

THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF NUYTS ARCHIPELAGO AND THE  
INVESTIGATOR GROUP.

No. 11—THE COLEOPTERA OF PEARSON ISLAND.

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(Contribution from the South Australian Museum.)

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PLATE XXXI.

In No. 4 of this series of papers the only beetle recorded from Pearson Island was *Saragus oleatus*, Carter<sup>(1)</sup>; the special visit to the island in January of this year enabled more species to be taken (for notes on this visit see *ante*, p. 97). The most interesting species obtained was a new *Mandalotus*, which at the request of Prof. F. Wood Jones I have pleasure in naming after Sir George Murray.

CARABIDAE.

*Scopodes sigillatus*, Germ.

*Simodontus australis*, Dej.

TROGOSITIDAE (?).

*Phycosecis algarum*, Pasc. (Pl. xxxi. fig. 1.) Several specimens were obtained on the island; the species is common on the beaches of New South Wales and Tasmania. The derm of the head is usually black, the other parts are usually pale castaneous, but vary to black; the upper-surface is clothed with scales that are normally snowy-white, but there is frequently a large median blotch extending from apex of prothorax to beyond the middle of elytra, which is stramineous or pale brown; the elytral punctures are normally concealed, but are indicated through the clothing; there is a beautiful fringe of long silvery hairs on the prothorax and elytra. Specimens, however, are very easily damaged, the scales and fringes are often partly abraded, and the scales are easily stained.

LATHRIDIIDAE.

*Corticaria adelaidae*, Blackb.

SCARABAEIDAE.

*Pseudopimelopus lindi*, Blackb.

BUPRESTIDAE.

*Germarica casuarinae*, Blackb.

ELATERIDAE.

Two specimens of this family were obtained; one of a species too near the description of *Cardiophorus octavus*, Cand., from the Swan River, for it to be described as new; the other a small *Monocrepidius*, which cannot be satisfactorily dealt with at present.

(1) *Ante*, 1922, p. 297.

## MALACODERMIDAE.

*Laius cinctus*, Redt.                      *Hypattalus minutus*, Lea.  
*Dasytes fuscipennis*, Hope.

## CLERIDAE.

*Necrobia rufipes*, De Geer.

## PTINIDAE.

*Pitnus*<sup>(2)</sup> *australiae*, n. sp.

Pl. xxxi, fig. 2.

Black. Clothed with rather stout, subdepressed, white setae, on the elytra confined to a regular row on each interstice.

Head directed downwards and invisible from above. Eyes small and prominent. Antennae eight-jointed, first and eighth rather large, the others small, the eighth appearing as a conspicuous one-jointed club. Prothorax subopaque, slightly transverse, base and apex subequal, sides strongly rounded, punctures rather ill-defined. Elytra subelliptic, strongly convex, shoulders strongly rounded, median width fully twice that of prothorax; with rows of large, subquadrate, approximate punctures, the interstices narrow and indented by punctures. Abdomen with second segment large, its suture with first distinct at sides, but inconspicuous in middle, third and fourth small and curved, the fourth almost semicircularly enclosing the fifth. Legs rather thin. Length, 1-1.75 mm.

The diagnosis of *Pitnus*, and the description of the only then known species (*P. pygmaeus*) from Central America, are very brief, but the details given and the figure<sup>(3)</sup> represent an insect so greatly resembling the one before me that I think it must belong to the same genus. The Australian species has but eight joints to its antennae, the Central American one has nine (in the figure ten are shown, but this was noted as an error). Four specimens were obtained on Pearson Island, but the species occurs in abundance on saltbushes (*Atriplex* spp.) growing near beaches in South Australia (Kangaroo Island, A. H. Elston; Sleaford Bay, Rev. T. Blackburn) and Western Australia (Swan River, J. Clark and A. M. Lea; Geraldton, T. Hooper and Lea; and Pelsart Island, Lea). The specimens from Pelsart Island and some from the Swan River are decidedly smaller than the others, but, apart from size, I can find no differences between them and the larger ones. Wings are completely absent.

