

New Species and New Records of Elaterid Beetles from the Pacific—III¹

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(Presented at the meeting of November 10, 1947)

Since the war various collections of elaterid beetles from the Pacific area have been submitted for study. Among them are the collections made by R. G. Oakley and H. K. Townes, during an economic entomological survey of Micronesia in 1946. Other collections were made by H. P. Chandler, Jean Laffoon, Borys Malkin and L. A. Conwell, incidental to their military service in the Pacific area. In addition, the U.S. National Museum has made available for study miscellaneous Pacific island material in its possession. Other material is present in the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association collection, including specimens taken by D. B. Langford, J. P. Martin and the late Dr. Frederick Muir.

Among this material have been found numerous new island records, as well as seven new species here described for the first time. Types of the latter are deposited in the various institutions to which they belong, as stated in the text. New records of island groups are printed in capital letters, new records from individual islands, in italics. Illustrations for this paper were prepared by James T. Yamamoto of the Experiment Station, H.S.P.A., Honolulu.

Compsolacon gracilis (Candèze)

3 males (Micronesia No. 737) from Son Son, Rota, Marianas, collected on corn tassels by R. G. Oakley, June 26, 1946, are extremely close to *C. gracilis*, and I identify them as this species for the time being. These specimens have the pronotum somewhat more flattened than typical *gracilis*, but there seem to be no morphological differences, and the aedeagi are so similar to those of *gracilis* from New Guinea as to be indistinguishable. A male from Moen Island, Truk atoll, Caroline Islands, collected by D. B. Langford, is identical with the specimens from Rota.

Compsolacon gracilis (Candèze) **specularis** Van Zwaluwenburg

Twelve specimens, in addition to the series originally described (Proc. Hawaiian Ent. Soc., 12: 109, 1947), are from Hollandia, New Guinea, Borys Malkin, coll. So far only females of this variety are known, and Hollandia is the only locality in which it has been

¹ The first paper of this title was published as Bishop Museum Occ. Papers, vol. xvi, no. 5, pp. 91-130, 6 figs., Oct. 18, 1940; the second was published in Proc. Hawaiian Ent. Soc., vol. xi, no. 3, pp. 289-300, 3 figs., August 1943.

taken. The impunctate area on the penultimate sternite of *specularis* appears in typical *gracilis* to be a secondary sexual character confined to the female.

***Alaus niger* n. sp.**

Length 19-21 mm.

Subparallel; black; pubescence squamiform, generally black with, on pronotum, an inconspicuous band of obscure brown along either side, two narrower bands along either side of disc, widening to a spot behind middle, and a narrow band of the same color on base of pronotum. There is also an area (lighter in color, and more evident in the paratype) of obscure brownish pubescence on outer half of base of each elytron, and at base of pronotum.

Front excavate on disc; anterior margin depressed; punctuation uniform, fairly coarse. Antennae short, extending but little beyond middle of prothorax; segment 2 very small; 3-10 broadly serrate; 3 nearly as long and as wide as 4, but with outer angle more acute than in 4; 5-10 subequal, similar, shorter than 4, but as wide; 11 abruptly narrowed on apical one-fourth.

Prothorax longer than wide (middle dimensions); sides subparallel from base of hind angles to about anterior third, thence evenly rounded to anterior angles. Pronotum evenly convex transversely; punctuation about as on front, but sparse on disc, more crowded laterally and subrugose on basal portion; a median longitudinal carina extending to anterior margin (more evident in paratype). Anterior margin without angulation at any point between anterior angles. Basal declivity abrupt, with blunt longitudinal, median ridge. Hind angles stout, posteriorly divergent; bluntly uncarinate, the carina short, paralleling outer margin of angle on its anterior half or more.

Scutellum in a single plane, very precipitous; anterior margin widely emarginate, the posterior, truncate; slightly longer than wide, widest at posterior third; convex on middle, impressed on either side behind.

