

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE.

BULLETINS.

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NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE.

BULLETIN No. 1, PART IV.

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DESCRIPTIONS

OF

NEW GENERA AND SPECIES OF COLEOPTERA.

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[Read before the Auckland Institute, 3rd December, 1913.]

PART IV.

THE researches of Messrs. A. Philpott, of Invercargill; M. O. Pasco, of Queenstown; F. R. Field, of Opotiki; W. and L. Burrows, of Methven; and Mr. T. Hall, within the past twelve months, have enabled me to prepare the following record.

Exclusive of fifteen species of *Pselaphidae* in my own collection, one from Mr. A. Brookes, of Mount Albert, and two of the *Carabidae* from Mr. Field, these six new genera and 105 species were almost all found in the South Island, half of them by Mr. T. Hall whilst he resided at Methven.

In the following list the numbers are in continuation of those in Bulletin No. 1, Part III, published by the New Zealand Institute.

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Group CNEMACANTHIDAE.

3679. *Mecodema halli* sp. nov. *Mecodema* Blanchard, Man. N.Z. Coleopt., p. 7.

Subdepressed, moderately broad; glossy black, legs, antennae, and mandibles piceo-rufous.

Head, eyes included, almost as broad as thorax, with deep rugae on the forehead, almost unimpressed elsewhere, but with the usual setigerous punctures near each eye; labrum medially emarginate. Thorax widest near the front, curvedly narrowed backwards, more so behind, the base with almost straight sides; lateral margins entire, the channels only slightly broader in front than behind, with several setigerous punctures; it is only a sixth broader than long, almost smooth, having only a few short, rather fine, longitudinal striae at the base, which, like the apex, is only slightly emarginate, median groove narrow, not attaining the base or apex, basal foveae deep and subrotundate. Elytra oblong-oval, widest near the posterior femora, gently narrowed towards the base, rather broader there than the thorax, $2\frac{1}{4}$ times its length; their striae regular and distinct, deeper and broader near the sides, moderately coarsely punctured there, rather finely near the suture; interstices almost plane, the outer ones more convex, 3rd and 5th slightly wider than the others, the 7th sometimes tripunctate near the base, the common lateral space smooth, apical sculpture less regular and coarser.

Posterior tibiae simple, the others moderately prominent at the outer angles, the intermediate asperate. Antennae pubescent from their 5th joint onwards.

Underside shining black, nearly smooth, the terminal ventral segment quadripunctate at the apex.

In size and appearance this most nearly resembles *M. cognatum*, 2603, but it is rather broader, the thorax is differently formed, with broader lateral channels, deeper and more rotundate basal fossae, more distinctly punctate-striate elytra, and with 4 instead of 6 punctures on the extremity of the last ventral segment.

Length, 24–25 mm.; breadth, 8–8½ mm.

Mount Hutt, near Methven. Named in honour of Mr. T. Hall, who found his first specimen on the 10th January, 1913, at an elevation of 3,500 ft.; two or three more were obtained on other occasions at 4,500 ft.

3680. *Mecodema huttense* sp. nov.

Elongate, moderately nitid; black, tarsi, antennae, and palpi piceous, these last with rufescent tips.

Head rather narrower than thorax, distinctly punctured behind the eyes, and with some finer punctures on the vertex, forehead with longitudinal rugae, those near the eyes somewhat curved. Thorax about a fourth broader than long, its sides indistinctly crenulate, only slightly rounded, gradually narrowed behind the middle, more strongly but not abruptly near the base, where its sides are nearly straight, the rounded anterior angles are a little explanate, the base and apex feebly emarginate and with short longitudinal striae; disc without obvious transverse striae, central groove marked but scarcely reaching the base or apex, basal fossae deep, extending to the sides and basal margin, there are several distinct punctures near the fossae but only a few on the intervening space, the front and sides are distantly, the anterior angles more closely punctate. Elytra oblong-oval, double the

length of thorax; on each there are 5 feebly impressed finely punctured striae with plane interstices, which are more or less finely wrinkled behind the middle, the 6th stria is broader and irregularly sculptured, some of the punctures near the base and extremity being larger than the others, the 7th and 8th striae are shallow but their punctation is close, that of the former rather coarser than the latter, the lateral punctures behind the middle are very coarse and distant, the whole of the apical sculpture is coarse and irregular.