~~ANOBIDAE~~ *Pronus*, n. gen.

Head rather large, projecting downwards and quite concealed from above; under-surface with a shallow depression between bases of eyes, but not bisinuate. Eyes moderately large, round, and with facets of moderate size or small. Antennae eleven-jointed, first joint large, the next seven small, the others forming a large, loosely compacted club. Palpi with apical joint wide and incurved at apex. Prothorax with base bisinuate. Scutellum distinct. Elytra striate or striate-punctate. Prosternum with middle normally concealed by head, with triangular side-pieces facing backwards; with grooves for reception of sides of head. Mesosternum very short, vertical in middle. Metasternum moderately long, side pieces distinct throughout. Abdomen composed of five distinct segments. Legs not capable of being received in special cavities; front coxae strongly projecting, pressed backwards, their tips in contact, hind coxae moderately separated, their sides touching elytra, grooved for partial reception of femora, all tarsi short, basal joint about as long as two following combined.

(2) Gorham, Biol. Cent. Am., Col., iii., Part 2, p. 197.

(3) *L.c.*, pl. 10, fig. 8.

This genus is evidently near *Sitodrepa*, but differs in the sides of the prosternum, these being so shaped that the head when at rest has the mandibles resting on the front and middle coxae, the front ones being flattened backwards to allow of this; the front and middle legs on each side are received into a space between the sides of prosternum, mesosternum, and an elytron, but there are no special grooves for their reception. From above the general appearance is as in the Hawaiian genus *Holcobius*, but the three apical joints of the antennae are large, and form a loosely compacted club. In addition to the typical species two others of the genus are before me; one of these is here described, but the other, from Queensland, is represented by two badly damaged specimens that it is undesirable to name. Type of genus, *P. medianus*.

***Pronus medianus*, n. sp.**

Pl. xxxi., fig. 3.

Dull castaneous-brown, under-surface of head and antennae paler. Densely clothed with short, depressed, pale pubescence, on the prothorax somewhat waved and conspicuously parted in the middle.

Head with dense and small, partially concealed punctures, a narrow oblique ridge from each eye to clypeal suture. Antennae with basal joint and three joints of club large, some of the small ones serrated. Prothorax with punctures as on head, median line narrow but distinct. Elytra parallel-sided to near apex, evenly striated throughout, some of the striae joined posteriorly but not decreasing in depth, with rather narrow punctures; interstices densely and minutely punctate or shagreened. Metasternum with crowded shallow punctures, distinctly larger than those on abdomen; median line narrow. Basal segment of abdomen in middle slightly longer than second, and shorter than fifth, the three median ones with straight sutures. Length, 4.5-5 mm.

A dingy species, somewhat resembling *Sitodrepa panicea* on an enlarged scale. Three specimens were obtained on the island, and they all have the prothoracic pubescence somewhat waved and conspicuously parted in the middle. Type, I. 15685.

***Pronus magniventris*, n. sp.**

Dull castaneous-brown, under-surface of head and antennae paler. Densely clothed with depressed, very short, pale pubescence.

Head with crowded and small punctures; a narrow oblique carina from each eye to clypeal suture. Antennae with first joint large, fourth to eighth inwardly triangular, ninth (first of club) largest of all, the tenth and eleventh large. Prothorax with crowded and small punctures, median line scarcely traceable. Elytra rather long, parallel-sided to near apex, strongly and evenly striated, the striae with rather small punctures; interstices separately convex, with minute punctures or shagreened. Metasternum with crowded and shallow but fairly large punctures, conspicuously larger than on abdomen; median line narrow. Basal segment of abdomen in middle somewhat longer than second or fifth, the three median ones with straight sutures. Length, 6.6-5 mm.

*Hab.*—Western Australia: Swan River (A. M. Lea).