Elytra at base as wide as hind prothoracic angles; sides subparallel to beyond middle, thence conjointly narrowed posteriorly; apex of each emarginate, the outer angle more acute than the sutural; transversely convex at base, basal declivity very abrupt and regular. Striae with feebly impressed punctures on disc; punctures stronger toward sides. Intervals flat, somewhat convex toward base, but without suggestion of raised crest or tubercle.

Mucro horizontal, excavate between fore coxae; sides of mesosternal cavity parallel, subhorizontal. Punctuation on underside of prosternum about as on pronotum; finer and denser on rest of undersurface.

Described from a holotype female, AMBOINA, November 1907, Muir coll.; and a paratype female, Amboina, no date, Muir coll. Both are in the type collection of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association Experiment Station, Honolulu.

This species superficially resembles *Alaus regalis* Candèze, and in fact for some years escaped notice among a long series of varieties *a* and *b* of *regalis* from Ceram. However, well-marked morphological differences separate the two, as follows:

***A. niger*, female**

1. Segment 3 of antenna subequal to 4
2. Frontal margin of pronotum evenly rounded.

***A. regalis*, female**

- Segment 3 more nearly size of segment 2.
Frontal margin of pronotum subangulate either side of middle.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3. Carina of hind prothoracic angle anteriorly parallel to outer margin of angle. | Carina of hind prothoracic angle divergent from lateral margin. |
| 4. Base of pronotum prominent medianly, but not tuberculate. | Base of pronotum definitely tuberculate on middle. |
| 5. Scutellum not much longer than wide; very strongly inclined at an angle of about 70 degrees. | Scutellum definitely elongate; angle of inclination about 45 degrees. |
| 6. Elytra without tubercle. | Elytra definitely tuberculate near base. |

***Tetrigus townesi* n. sp.**

Length 18.0 mm.; width about 4.5 mm. Slender; dark rufous; pubescence coarse, tawny, recumbent, uniform on both upper and under sides.

Front shallowly, widely concave; anterior margin truncate; punctation close, uniform, moderately coarse. Antenna of male short, not attaining basal declivity of pronotum; segments 2 and 3 equal, shorter than wide; segment 4 slightly shorter than 5; 5-10 progressively longer; 11 nearly half as long again as 10, widest at posterior third, narrowed apically; segments 4-10 each with slender lamella arising from base, those on 5-9 subequal in length, that on 4 slightly shorter, and on 10 shorter still. Antenna of female somewhat shorter than in male, with shorter lamellae and with segments 4-11 relatively shorter and more robust.

Prothorax longer than wide in both sexes; sides (male) straight, narrowing slightly from tips of hind angles to anterior fourth, or (female) widening slightly from base of hind angles to anterior third, at which point the prothorax is widest. Pronotum with punctation simple, uniform, moderately coarse, slightly more crowded toward anterior angles. Pronotum strongly convex transversely, basal declivity abrupt, a low median elevation on the declivity. Hind angles robust; in the male faintly divergent, continuing the outline of the sides, in the female diverging slightly backward; strongly, briefly unicarinate, the carina almost exactly bisecting the angle. A deep groove just mediad of the lateral carina on pronotum extends from hind angle to anterior margin. Prosternal lobe bluntly angled medianly. Propleura widely concave on anterior half. Mucro slightly upcurved behind fore coxae. Sides of mesosternal cavity sub-horizontal, anteriorly divergent at base, then slightly convergent.

Scutellum strongly declivous; elongate; gently convex (transversely); pubescence somewhat longer and thicker than elsewhere on dorsum.

Elytra transversely convex; narrower at base than hind prothoracic angles, then widening and thence backward subparallel to middle (male) or beyond (female); apex strongly mucronate, the sutural line curving strongly outward near apex. Basal declivity rather abrupt. Striae faintly impressed, subobsolete; the punctures hardly more apparent than those on the interstriae; intervals nearly flat. Hind coxal plates wider at insertion of coxae than at outer margin; hind margin rounded at widest point. Tarsi simple. Apex of last abdominal sternite definitely truncate in female, more vaguely so in male.

