

Two New Hawaiian Beetles

BY DR. R. C. L. PERKINS

Recently I received from Mr. O. H. Swezey a small box containing four species of endemic beetles, which, as is usual with his sendings, are of great interest. Two of the species sent appear to me to be undescribed and the others may be looked on as being rare or little known.

Holcobius

The comparatively small number of species placed in this genus are a varied assembly and probably might form several distinct genera, but until a thorough revision of the very numerous and difficult species of the Anobiidae is made, I have thought it better to keep to the same arrangement as in the "Fauna Hawaiiensis."

Holcobius hawaiiensis Perkins

This species is very closely allied to *H. haleakalae* Perkins, or it may be only a variety of the Maui species. It varies greatly in size and to some extent otherwise. Swezey found its borings numerous in the *Suttonia lessertiana* trees at Kilauea, Hawaii, obtaining adults and larvae by cutting up portions of a dead tree July 20, 1934. From a section of the tree taken to the laboratory, mature beetles issued in October. The two or three specimens obtained by myself by beating dead fronds of tree ferns were probably merely resting there. In such an environment they would be perfectly concealed during the day.

Holcobius pikoensis sp. nov.

Dark brown or piceous, length 5 mm. Closely allied to *H. minor* Perkins, but more elongate and with the interstices of the elytra much more strongly sculptured. The two specimens sent are very much alike and of similar size, but some small difference in the apical abdominal sternite leads me to suspect that these represent the sexes. If so, the species is no doubt larger than *H. minor*. The pronotum is shining above and finely punctured, but at the sides has a dense, granulate or rough sculpture, and in the one example the sculpture of the disc is rather different from that of the other, the punctures tending to become granulate. In color, clothing and form of the antennal joints the species resembles *H. minor*.

Hab.—Oahu, Waianae Mts., on the Piko trail in Makua Valley. Bred by Swezey from dead branches of *Neorawarua phyllanthoides* Rock, an extremely rare endemic tree.

Holcobius frater Perkins

The typical specimens were from Kauai; those from Oahu differ somewhat in sculpture. It was a form of this species that was taken from native dead wood near the Waianae coast and not *H. minor* as was recorded in the "Fauna Hawaiiensis." The examples from Oahu, which I considered to be the same species as *H. minor* of Molokai were found very far back in the mountains behind Waimea. A small, narrow, generally pale-colored form of *H. frater* was not rare in the mountains behind Honolulu.

TABLE OF SPECIES OF HOLCOBIUS

1. A highly polished black species, glabrous, the elytra with rows of coarse punctures, the interstices subconvex.....*glabricollis* Sharp
Facies very different from that of the above species.....2
2. Pronotum covered all over with dense, strong, raised granulations.....3
Pronotum on the disc with at most very feeble or subobsolete granulations, sometimes merely punctate.....4
3. Shining black with the pubescence less conspicuous.....*granulatus* Sharp
At least the elytra are brown (varying to pitchy black) the yellowish pubescence very conspicuous.....*affinis* Perkins
4. Pronotum in dorsal aspect of the insect appearing conspicuously emarginate or notched at the sides (owing to the surface being impressed from the front angles); terminal joint of the palpi conspicuously emarginate or excised apically.....5
Pronotum simple in outline or almost so; terminal joint of palpi not excised10
5. Small species (length of unique specimen 6 mm.); elytra not densely tomentose*diversus* Perkins
Large species, often 8-11 mm.; if less than 8 mm. in length, the insect is densely covered all over with appressed tomentose pubescence....6
6. Large, elongate species, usually from 9 to 11 mm.; the disc of the pronotum not densely covered with appressed pile or tomentum.....7
Disc of the pronotum, as also the whole of the insect above, densely covered with tomentum (males usually less than 9 mm. and females usually less than 11 mm.).....8
7. Pronotum shining in the middle, the sculpture very feeble...*major* Sharp
Pronotum entirely dull, distinctly sculptured.....*simulans* Perkins
8. Very large and robust species, female 11 mm.....*insignis* Perkins
Smaller species.....9
9. The granulate sculpture of the pronotum more extensive and usually stronger, extending from the sides across the whole surface in front and behind.....*haleakalae* Perkins

The frontal granulations generally less distinct, and behind towards the middle of the pronotum wanting; in front towards the middle the granulation becomes indistinct or absent, or the sculpture is rather subrugose than with granulation like that of the sides.....

- hawaiiensis* Perkins
10. Pronotum shining and simply punctate, without faint granulations or granulate punctures even at the sides, the punctures there being dense but distinct.....*simplex* Perkins
- Pronotum with more or less granulation or feeble granulate punctures at least at the sides or with roughish sculpture there.....11
11. Interstices of the elytra with a dense and comparatively coarse subgranulate or rough sculpture; length of two examples 5 mm.....
- pikoensis* sp. nov.
- Interstices much more finely sculptured; length rarely 5 mm.....12
12. Pronotum on the disc finely punctured, not at all roughened; antennae with the funicle joints mostly more elongate.....*minor* Perkins
- Pronotum on the disc with more or less evident but very feeble granulations or granulate punctures; funicle joints of the antennae mostly shorter.....*frater* Perkins

Xyletobius aleuritis Perkins

This species was described by me from two examples found dead at a low elevation in the Waianae Mts. more than 40 years ago, and I did not meet with it subsequently. These were dug out of a dead kukui tree. The species is very different from any other and is not really congeneric with any Hawaiian Anobiid. In some respects it would appear intermediate between *Holcobius* and *Xyletobius*, while the mouthparts are unlike any of these. Six examples were sent by Swezey.

Hab.—Oahu, Makaleha Valley, February 1, 1931, 4 specimens from dead kukui; Kamokunui Valley, October 1, 1933, 2 specimens under bark of *Pipturus*. All collected by Swezey.

Proterhinus tantali sp. nov.

A red species, clothed with golden or whitish appressed setae which form more or less distinct maculations on the elytra. These are almost without any erect setae and have only sparse black or fuscous markings. The antennae have a strongly marked club of three joints, the funicle joints being somewhat stout.

Rostral portion of the head in the male well-developed, about twice as wide as long, the female rostrum smooth, its sulci deep. Antennae somewhat robust, scape seen from above elongate triangular, second joint robust, shorter and much stouter than the third, which is subelongate, with the base narrow, the three-jointed club very distinct, its basal joint being very large compared with the subrotundate preceding funicle joint. Eyes prominent, but not large. Pronotum large and somewhat long, the elytra along the suture being $1\frac{1}{2}$ times its length or less, only the anterior median impres-

sion, which is more or less shallow, being present; the clothing golden but not dense enough to conceal the sculpture, generally forming denser stripes along the sides or especially dense about the hind angles. Elytra with distinct humeral angles, which, however, are little or not at all produced, red, generally with a pair of dark markings about the middle, others sometimes along the lateral margins, the suture also sometimes with more or less infuscation. The clothing in mature examples forms more or less evident pale maculations, while the usual erect setae are either absent, or represented at most by a very few short and inconspicuous ones. The basal part of the abdomen beneath is copiously and strongly punctured. Length, 3 mm. or less.

This species in its color closely resembles some half dozen others, which are known to feed on *Euphorbia*. Of these it is most like *P. impressiscutis* Perkins, there being a tendency to an impression in the scutellar region such as is seen in the male of that species, but the stouter antennae of *P. tantali* and other structural characters distinguish it easily.

Hab.—Oahu, Mt. Tantalus, May 20, 1934 (Swezey). A series of 16 examples has been sent me by Mr. O. H. Swezey who bred them from dead twigs and branches of *Euphorbia*.