In general appearance fairly close to *P. medianus*, and the prothoracic pubescence is slightly waved, but it is not conspicuously parted in the middle.

A specimen from New South Wales (Galston) is certainly close to this species, but it is darker, has smaller eyes (this, however, may be sexual), and there is a more distinct, although feeble, gutter on each side of the pronotum; but as in other respects it agrees closely with the types, it was not regarded as distinct.

## TENEBRIONIDAE.

*Caedimorpha heteromera*, King.                      *Helaeus castor*, Pasc.  
*Cestrinus aspersus*, Blackb.                      *Saragus oleatus*, Carter  
*Exangeltus gracilior*, Blackb.

## CURCULIONIDAE.

In addition to the other species recorded, a single specimen was obtained of an interesting one belonging to the same genus as *Myositta crucigera*, Blackb., but which Blackburn afterward stated did not belong to *Myositta*, but probably to *Agestra*. Unfortunately it is an abraded female, so it is undesirable to name it.

*Euthyphasis lineata*, Lea. Three specimens from the island appear to belong to this species, of which previously only the type was known; they differ from it in having the clothing less lineate in appearance on the prothorax, and not at all lineate on the elytra, on one of them it has a distinctly golden gloss on the upper-surface, and a slight gloss on the under-surface; on the others the gloss is faint on the under-surface, and on the upper-surface the scales are mostly of an opaque white, mixed with muddy-grey. The type was not abraded, but one of the island ones has been partly abraded, and its elytral punctures are seen to be large, close together, and wider than the interstices.

***Mandalotus murrayi*, n. sp.**

Pl. xxxi., figs. 4, 5.

♂. Castaneous to dark brown, some parts occasionally almost black. Densely clothed with pale scales, obscurely or moderately mottled with small patches of greyish or brownish ones; in addition with numerous pale setae, on the elytra condensed to form a single row on each interstice.

Head with punctures concealed. Eyes small. Rostrum gibbous between antennae, derm concealed. Antennae with scape slightly curved and moderately stout, almost as long as funicle and club combined, first joint of the latter stout and moderately long. Prothorax moderately transverse, sides somewhat dilated to apical third and then strongly narrowed to apex; with small, flattened granules, and a rather feeble median line. Elytra gently but not quite evenly arcuate at base; striate-punctate, punctures large but appearing small through clothing, interstices gently convex, with dense and small, concealed punctures. Abdomen with basal segment somewhat flattened, with two small tubercles close together at the middle of its apex. Front coxae almost touching, middle ones moderately, the hind ones widely separated. Length, 3.75-4.25 mm.

♀. Differs in being slightly more robust, basal segment of abdomen gently convex, without tubercles, and legs and antennae slightly shorter.

The two small tubercles on the abdomen of the male associate this species with *M. lutosus*, but on that species the small tubercles are so placed that the distance between them is about equal to the length of the second segment; on the present species they are closer together, the distance between them being scarcely half the length of that segment; the present species also is larger, with the scape and basal joint of antennae stouter, and setae of elytra pale instead of dark. On three specimens the colour of the derm is almost black, on three others it is almost entirely castaneous, but on most of the others the prothorax is distinctly darker than the elytra. Type, I. 15723.

***Rhinaria maculiventris*, n. sp.**

Black or blackish-brown, some parts obscurely paler. Densely clothed with scales conspicuously variegated on upper-surface, white on under-surface except

for dark spots on each side of third and fourth abdominal segments; in addition with numerous stout setae, wider on under-surface than elsewhere, seriate on elytra, and becoming thin on legs.

Head with dense punctures, each containing a scale; a comparatively small crest in front, posteriorly diverging to margin of each eye for a short distance. Rostrum short, concave, and with a few punctures along middle; sides flat, highly polished, and with rather sparse, conspicuous punctures. Club of antennae elongate. Prothorax with sides strongly and evenly rounded; punctures dense and rather large, but almost concealed. Elytra conspicuously wider than prothorax, sides parallel to near apex; with rows of large, partially concealed punctures, each containing a stout seta or scale; interstices evenly convex and wider than punctures, each with a row of setae, and towards base with small granules. Length, 7-9 mm.