Described from a holotype male, Agaña Airport, *Guam*, MARIANAS, June 13, 1936, H. K. Townes coll. (Micronesia No. 658),

on screen of building; and an allotype female, same data. The holotype has been deposited in the U.S. National Museum (No. 58525), and the allotype in the B. P. Bishop Museum.

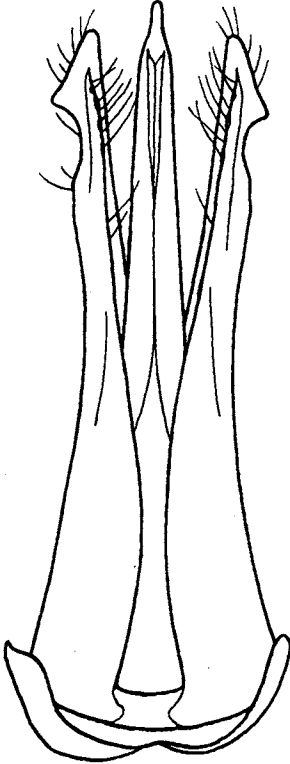


Figure 1. *Tetrigus townesi* n. sp., aedeagus, holotype male.

The aedeagus (Figure 1) has the tip of each lateral lobe triangularly expanded. The antennae of the male are definitely shorter than those of the same sex in *T. flabellatus* (Germar). *T. townesi* differs from the description of the Philippine *T. bakeri* Fleutiaux in having the hind coxal plate definitely and rather strongly widened on its inner third, and in having the frontal margin of the head definitely truncate rather than rounded.

Dioxypterus vitticollis Heller

1 specimen, Munda, *New Georgia*, Solomon Islands, March 1945, L. A. Conwell, coll.; a new island record.

Symphostethus humeralis n. sp.

Length 13.0 mm. Color generally dull black, with following exceptions: (1) prothorax orange-red; on pronotum a round black mark on middle of about anterior third, and a smaller, more or less oval lateral black spot on about anterior third, which just fails to touch lateral carina; tips and carinae of hind angles blackish; (2) elytra each with roughly triangular orange-red mark at base, extending from crest of elevated third interstitial interval, to ninth interval, and anteriorly onto flexed portion of the humerus; this mark extends farthest back on seventh interval, extending back for almost one third the length of the elytron; (3) coxae, femora and (roughly) basal half of tibiae, orange-red; (4) meso- and metasternum reddish yellow medianly. Pubescence fine, recumbent; black on black areas, orange-red on reddish areas, with the exception that, on anterior middle of front of head, there is a patch of orange-red pubescence.

Front flat behind disc, convex anteriorly; margin rounded, vaguely defined along middle; punctation fine, uniform, close-set. Antennae almost attaining tips of hind prothoracic angles; strongly serrate from segment 3 on; segment 2 small, wider than long; 3 as long as 4 but narrower; 4-10 diminishing slightly in length; 11 a little longer than 10, bluntly rounded at apex.

Prothorax about as long as wide; sides subparallel from base of hind angles to about middle, thence arcuate to anterior margin. Pronotum moderately convex; basal declivity gentle, with fine median carina which widens posteriorly to form a blunt ridge; posterior angles long, divergent from outline of sides, bicarinate, the inner carina the stronger. Punctation very fine, uniform, close-set, coarser on anterior half of sides. Mucro slightly upcurved behind fore coxae. Mesosternal cavity with sides prominent, horizontal basally, perpendicular in front.

Scutellum longer than wide; convex; finely punctulate.

Striae consisting of fine, close-set, moderately impressed punctures. Interval 3 elevated at base; otherwise all intervals more or less flat. Apex of each elytron emarginate with an outer mucro more prominent than the sutural angle. Apex of last abdominal sternite bevelled at tip, roundly emarginate.