Antennae with distinct pubescence on the 5th and following joints. Front and middle tibiae with prominent outer angles, the latter asperate, the posterior simple. Terminal joint of maxillary palpi truncate at the extremity but only moderately thick. Mentum tooth minutely bifid.

Underside shining black. Flanks of prosternum distinctly but not very closely punctured. Abdomen finely wrinkled near the sides, the last segment transversely strigose, bipunctate at each side of the middle at the apex.

This hardly at all resembles *M. halli*, and is unlike any other in my collection. Castelnau's *M. impressum*, 16, from Dunedin, is described as being of a rather brilliant dark-copper colour, with the front angles of the thorax covered with a dense punctation, and with 3 or 4 rather large punctiform impressions between the 7th and 8th elytral striae. In *M. huttense* the interval between these striae is so narrow, and almost obliterated behind the middle, that only very minute punctures could be placed there. Although I have not seen *M. impressum*, I have no doubt it is the nearest ally of *M. huttense*.

♂. Length, 21 mm.; breadth, 6½ mm.

Mount Hutt. Unique; one caught by Mr. T. Hall on the 15th March, 1913, at a height of 4,500 ft.

3681. *Mecodema persculptum* sp. nov.

Subdepressed, elongate, moderately shining; black, legs, antennae, and palpi piceous.

Head rather narrower than thorax and, including the mandibles, equaling it in length; densely, coarsely, and irregularly rugose in front, coarsely and closely punctate, and with short rugose interstices behind; labrum subtruncate, with an obvious basal depression. Eyes prominent, about equidistant from the thorax and antennae. Thorax a fifth broader than long, its sides finely crenulate, not expanded, slightly rounded for two-thirds of the length, a good deal curvedly narrowed behind, the base much contracted and straight-sided, with obtuse angles; disc closely, coarsely, and irregularly rugose, the rugae here and there interrupted by short longitudinal impressions and more or less finely punctured; base and apex slightly emarginate, both scored with deep longitudinal, somewhat irregular striae, the base, in addition thereto, with numerous punctures; median furrow well marked but abbreviated, basal fossae deep but not large. Elytra oblong-oval, only a sixth broader than thorax, $2\frac{1}{2}$ times its length, rather wider than it is at the base, only moderately narrowed behind; their sculpture consists of coarse oblong or punctiform impressions, these are subserrate near the suture but become more rotundate and irregular, and a little deeper towards the sides, the usual smooth lateral space is narrow.

Underside shining black. Prosternum slightly wrinkled and punctate in the middle, its flanks more coarsely punctured, its process broadly grooved. Metasternum and posterior coxae rugose. Abdomen nearly smooth along the middle, with some fine punctures and irregular wrinkles near the sides,

subtruncate inner margin of the eyes. Prosternum widely emarginate at the apex, somewhat obtusely elevated but not definitely carinate along the middle, and projecting acutely as far as the middle of the contiguous coxae, and with a distinct curved groove proceeding from each of these half-way towards the side. Mesosternal process narrow, quite vertical in front; intermediate coxae slightly separated. Metasternum moderately elongate, obtusely and angularly elevated in the middle. Abdomen with 5 segments, the basal rather larger than the next, without any trace of median carina. Femora distinctly punctate and pubescent underneath. Tibiae finely spinose externally, bicalcarate at the extremity. Tarsi elongate, setose below, basal joint of the posterior evidently shorter than the next. Claws simple.

Cyloma and *Psephoboragus* are the only other New Zealand genera with 8-jointed antennae. Both are distinguishable by the more convex and subrotundate body, emarginate mentum, different mesosternal process, and shorter metasternum.

The cosmopolitan *Cereyon* more nearly resembles it in form, but it has 9-jointed antennae, a broad horizontal mesosternal process, and the basal ventral segment and prosternum are medially carinate, &c.

3690. *Gitocyloma nigratus* sp. nov.

Glabrous, nitid, nigro-piceous, the sides of thorax and margins of elytra castaneo-rufous, the apical portion of these latter paler, tibiae rufous, antennae and tarsi infusate, claws testaceous.

