm. wide. Robust, depressed. Piceous, with conspicuous, short, brown pubescence.

Head strongly impressed; frontal margin strongly reflexed at sides. Antennae slender, compressed, serrate, almost attaining tips of hind angles of prothorax; segment 2 sub-globular, about two-thirds length of 3, which is triangular; 4-10 elongate-triangular with outer apical angles produced; 11 very strongly narrowed to produce a subparallel-sided, distal lobe less than one-third length of entire segment.

Prothorax slightly wider than median length, widest across middle; sides evenly arcuate. Pronotum weakly convex; punctation moderately coarse anteriorly, finer behind; hind angles strongly divergent, strongly unicarinate, carina persisting nearly to anterior margin.

Scutellum convex, longer than wide, widest anteriorly.

Elytra flattened on disc; as wide as width of prothorax across hind angles. Sides subparallel at base, thence narrowed backward to dehiscent, briefly mucronate tips. Striae lightly impressed except on base of striae 7-9; intervals flat.

Sides of mucral cavity declivous. Punctation coarse on prosternum, on sides of propleura next to suture, and on 1st abdominal sternite; elsewhere very fine.

Described from Dutch New Guinea. Holotype (probable) female, Humboldt Bay Dist., Bewani Mts., September 1937, W. Stüber, B.M. 1938-177. Six paratypes: Humboldt Bay Dist., 1937, W. Stüber, B.M. 1938-177 (2 specimens); Humboldt Bay Dist., Pukusam Dist., west of Tami River, June 1937, W. Stüber, B.M. 1938-177 (2 specimens); Hollandia, January 1937-8[sic], 140° E long., 3° 10' S, 300-600 m. alt., W. Stüber, B.M. 1938-481 (2 specimens).

This species differs from *N. luzonensis* (Candèze) as follows: it is larger, more depressed, the head is more deeply concave, the antennal segments 4-10 are more elongate, and the punctation on the dorsum is generally coarser.