U.S. National Museum No. 58526.

Described from a holotype believed to be a female, *Bougainville*, SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1944; N[avy] M[edical] R[esearch] U[nit] No. 2, lot. 9. Its color pattern sufficiently distinguishes it from all other described members of the genus.

Propsephus compactus Van Zwaluwenburg

1 male and 1 female, Munda, *New Georgia*, Solomon Islands, 1944, L. A. Conwell; a new island record.

Propsephus nigripilis Van Zwaluwenburg

1 female, Munda, *New Georgia*, Solomon Islands, 1944, L. A. Conwell; a new island record.

Simodactylus hesperius Van Zwaluwenburg

1 specimen, *Moén Is.*, Truk atoll, Carolines, May 23, 1946, at light, U.S. Navy coll.; a new island record. 2 specimens, *Ponape*, Carolines, August 1946, J. E. Alicata coll.; a new island record.

Simodactylus lineatus n. sp.

Length males, 11.0-14.5 mm.; female, 12.5 mm.

Shiny; yellowish brown, with elytra slightly darker brown, and anterior

margin of head, scutellum, inflexed portion of elytra and a narrow median, longitudinal band on pronotum, dark brown to black; propleura and legs flavous. Pubescence light brown, fine, uniform and fairly dense.

Front convex on disc; anterior margin broadly rounded, slightly reflexed. Punctuation finely umbilicate (reduced in size on posterior margin). Antennae feebly serrate, not attaining apex of hind prothoracic angles; segments 3-10 longitudinally subcarinate on outer face; segment 2 small; 3 slightly narrower at apex than 4-10, in length 3 is subequal to 5, and shorter than 4, which is the longest; segment 11 elongate oval, slightly longer than 10.

Prothorax (middle dimensions) slightly longer than wide (male) or about as long as wide (female); sides subparallel or slightly convergent from base of hind angles to a little behind middle, thence arcuately narrowed to anterior margin. Pronotum moderately convex, gently declivous at base which is widely channeled medianly. Hind angles slightly divergent, flaring somewhat from outline of sides; bicarinate, the inner carina the stronger. Punctuation of pronotum fine, simple, close-set on disc, becoming subumbilicate laterally, particularly on anterior half. Mucro gently upcurved behind fore coxae. Mesosternal cavity declivous, sides strongly divergent anteriorly.

Scutellum longer than wide; pointed behind; finely punctulate.

Elytra at base as wide as prothorax across hind angles; sides subparallel to about middle (male), or beyond (female). Apex of each elytron briefly emarginate, the outer angle broadly rounded, the sutural angle submucronate. Striae with moderately fine, evenly spaced punctures; intervals flat, finely punctulate. Hind coxal plates broadly rounded at widest point, not acuminate. Lobes of tarsi broad, especially on 4th segment.

U.S. National Museum No. 58527.

Described from a holotype male, *Nukuoro Island*, Nukuoro atoll, CAROLINES, August 6, 1946, H. K. Townes (Micronesia No. 1613), damaging *Crinum* flowers; an allotype female, same data; and 12 paratype males, same data.

This species differs from *S. pallidus* Fleutiaux, sex for sex, in having the prothorax more arcuate in outline from the middle forward; in addition the pronotum is less strongly convex in *lineatus*. The male aedeagus (see Figure 2) differs from that of *S. pallidus*.

***Simodactylus marianorum* n. sp.**

Length males, 12.5-14.5 mm.; females, 14.0-16.5 mm.

Elongate; subnitid; yellowish brown, with head, a variable discal area on pronotum, fore and hind margins of prothorax, prosternum, scutellum and median portions of abdominal sternites, darker brown; or, generally dark brown, with sides of prothorax, above and below, a little lighter. Pubescence fine, short, yellowish brown.

