

ITODACNUS NOVICORNIS, A NEW ELATERID SPECIES

By

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***Itodacnus novicornis* new species (fig. 8)**

Male

Fairly slender and elongate; 14.00 mm. long, 4.0 mm. wide; head dark brown; pronotum reddish brown with two dark brown vittae; elytra Van Dyke brown; beneath, dark brown with irregular pallid areas on prosternum and pallid on posterior margins of abdominal sternites. Legs flavous. Pubescence short, golden brown.

Fourth antennal joint distinctly longer than second and third together (about 1.0-1.3-3.9 mm). Joints 4 to 10 subequal in length. Antennae fairly elongate, exceeding the tip of the posterior angle of the prothorax by about 3 antennal joints.

Prothorax about as long as wide, along the center line. Sides of prothorax nearly straight from about their middle, diverging moderately toward the rear. The posterior angles in the same line as the sides of the prothorax, except for their tips which diverge slightly more. From the middle of the side the prothorax is gently rounded to the anterior angles. Punctuation of pronotum coarse, umbilicate, slightly less coarse on disc, especially on posterior half, where occur also finer and simple punctures among the umbilicate punctures. Punctuation finer and less distinct toward the posterior angles.

Posterior angles strongly unicarinate; carina diverging strongly from the lateral margin, nearly bisecting the angle. Notum transversely convex; vague median depression on posterior half. Sulci obsolete.

Scutellum longer than wide, suboval, depressed near tip. Elytral striae consisting of single series of well-impressed circular punctures; the interstitial spaces flat and finely punctulate. Elytra as wide at base as posterior angles of the prothorax, their outer sides parallel nearly to the middle, thence conjointly narrowed to apex. No humeral carina.

Outer lobe of posterior coxal lamina prominent, but not acute.

Female

More robust and less slender than male; 17.0 mm. long 4.7 mm. wide; pronotum and elytra more convex. Antennae shorter than in male, the tenth antennal joint attaining to about the apex of the posterior angle. Elytra with sides parallel for about two-thirds their length, thence narrowed to the apex. Otherwise similar to male.

The coloration varies from Van Dyke brown to Cologne earth (see Smith's glossary), and in some specimens the vittae on the pronotum are suffused and confluent, the rest of the pronotum losing its reddish brown color. The pallid areas on the under side of the coloration of the legs are also somewhat variable.

The males vary in length from 14.0 to 16.0 mm. and the females from 16.0 to 17.0 mm.

Described from 6 males and 4 females, all from Necker Island, collected June, 1923 by Bryan, Judd (1 male), and Cooke and Thaanum (1 female).

