

AUSTRALIAN BUPRESTIDAE: DESCRIPTION OF THREE NEW SPECIES OF
THE GENUS *STIGMODERA*.

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(Three Text-figures.)

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Of the three *Stigmoderae* described in the present paper, two are from the Stanthorpe district, in the highlands of southern Queensland, wherefrom a large number of brightly coloured Buprestidae have already been recorded.

The third is found in the New England district of New South Wales and also in southern Queensland, around Milmerran, where, surprisingly, several Western Australian species of Buprestidae and Cetoniidae have been taken, the finest being *Stigmodera pascoei* Saund., which until recently was thought to belong exclusively to Western Australia.

STIGMODERA (*THEMOGNATHA*) *GEMMELLI*, n. sp. Fig. 1.

Oblong-oval. Head, pronotum and scutellum brilliant metallic green with golden reflections at sides of pronotum, legs green, antennae and tarsi bronzy-green. Elytra of ♂ testaceous with humeral ridges or epaulets and narrow lateral border extending from behind the shoulder swelling to the apex brownish and faintly sanguineous. Suture and apical teeth blue-green. Elytra of ♀ testaceous on upper part of disc and darker red past middle to the apex; narrow basal margin, external border and suture blue-green, extreme apex slightly tipped with green. Underside mostly shining metallic

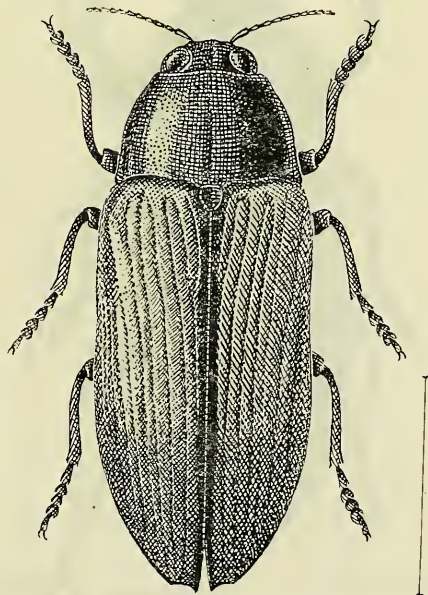


Fig. 1.—*Stigmodera* (*Themognatha*) *gemmelli*, n. sp. (Drawing by E. H. Zeck.)

green or greenish-bronze with the margins of abdominal segments yellow, the apical segment almost wholly yellow.

Head rugosely but irregularly punctate, rather strongly pubescent, slight vertical furrow.

Prothorax (♀, 10 × 6 mm.; ♂, 9 × 5 mm.) lightly convex, apex and base bisinuate, sides diverging rapidly for about half of their length then almost parallel to the base, the dorsal line smoothly indicated at the basal half by a shallow depression, disc finely and shallowly punctured, more coarsely and deeply so at sides, especially near the posterior angles. Scutellum cordate, impunctate, depressed in centre.

Elytra (♀, 21 × 11 mm.; ♂, 19 × 10 mm.) slightly wider than prothorax at base, lightly compressed just past shoulder then feebly widening and gradually narrowing to apex. Finely punctate, the punctures arranged in regular lines near the suture but very irregular near the shoulders and sides. Shoulders rather prominent. Suture slightly wider in ♀, particularly so on lower half. Apex widely truncate, each elytron feebly bidentate, the inner or sutural teeth the longer.

Underside shining, punctate and sparsely clothed with scattered long silvery hairs.

Dimensions: ♀, 30 × 11.5 mm.; ♂, 25 × 10 mm.

Habitat.—Stanthorpe, southern Queensland (A. Gemmell).

Four examples of this handsome and very localized species were examined. I am most grateful to Mr. A. Gemmell for a pair, and it affords me great pleasure to name it after this excellent naturalist.

Holotype (♀) and one paratype in Coll. Gemmell. Paratypes ♂ and ♀ in Coll. Deuquet.

STIGMODERA (CASTIARINA) RUTILA, n. sp. Fig. 2.

Elongate, moderately convex. Head, antennae, pronotum, scutellum and legs bright bronze-green. Elytra uniformly blood-red except for the sombre bronze colour of the narrow basal margin and of the sutural line, the colour of the latter extending only to about 1 mm. from extreme apex, which is very faintly tipped with black.

Head punctured, lightly furrowed between the eyes.

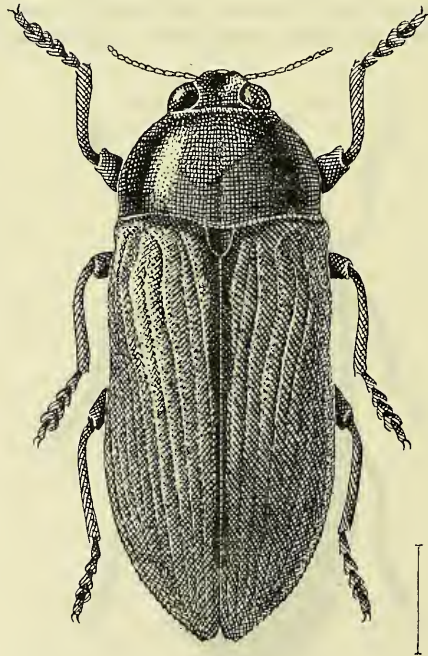


Fig. 2.—*Stigmodera (Castiarina) rutila*, n. sp. (Drawing by E. H. Zeck.)