Front flattened anteriorly, otherwise gently convex; anterior margin broadly rounded, not reflexed except at very ends. Punctuation simple, fine, close and fairly uniform. Antennae feebly serrate; failing to attain tips of hind prothoracic angles by about 2 or 3 segments; segments 3-11 longitudinally subcarinate on outer face; segment 2 small; 3 as long as 4, but narrower; 4-10 slightly decreasing in length; 11 as long as 10, narrowed on apical third.

Prothorax (middle dimensions) as long as wide (both sexes); sides faintly arcuate from base of hind angles, more strongly narrowed anteriorly. Pronotum moderately convex, flattened on disc, basal declivity abrupt with a brief median channel. Pronotal punctuation simple, a little coarser than on front, especially toward sides, where it is more close-set. Hind angles elon-

gate, acute, diverging from outline of sides of prothorax; bicarinate, the carinae of about equal strength, the outer the longer.

Scutellum declivous; longer than wide; convex at about posterior third; finely punctate.

Elytra convex; at base about as wide as prothorax; sides subparallel to about middle (male), or beyond (female), thence more strongly narrowed to apex, which is bluntly rounded with the sutural angle finely mucronate. Striae lightly impressed, their punctures fairly fine, close-set; intervals flat except toward base. Mucro gently upcurved behind fore coxae; mesosternal cavity declivous, its sides anteriorly divergent. Hind coxal plate with a rather prominent rounded tooth at about its inner third. Lobes of tarsi broad, particularly on 4th segment.

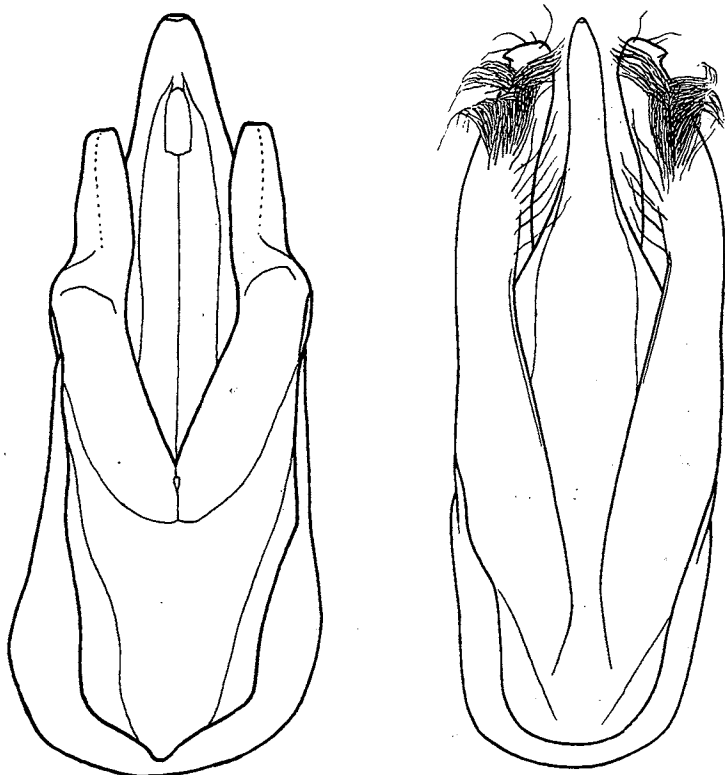


Figure 2. *Simodactylus lineatus* n. sp., aedeagus, paratype male.
Figure 3. *Simodactylus marianorum* n. sp., aedeagus, paratype male.

U.S. National Museum No. 58528.

Described from a holotype female, Son Son, *Rota Island*, MARIANAS, June 26, 1946, R. G. Oakley (Micronesia No. 797), on corn tassels; an allotype male, Mt. Lassó, *Tinian Island*, Marianas, June 16, 1946, F. C. Hadden; 7 paratype males, Son Son, Rota,

June 26, 1946, R. G. Oakley (Micronesia No. 797), on corn tassels; 1 paratype male, Agaña Airport, *Guam*, Marianas, June 13, 1946, H. K. Townes (Micronesia No. 658), "screens-building"; 5 paratype males, Mt. Lasso, Tinian, June 16, 1946, F. C. Hadden; 1 paratype female, Son Son, Rota, June 26, 1946, R. G. Oakley (Micronesia No. 797), on corn tassels; and 2 paratype females, Mt. Lasso, Tinian, June 16, 1946, F. C. Hadden.