The rostrum concave along the middle and polished on the sides, elytra with even interstices on which granules are few and inconspicuous, and the maculate abdomen distinguish this from all previously described species. Structurally it is closer to *R. faceta* than to any other species before me, but that species has distinct rows of granules and a white fascia on elytra, sides of rostrum clothed, and abdomen immaculate. As on most species of the genus, the markings of the upper-surface are variable, the scales are black, white, and ochreous, intermingled in small patches, on some specimens the white scales are in the majority, on most of the others the ochreous ones are, but these vary from almost white to dark brown; the scutellum, however, appears to be always clothed with white scales. The granules on the elytra are all small and are mostly on the basal half, but they are usually concealed by the clothing; the seriate punctures appear to be narrower than the interstices, but after the scales have been abraded they are seen to be slightly wider than them. The male has slightly longer legs than the female, and the basal segment of its abdomen is slightly depressed in the middle, that of the female being slightly convex there. A single specimen was taken on the island, but Messrs. B. A. Feuerherdt and F. Secker took others at Lucindale.

*Belus brunneus*, Guer. Fragments of at least nine specimens of this species were taken from the stomach of a thickhead (*Pachycephala gutturalis*).

*Desiantha maculata*, Blackb. In the original description of this widely distributed species the under-surface was not even mentioned; on the male there is a conspicuous depression on the basal segment of abdomen, continued on to the second segment and also on to the metasternum; its apical segment has a small median fovea, sometimes scarcely traceable. On the female the basal segment is convex in the middle and the apical one has a cavity occupying rather more than the median third; its metasternum has a large depression but smaller than on the male. Numerous specimens from the island may represent a variety of the species, they differ from some cotypes and other specimens in the average size being larger (up to 6.5 mm.), the elytra less conspicuously maculate, and the scales occasionally with a golden or golden-green gloss.

*Xeda*, sp. A single badly abraded specimen of this genus was obtained; it belongs to a large species about the size of *X. magistra* or *X. fasciata*, but could not be identified with certainty.

*Decilaus auricomus*, Lea.

*Eleagna squamibunda*, Pasc.

*Aphela algarum*, Pasc.

*A. helopoides*, Pasc. One of the specimens of this apterous beach-frequenting species was taken from the stomach of *Hirundo neoxena*, a rather curious record for this bird, which usually captures its prey on the wing.

*Halorhynchus caecus*, Woll. (Pl. xxxi., fig. 6.) Several specimens were obtained. Although a widely distributed species, it seems remarkable that this curious, little, apterous, blind species should occur on such a small island.

#### COCCINELLIDAE.

In addition to the species noted a single specimen was obtained of a minute species probably belonging to *Scymnus*, and about the size of *S. vagans*; it differs from that species in the eyes having coarser facets, metasternum with smaller punctures, and prothorax obscurely reddish; but as its sex is not evident, and it appears to be partly abraded, it does not appear desirable to name it.

*Scymnus flavifrons*, Blackb. A small form of this variable species; the elytra entirely dark, or with only the tips obscurely reddish.

*Rhizobius nitidus*, Blackb. A single specimen was obtained on the island; it, and all the others before me, have the suture very narrowly blackish, a character not mentioned in the original description.

*Coccinella transversalis*, Fab.

#### CORYLOPHIDAE.

*Sericoderus inconspicuus*, Lea.

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#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE XXXI.

- Fig. 1. *Phycosecis algarum*, Pasc.  
 „ 2. *Pitnus australiae*, Lea.  
 „ 3. *Pronus medianus*, Lea.  
 „ 4. *Mandalotus murrayi*, Lea.  
 „ 5. *Mandalotus murrayi*, Lea.  
 „ 6. *Halorhynchus caecus*, Woll.
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