Prothorax closely, evenly and deeply punctate; anterior margin nearly straight and half the length of the base, sides rounded, base bisinuate. The dorsal line indicated at the base by a shallow median depression. Scutellum cordate with scattered irregular impressions.

Elytra of almost same width as prothorax at base, sides nearly straight on anterior two-thirds, thence narrowing arcuately to apex; surface punctured and striated, the slightly rounded interstices giving a smooth shiny appearance. Apex of each elytron sub-bidentate. Posterior margins finely denticulate. Underside evenly and finely punctate, lightly lanuginose.

Dimensions: 15 × 5.5 mm.

Habitat: Stanthorpe, southern Queensland (A. Gemmell).

This species whose habitat appears to be also strictly limited to the Stanthorpe district is a close ally of *S. indistincta* Saund., from which it differs (1) by the absence of fasciae on its elytra; (2) by the bright colour of its head, pronotum and appendages (the pronotum of the ♂ with its gold reflections being particularly brilliant), while these parts are nitid bronze in *S. indistincta*; (3) by its narrower width; and (4) by its more sharply attenuate form at apex.

Holotype (? ♀) and paratype in Coll. Gemmell. Paratypes ♂ and ♀ in Coll. Deuquet.

STIGMODERA (CASTIARINA) HUMILIS, n. sp. Fig. 3.

Ovate, widely oblong. Head, pronotum and scutellum dark bronze; clypeus, antennae, legs, tarsi and underside dark blue. Elytra uniformly orange-red, suture black.

Head finely punctured and fairly deeply furrowed between the eyes.

Prothorax moderately convex, widest at base; anterior margin almost straight and only slightly elevated; sides diverging in a slight curve till past the middle, feeble sinuation in middle leading to small dorsal fovea situated right above scutellum, the latter being only moderately depressed.

Elytra slightly wider behind shoulders, which are much wider than the base of the thorax and also past the middle; sides slightly raised, interstices closely punctate.

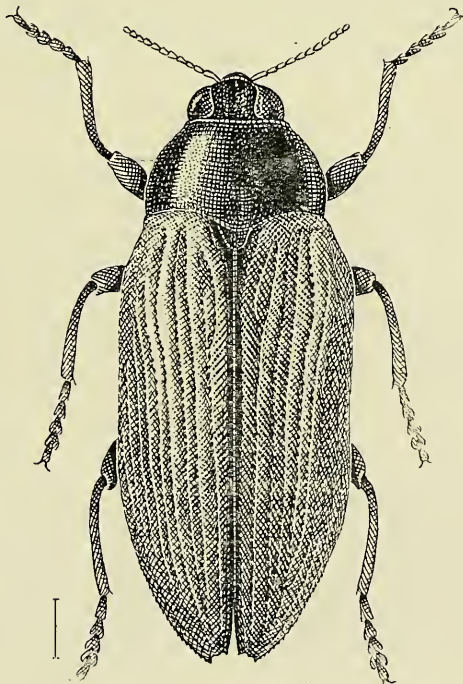


Fig. 3.—*Stigmodera (Castiarina) humilis*, n. sp. (Drawing by E. H. Zeck.)

Apex of each elytron with two small spines, the exterior one being slightly more prominent. Underside moderately punctate and sparsely clothed with white hairs, thickest at prosternum.

Dimensions: 7.5 × 3.5 mm.

Habitat: Southern Queensland and north-western New South Wales.

This species is not uncommon in the New England district of New South Wales and is found also in southern Queensland, and several specimens were kindly given to me recently by Mr. J. Macqueen of Milmerran, Queensland. In general appearance it is like *S. erythroptera* Boisd. and also resembles some examples of *S. balteata* Saund. which are occasionally found without sagittate subapical mark; but on closer view it can be easily separated from both. It differs from *S. erythroptera* by its lighter colour, smaller size, dark suture commencing at scutellum and extending almost but not quite to apex, smoother pronotum devoid of any fovea except the small shallow basal depression mentioned above, less rugose elytra and complete absence of apical or preapical mark. Also, the medial line of the pronotum, which is clearly defined in *S. erythroptera*, is almost indistinct in *S. humilis*. It differs from *S. balteata* by the redder colour of the elytra, suture commencing at scutellum, lateral margins of elytra more raised, and complete absence of apical or preapical mark connected or unconnected with suture.

Type (♂) in the Australian Museum, Sydney. Paratypes in Coll. Macqueen and in Coll. Deuquet. One paratype forwarded to British Museum of Natural History and one to the Queensland Museum, Brisbane.