This species has the habitus of some of the Philippine species of *Simodactylus*, but does not have the tips of the elytra dehiscent and drawn into an acute spine. The Tinian specimens are generally darker than those from Rota and Guam, with the result that the latter have the light and dark colors more strongly contrasted. Possibly the fragment collected on Mt. Alifan, Guam in 1936 by Dr. R. L. Usinger, and identified (*Insects of Guam*—I: 53, 1942) as *Simodactylus* sp., is this species. The male aedeagus of *marianorum* is shown in Figure 3.

***Simodactylus pallidus* Fleutiaux**

1 specimen, Airai, *Babelthuap*, Palau, Carolines, April 20, 1936; Z. Ono coll. 1 specimen, *Koror*, Palau, July 20, 1946, at light, R. G. Oakley (Micronesia No. 1165). Both records are new for the Palau archipelago.

***Simodactylus risbeci* Fleutiaux**

1 male, *Espiritu Santo*, New Hebrides, J. L. Laffoon, 1944; a new island record.

***Simodactylus spinifer* Van Zwaluwenburg**

2 specimens, Munda, *New Georgia*, Solomon Islands, 1944 and February 1945, L. A. Conwell; a new island record.

***Conoderus pallipes* (Eschscholtz)**

1 specimen, J. P. Martin, June 11, 1947, *Wake Island*, at light. 1 female, *Eniwetok*, Marshall Islands, May 18, 1946, Oakley & Townes. Both of these island records are new.

***Aeoloderma brachmana* (Candèze)**

46 specimens, Zamboanga, *Mindanao*, Philippine Islands, at light, October 1945, J. L. Laffoon; a new island record.

***Megapenthes bruniventris* Candèze**

This species varies considerably in the extent and intensity of the blackish maculations. Two females and one male from Amsterdam Is., New Guinea, collected by G. H. Penn, September 27, 1944, are more brightly colored than Port Moresby specimens, and have the blackish pattern on the elytra more clearly defined. One specimen has the maculation on the pronotum reduced to a fine median stripe which connects anteriorly with a suffused blackish area.

Melanoxanthus bellulus n. sp. (Figure 4)

Length 4.1-4.8 mm.

Blackish; pubescence very fine, inconspicuous, yellowish, recumbent, with sometimes a few, fine, semi-erect, whitish hairs visible on the elytra. Frontal margin rufous on either side; antennae rufous. Pronotum with anterior margin yellowish on outer one-fourth, hind angles yellow (lateral and hind margins and carinae, blackish); each elytron with yellow humeral area which extends across base to scutellum, and backward on sides for about one-fourth length of elytron; on posterior one-half or one-third of elytron an elongate yellow vitta which may or may not attain in part, the lateral margin; in one specimen the anterior and posterior yellowish areas are vaguely connected by a line of the same color along the 6th and 7th interstriae. Scutellum black. Underside blackish, with median areas rufous to yellowish; hind angles of prosternum yellowish; legs rufous to yellowish.

Front convex, anterior margin broadly rounded, punctation close, finely, shallowly umbilicate. Antennae in both sexes not attaining tips of hind angles of prothorax; segment 3 one and one-half length of 2; 2 and 3 together subequal to 4; 4-10 subserrate, shortening successively; 11 longer than 10, rounded apically. Prothorax as long as greatest width (across tips of hind angles), sides subparallel at base along length of hind angles, thence narrowed



Figure 4. *Melanoxanthus bellulus* n. sp.

anteriorly to anterior margin. Punctuation of pronotum shallow, aciculate anteriorly on middle, elsewhere finely umbilicate, more coarsely so on sides; pronotum strongly convex on sides, basal declivity rather abrupt, finely channeled on middle, a round, blackish impression on either side of the base about one-fourth of distance in from tips of hind angles; hind angles stout, acute, directed straight backward, strongly unicarinate.