Head immersed up to the eyes, almost as broad as front of thorax, the forehead truncate; its surface finely, yet distinctly, and moderately closely punctate. Thorax quite twice as broad as long, gently curvedly narrowed anteriorly, with obtuse angles, the apex very slightly rounded in the middle and sinuate towards the sides, the base subtruncate and closely applied to the elytra, lateral margins slender; its punctation similar to that of the head. Scutellum rather large, subtriangular, finely punctured. Elytra oblong, rounded behind, thrice the length of the thorax; the sutural striae distinct near the extremity but becoming quite obsolete before the middle; on each elytron there are about 5 more or less regular dorsal series of moderately fine punctures, the intervals are rather more finely punctate near the middle.

Tibiae with very few setiform spines. Tarsal vestiture yellow. Antennal club opaque, its last joint with a foveiform cavity underneath.

Underside subopaque, nigrescent, closely and minutely sculptured, and bearing inconspicuous, fine, ashy pubescence.

Length, 4 mm.; breadth, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ mm.

Mount Hutt. I am indebted to Mr. T. Hall for the two specimens, which he found on the 25th January, 1913.

Group STAPHYLINIDAE.

3691. *Quedius burrowsi* sp. nov. *Quedius* Stephens, Lacord. Hist. des Ins. Coleopt., tom. 2, p. 84.

Elongate, black, head and thorax shining, with outstanding fuscous setae along the sides, elytra and abdomen clothed with elongate depressed ashy pubescence; mandibles, antennae, and legs rufo-piceous.

Head oviform, narrower than thorax, medially bipunctate in line with the middle of the eyes, and at the inner margin of each, quadripunctate

behind them, and with a pair of punctures at the basal margin; clypeus membranous, short and dark; labrum not emarginate but with a broad groove along the centre. Eyes longitudinally oval, nearly flat, covering more than half of the sides of the head. Thorax slightly longer than broad, base and hind angles rounded, its sides finely margined, nearly straight, but very gently narrowed anteriorly, apex widely emarginate, with obtuse somewhat deflexed angles; disc distinctly quadripunctate along each side of the middle, more finely tripunctate near each side of the apex, between each side and the submedian series there are 9 irregularly placed punctures, and there are some fine ones on the basal margin. Scutellum large, triangular, with minute, distant, subgranular sculpture. Elytra rather broader than long, apices with rounded angles but oblique towards the suture, with moderately close punctiform sculpture. Hind-body elongate, irregularly and rather finely punctate, terminal styles moderate.

Tibiae finely spinose, anterior tarsi only moderately expanded.

Antennae not as long as the head and thorax, their 3rd joint rather shorter than the basal but slightly longer than 2nd, joints 4-10 subequal, dull and minutely pubescent, the penultimate rather longer than broad.

The thorax is like that of *Q. puncticollis*, 2703, but it is emarginate in front, the head is evidently elongate-oval, the mandibles are shorter, the labrum is more prominent and has a well-marked central groove, and the insect itself is larger.

The New Zealand species in my cabinet are divided into sixteen sections; these two belong to Section VI.

♀. Length, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; breadth, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

Pudding Hill, near Methven. One female, found on the 13th April, 1913, during a wet, stormy day, by Mr. L. Burrows, of Methven, after whom it has been named.

3692. *Quedius hirtipennis* sp. nov.

Elongate, head and thorax glossy aeneo-niger, with some long fuscous setae, elytra thickly covered with decumbent yellowish hairs, hind-body slightly variegated chestnut-brown, with less conspicuous pubescence; legs fusco-testaceous, basal joint of antennae yellow, 2-4 less so, 5-11 infusate.

Head oviform, narrower than thorax, smooth along the middle, bipunctate alongside the eyes, closely and finely punctate behind them, and with an oblique pair of punctures there. Eyes occupying half the sides of the head. Thorax rather broader than long, base and posterior angles rounded, its sides slightly curvedly narrowed towards the truncate apex, anterior angles obtuse and deflexed; disc bipunctate at each side of the middle, the lateral and basal margins with a few fine punctures; near each side there is a shallow rotundate fovea in front, and an elongate impression farther back. Scutellum large, triangular, of a pale-chestnut hue, pubescent and finely punctate. Elytra subquadrate, with oblique apices, their close punctation much concealed by the vestiture. Hind-body gradually attenuate posteriorly, rather more than half the whole length, somewhat irregularly and finely punctured, bearing many long nigrescent setae towards the extremity, its last segment strongly rounded behind, terminal appendages of moderate length.