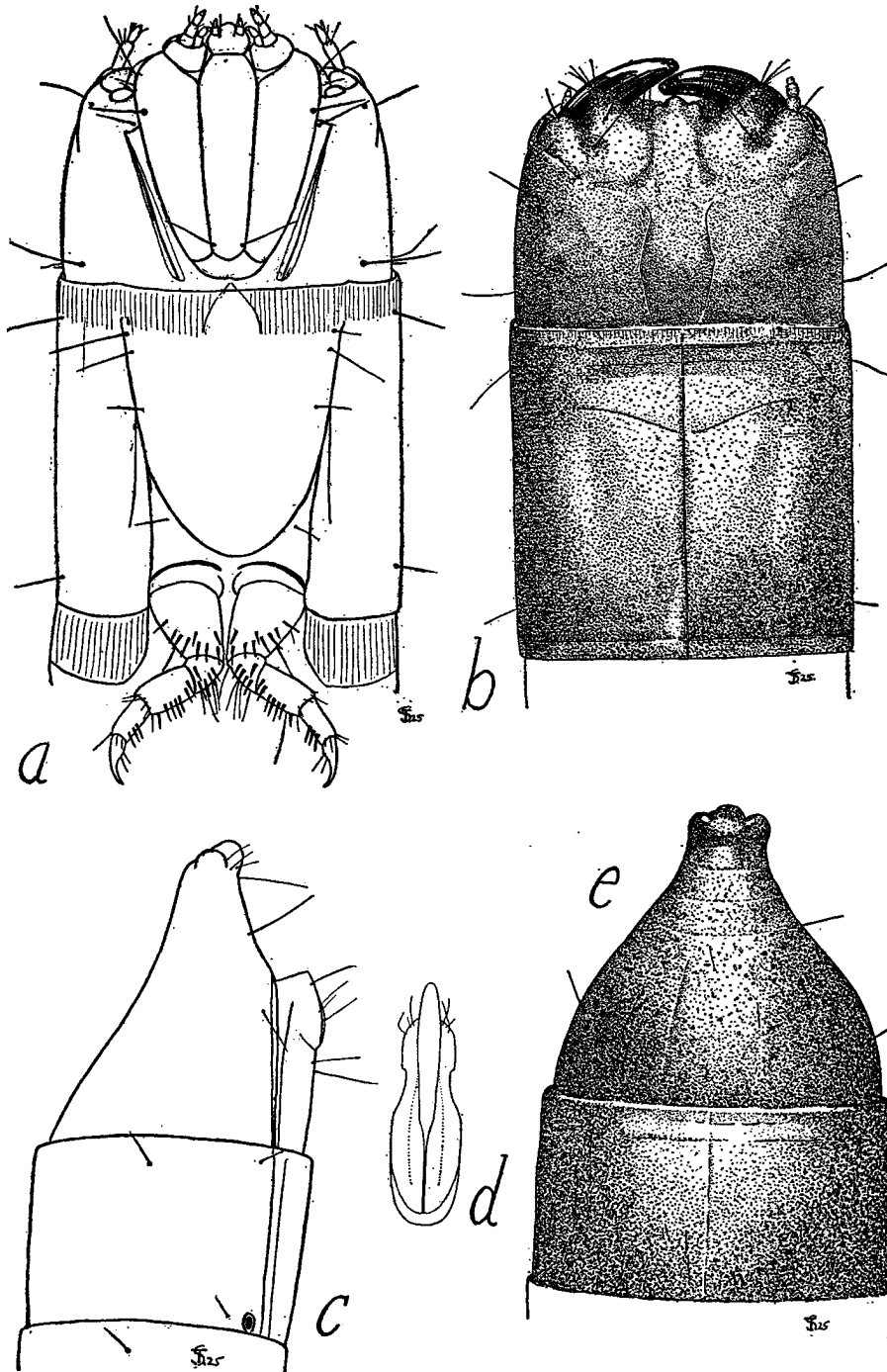


FIGURE 8. *Itodacnus novicornis* new species: a, ventral view of head, first segment and first pair of legs of larva; b, dorsal view of head and first segment of larva; c, lateral view, last two segments of larva; d, male aedeagus; e, dorsal view of last two segments of larva.

Type: Male, allotype, 3 male paratypes and 3 female paratypes, Cat. No. 234 Bernice P. Bishop Museum; 1 male paratype in collection of H. S. P. A. Experiment Station; and 1 male paratype in U. S. National Museum.

This interesting species, so distinct from, but so evidently related to its congeners in the other Hawaiian islands, is probably the result of isolation upon this remote island, some 300 miles away from Kauai, the nearest land known to support native Elaterid species.

As distinguished from all other species of the genus seen by the writer, *I. novicornis* has the fourth antennal joint distinctly longer than the second and third together. In all the species described heretofore, the combined length of the second and third joints is subequal to that of the fourth. In all other respects it possesses the distinctive characters of the genus. Its erection into a new genus on a single character seems unjustifiable, especially since this antennal character is one that ranges so widely in certain genera of the family, for example, *Melanotus*.

This species has the fascies of an enlarged *I. gracilis* Sharp with pronounced pronotal vittae; in size it more nearly approaches *I. major* Sharp. The exterior lobe of the posterior coxal lamina is rounded, being in this respect more like *I. major* than like *I. gracilis*, in which the lobe is pronounced and acute.

The aedeagus of the male (fig. 8, *d*) is of the typical elateroid 3-lobed type; the lateral lobes are not entire but instead distinctly angulate. The aedeagus of *I. gracilis* has the lateral lobes entire and more slender than *I. novicornis*; in *I. sordidus* the lateral angles of the aedeagus tend more toward the angled type. I have no male of *I. major* available for comparison of the aedeagus.

What are presumably the larvae of *I. novicornis* seem to differ in no important particular from those of known *Itodacnus* from the other Hawaiian islands. They have the body subcylindrical; the mandible unidentate; the fronto-clypeal plate bluntly 3-lobed with the median one most prominent and broadly rounded; the submentum broad (not acute) caudad; the ninth abdominal segment entire ending in 3 blunt points, the median one directed ventrad; no anal armature. (See fig. 8.)

Associated with the larvae of *I. novicornis* on Necker Island, under stones, was a single larva belonging to the *Steatoderini*, a tribe hitherto not known from Hawaii. The tribe includes the genera *Parallelostethus*, *Crigmus*, *Orthostethus*, *Dolopius*.

A single larva, indistinguishable from the larva of *Monocrepidius exsul* Sharp was collected on Midway Island (Fullaway).