Scutellum longer than wide, widest at anterior one-fourth; moderately precipitous; gently convex, finely punctulate.

Sides of elytra subparallel to about middle (female) or to anterior one-third (male) thence conjointly narrowed to apex; apex entire, finely mucronate at sutural angles. Striae consisting of close-set, punctations; intervals flat, subrugosely punctulate anteriorly.

Propleura sparsely umbilicate-punctate, with hind angles impunctate; punctuation of prosternum finer and more close-set. Mucro more or less horizontal for entire length, sides between fore coxae elevated. Mesosternal cavity sloping, sides moderately elevated, anteriorly divergent. Hind coxal plates rather sharply acute laterad of insertion of coxae.

U.S. National Museum No. 58529.

Described from a holotype female, Amsterdam Is., New Guinea, September 27, 1944, G. H. Penn, coll.; an allotype male, Milne Bay, New Guinea, 1944, G. H. Penn, coll., and two probable female paratypes: one, same data as holotype, the other, October 8, 1944, Amsterdam Is., G. H. Penn, coll. The holotype, allotype and one paratype have been deposited in the U.S. National Museum, the other paratype in the Bishop Museum, Honolulu.

Melanoxanthus glyphonides Van Zwaluwenburg

A specimen from Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, June 1945, B. Malkin coll., is probably this species. It exhibits some variation in the dorsal maculations as compared with the type from Koitaki, Papua. In the present example the yellowish markings on either side of the scutellum are absent, and the oval spot on the anterior third of the elytra is considerably longer than in the type.

Anchastus rufangulus Candèze

1 specimen, Osmeña, *Samar*, Philippine Islands, sea level, April 9, 1945, J. L. Laffoon; a new island record.

Cardiophorus decoratus n. sp.

Length 3.0-3.5 mm. Stout, oblong; prothorax nitid, black; antennal segments 1 and 2 rufous; each elytron with reddish yellow area of variable extent: in one individual (female) it lies across striae intervals 3-6 and extends backward a little more than one fourth the elytral length, its hind margin well-defined; in the other (male) this yellowish area lies across intervals 2-6 and extends backward to beyond the middle with its posterior limits vague and ill-defined; legs pale yellow, the trochanters sometimes dusky at base, the tarsi with rufous tinge. Pubescence very fine, semi-erect, fulvous.

Front convex; anterior margin slightly elevated, subangulate at middle; punctuation fine, sparse, even. Antennae exceeding hind angles of prothorax; segments 2 and 3 equal in length, together longer than 4 (female) or subequal to 4 (male); segments 4-11 slightly diminishing in length.

Prothorax (middle dimensions) but slightly wider than long (male), or definitely wider than long (female), sides arcuate from tips of hind angles

(more strongly so in female). Pronotum strongly convex; punctuation on disc about as on front, weaker toward base, more crowded toward anterior angles; hind angles short, flat, without carina; lateral carina on margin (not inferior) extending forward to middle or beyond, absent anteriorly; base moderately declivous; sulci elongate, double, widely, shallowly excavate after leaving basal margin, anteriorly divergent.

Scutellum subcordiform, the anterior margin not notched; flat; very finely, sparsely punctulate.

Elytra at base as wide as space between hind prothoracic angles; sides parallel to about middle or beyond, thence narrowed to conjointly rounded apex. Striae consisting of rather coarse linear impressions, which posteriorly become round punctures and are more widely separated; intervals convex, somewhat flattened toward base, very finely punctulate.

Punctuation of undersurface somewhat coarser than on upper; generally finer, sparser on median areas. Claws simple with slight widening at base.