Anterior tarsi with strongly dilated transverse basal articulations, the terminal joint slender.

Antennae shorter than the head and thorax, basal 4 joints of nearly equal length, 10th slightly longer than broad, the terminal still longer and oviform.

The broadly expanded anterior tarsi and flavescent wing-cases distinguish this species from *Q. enodis*, 207, and the other species, 208 and 206, belonging to Section VII.

♂. Length, 7 mm.; breadth, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

pudding Hill, near Methven. A single male caught by Mr. T. Hall on the 4th May, 1912.

Group OMALIDAE.

3693. *Ischnoderus curtipennis* sp. nov. *Ischnoderus* Fauvel, Hist. Nat. Nouv. Caledon., Caen, 1867, p. 46.

Elongate, parallel, subdepressed, nitid; light castaneo-rufous, legs, antennae, and palpi somewhat flavescent; pubescence scanty, greyish, short, slender, and suberect, but longer and more conspicuous on the abdomen.

Head large, obcordate, its obtuse hind angles slightly wider than the thorax, very gradually narrowed towards the minute eyes, more narrowed in front, base medially emarginate, the forehead not quite truncate, being a little oblique towards the sides; it is moderately coarsely and irregularly but not closely punctate, with a pair of distinct elongate foveae behind, the space between these, like the bi-impressed forehead, is almost smooth. Neck short, about half the width of the occiput. Thorax a third broader than long, widest and slightly curved before the middle, gently narrowed towards the rectangular posterior angles, its sides distinctly margined and slightly explanate, base and apex truncate; its punctation similar to that of the head, the disc broadly, longitudinally, but not deeply bi-impressed, the interval smooth. Elytra very short, scarcely longer than thorax, gently narrowed anteriorly, apices with rounded angles and oblique towards the suture; they are coarsely, irregularly, and distantly punctured, and without sutural striae. Hind-body elongate, nearly half the entire length, indistinctly sculptured, with broad margins, basal segment usually short, terminal small, subtriangular, and yellowish, the intermediate ones about equal.

Tibiae slightly expanded towards the extremity, finely setose. Tarsi slender, basal joints of the posterior short and compact, only 3 visible above, and together hardly any longer than the claws, the terminal elongate.

Antennae rather shorter than head and thorax, with slender outstanding setae; basal joint pyriform, very thin at the base, 2nd oviform, evidently smaller than the basal, the next as long as the 2nd but more slender and gradually narrowed towards its base, 4th and 5th small and moniliform, joints 6-10 abruptly broader, somewhat laxly articulated, 8-10 strongly transverse, terminal conical, not quite as long as preceding two combined.

The minute eyes, obsolete ocelli, indefinite scutellum, and abbreviated elytra are its most obvious characteristics; these are indications of generic differentiation. The 6th ventral segment of the male is short and without incision, the 7th narrow and subconcave. The head of the female is rather less dilated than that of the other sex.

♂. Length, 2 mm.; breadth, nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

pudding Hill, near Methven. One female found amongst dead leaves on the ground, at a height of 3,000 ft., on the 13th April, 1913, by Messrs. T. Hall and L. Burrows; the other sex on the 28th November, 1912.

3694. *Omalissus scutosus* sp. nov. *Omalissus* Broun, Man. N.Z. Coleopt., p. 1042.

Elongate, subdepressed, almost parallel-sided, moderately nitid; piceo-castaneous, head and thorax darker, lateral margins of the latter and a large indefinite space on each elytron obscurely rufescent; mandibles, antennae, and legs chestnut-red, tarsi flavescent; thorax and elytra with minute, slender, suberect greyish setae, the head and hind-body with moderately elongate, decumbent greyish-yellow pubescence.

Head as long as thorax but rather narrower, nearly straight behind the eyes, obliquely contracted anteriorly, forehead subtruncate and smooth, the rest of the surface moderately finely, distantly, and irregularly punctured, and with a pair of small shallow frontal impressions. Eyes quite lateral, rather large, but not at all conspicuous. Thorax about a third broader than long, a little rounded and depressed in front, gradually narrowed behind, with rectangular posterior angles, base and apex subtruncate, with fine lateral rims; its punctation rather fine and distant on the middle, more distinct near the sides. Scutellum moderately large, subtriangular, finely punctate. Elytra slightly longer than broad, a third longer than the thorax, apices truncate but with rounded outer angles; there is a slight depression near the scutellum, behind this the suture is somewhat elevated, their sculpture is like that of the thorax but more or less irregularly subseriate. Hind-body as wide as the elytra but rather longer, finely but not closely punctate, basal four segments broadly marginate, 2-5 slightly increase in length, the 1st shorter, terminal small, triangular, and much paler.

Tibiae nearly straight, with external spiniform setae.

Antennae rather short, very gradually incrassate, basal joint twice as long as broad yet only slightly longer than the next, 3rd rather shorter, 4th and 5th short and bead-like, joints 6-10 transversely quadrate, terminal subovate, not as long as 9th and 10th combined.

Labrum prominent, semicircularly emarginate. Mandibles broad near the base, curved and acute at the extremity.

Independently of minor details this species is at once separable from *O. castaneus*, 1865, by its well-developed scutellum.

Length, 3 mm.; breadth, $\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

pudding Hill, near Methven. One, amongst a miscellaneous collection from Messrs. T. Hall and L. Burrows, on the 13th April, 1913.

Group FARONINI.

3695. *Sagola socia* sp. nov. *Sagola* Sharp, Man. N.Z. Coleopt., p. 134.

Elongate, subparallel, subdepressed, indistinctly punctate, nitid; sparingly covered with greyish-yellow, slender and elongate, suberect setae, more thickly on the hind-body; light chestnut-red, legs and antennae paler, tarsi and palpi fulvescent.

Head rather smaller than thorax, genae nearly straight, with obtuse hind angles; frontal channel moderately broad, extending from back part of the eyes but becoming narrow between the flattened antennal tubercles, occipital foveae small but distinct. Eyes moderately large. Thorax of about equal length and breadth, widest and rounded before the middle; lateral and median basal foveae subrotundate, basal margin bipunctate. Elytra subquadrate, hardly a third longer than thorax, a good deal narrowed before the middle yet rather broader at the base than the thorax; sutural striae moderately deep, intrahumeral impressions irregular, the left not reaching

Takitimu Mountains. One found by Mr. A. Philpott, of Invercargill, on the 3rd January, 1913.

3782. *Allastena piliventris* sp. nov. *Allastena* Broun. Man. N.Z. Coleopt., p. 1318.

Oblong, subdepressed, nitid; bearing only very few fine suberect greyish setae; bronzed-black, legs and basal joint of antennae fusco-testaceous, the other joints and the tarsi more infusate.

Head almost as broad, eyes included, as front of thorax, nearly smooth. Thorax hardly a third broader than long, its sides and base distinctly margined; the latter straight in the middle but a little curved near the sides with indistinct angles, apex truncate, its angles obtusely rectangular but hardly at all incrassate, the sides slightly narrowed behind; its punctation irregular, rather shallow, moderately close, more distinct near the base, with very finely sculptured intervals. Scutellum smooth, broad, triangular. Elytra oblong, parallel, with broadly rounded apices, quite thrice the length of the thorax and evidently broader than it is at the base; they are distinctly and closely punctured, and in some aspects appear transversely rugose, with very shallow humeral impressions. Pygidium broad, bluish, but little exposed, finely punctate, with numerous elongate grey hairs, near the sides especially.

Antennae finely pubescent, rather shorter than the body, 3rd joint rather longer than 2nd, but shorter than succeeding ones.

Legs moderately elongate; tibiae gradually thickened, the posterior bent inwardly, more incrassate at the extremity, and with a well-marked groove there for the reception of the laterally compressed tarsal joint; basal joint of the other tarsi oblong and rather broad, the next very slender at the base, the penultimate moderately expanded and bilobed, the claws subdentate at the base and rather small.

More nigrescent than the type of the genus, 2318, the legs and tarsi darker, the thorax more transverse, with coarser and closer punctation, its front angles not distinctly thickened, the scutellum larger, but chiefly remarkable on account of the thickly pubescent terminal segment of the hind-body.

Length, 3 mm.; breadth, $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm.

Ben Lomond, Otago. A single individual from Mr. A. Philpott, of Invercargill, early in December, 1912.