U.S. National Museum No. 58530.

Described from a holotype female, Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, June 1945, B. Malkin; and an allotype male, same data.

The claws will distinguish this species from *Platynychus eucalypti* (Blackburn) in which they are described as widely, subangulately dentate; it also is smaller than *P. eucalypti*.

Neodiploconus exilis Van Zwaluwenburg

1 male, 1 female, *Koror*, Palau, July 18, 1946, R. G. Oakley (Micronesia No. 1181), at light; 1 male Mog Mog, *Ulithi*, July 11, 1946, H. K. Townes (Micronesia No. 1238), under bark of dead *Artocarpus "altilis."*

In the original description (Bishop Mus. Occ. Papers, 16[5]: 127, 1940) it was stated that the elytra in this species are less strongly emarginate at the apex than in *N. erythropus* (Candèze); this character now appears to vary in that respect more than was at first realized. The male aedeagi of *exilis* and *erythropus* are very similar, exhibiting only slight differences.

Neodiploconus nigrifrons (Schwarz)

5 specimens, Munda, *New Georgia*, Solomon Islands, March 1945, L. A. Conwell; a new island record.

Melanotus ebeninus Candèze

1 specimen, Osmefia, *Samar*, Philippine Islands, sea level, April 9, 1945, J. L. Laffoon; a new island record.

Melanotus guambatae Van Zwaluwenburg

This Solomon Island species is separable from the New Guinea *M. albertisi* Candèze, by the longer, coarser pubescence of *guambatae*, and its wider punctures, particularly on the metasternum. Some *albertisi* have the elytra bright reddish brown, except for the black sutural and lateral margins. In all the *guambatae* so far examined the elytra are never other than dark brown.

Further examination shows a striking difference in the aedeagi of the two species. Each has, at more or less the middle of the outer margin of the lateral blade of the aedeagus, a large, well-defined barb or hook, a structure I have never before found in elaterid aedeagi. (See figures 5 and 6.) In *M. albertisi* the distance between the barb and the outer angle of the terminal lobe of the lateral

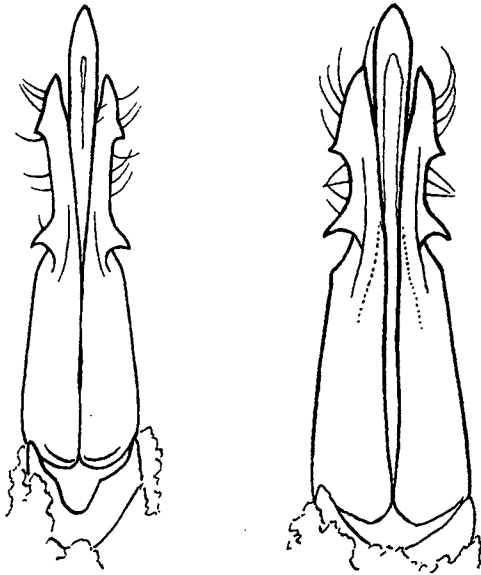


Figure 5. *Melanotus guambatae* Van Zwail., aedeagus.

Figure 6. *Melanotus albertisi* Candèze, aedeagus.

blade, is subequal to the length of the terminal lobe (as measured from base opposite outer angle to the apex). In *guambatae* the distance between the outer angle and the barb is nearly twice the length of the lobe. The ratios of length of terminal lobe to distance from angle to barb are: *albertisi*, 1:0.9; *guambatae*, 1:1.9. These ratios appear consistent for *albertisi* (from three widely separated localities on New Guinea) on the one hand, and for *guambatae* (from Guadalcanal) on the other.

Hapatesus hirtellus Candèze

Twelve specimens from Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, collected by B. Malkin in May and June 1945, have the prothorax more brightly reddish than the elytra and have a longitudinal median blackish marking on the pronotum. Another specimen from the same locality, B. Malkin, July 1945, is more uniformly dark rufous over the entire dorsal surface.