

FAUNA BURUANA.

COLEOPTERA, Fam. Erotylidae, Languriidae & Endomychidae.

By

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The species of these families are not numerous, but some of them were found in very large numbers of individuals. Nearly all were previously known from other parts of the Papuan or Malayan Regions. All the three groups are essentially tropical in their distribution. The Erotylidae and Endomychidae are fungivorous, the former feeding upon the large woody fungi found upon forest trees, dead or diseased, the latter upon softer and smaller fungoid growths. The Languriidae feed in the larval state within the stems of various plants.

EROTYLIDAE.

Only seven species of this family are included in the collection. The genus *Spondotriplax* might have been expected to be represented in the island and species of *Tritoma* and *Aulacochilus* may yet be found there.

1. *Encaustes cruenta*, MACL., var. *montana*, SCHENKL.

Found in March at Station 3 and in Aug. at Station 13. The species has been found in India, Indo-China, Borneo and Java. The var. *montana* is a colour-variety previously found in Tonkin.

2. *Megalodacne polita*, ARROW. Taken at stations 5, 7, 8, 9, 22, & 23 in Jan., April, May & Sept. This species was described from New Guinea. A specimen from Buru is referred by CROTCH to his *M. obliquesignata*, of which *M. polita* may possibly prove to be only a variety. The type (from Amboina) has the pronotum rather longer and the elytral bands are bright scarlet instead of yellow.

3. *Megalodacne amboinensis*, CROTCH. Stations 1, 4, 7, 9, Jan., June, Sept. & Nov.

This has been hitherto recorded only from Amboina.

4. *Megalodacne buruensis*, sp.n.

Black and very shining above and beneath, each elytron decorated with two bright red irregularly oval patches, the first placed obliquely just behind the shoulder, the 2nd transverse and a little before the extremity and both very close to the outer margin, but less close to the suture. The legs, the footstalk of the antennae and the lower surface are sometimes rusty-red and sometimes partly or entirely dark.

Narrowly oval and convex, very feebly and sparsely punctured above and beneath. The eyes are large and prominent and the antennae have the 3rd joint twice as long as the 2nd, the 4th to 7th a little elongate, the 8th slightly dilated and the club rather large and loose and more than twice as long as it is wide. The prothorax is twice as wide as it is long, with the sides finely margined, gently rounded in front, the front angles moderately sharp and the base distinctly lobed in the middle and not margined. There are a few scattered punctures on each side. The elytra show a few traces of lines of punctures upon the sutural half. The abdomen bears very minute and scanty setae beneath.

Length, 5—8 mm.; breadth, 2.5—3.5 mm.

Stations 8 & 9, April, May & June.

11 specimens were found.

Type in the British Museum.

This has a very close resemblance to *M. subparallela*, CR. from Amboina, which is almost identical in size, form and colouring. The posterior elytral band however is a little farther removed from the suture and is slightly dilated instead of contracting in the middle. Of greater importance is the differently formed antenna, which is less short and compact than that of *M. subparallela*. The 3rd joint, which in the latter is scarcely longer than the 2nd is here nearly twice as long and the club is twice as long as it is broad, with the last 2 joints less closely fitted to one another. In *subparallela* these two joints are very closely applied and together form a round figure fully as wide as it is long. *Episcaphula novaeguineae*, HELL. is evidently another closely-allied species, but the anterior red band is placed farther from the front margin and both bands are apparently narrower and differently shaped.

5. *Megalodacne australis*, LACORD. Found in large numbers at Stations 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, & 18 and in every month from Feb. to November. The species is common in Eastern Australia and occurs in New Guinea, Ceram, Batchian, New Caledonia, etc.

6. *Megalodacne carinicornis*, HELL.

2 specimens were taken in March at Station 3. *M. carinicornis* was described from the Philippine Is.

7. *Episcapha quadrimacula*, WIED.Stations 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9. Feb. to Aug. ¹⁾

This insect, probably the most abundant Erotylid in the world, was found in very large numbers. It ranges through the Philippine Islands, Borneo, Java, Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula to Assam and Ceylon.

LANGURIIDAE.

Eight species of this family were found, of which seven are remarkable for presenting an identical coloration, the head and prothorax being bright orange-red and the posterior half of the body dark blue-black. In the coloration of the lower surface there are slight differences and it is probable that the identity in that of the exposed side is due to assimilation for the sake of greater protection. The insects are probably more or less unpalatable and the coloration may be regarded as Aposematic or Warning Coloration. The family is predominantly Oriental but the genera are few and this collection may well be a good representative one.

The species are the following.

1. *Coenolanguria papuensis*, CR.

April to September. 9 specimens. Stations 1, 4, 8 & 9.

This was described from Dorey, New Guinea. It was also taken by WALLACE in the Aru Is.

2. *Anadastus cambodiae*, CR.

This is the largest species of the family in the collection. It has previously been found in Burma and Indo-China but has evidently a much wider range.

Stations 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13. Jan. to Aug. 21 specimens.

3. *Anadastus vulgaris*, HAR.

Stations 1, 9. Feb. to Sept. 6 specimens. Known previously from N. Queensland and Somerset I.

4. *Anadastus albertisi*, HAR.

Stations 1, 3, 4. Feb. and March. 4 specimens. Described from Somerset I. (N. Australia) and from Celebes. Occurs also in N. W. Australia. HAROLD regarded an insect from Ceylon as a variety of this species, but it is really a distinct species.

5. *Anadastus melanosternus*, HAR.

Stations 1, 4, 6, 9. Feb. to July.

¹⁾ After August 1921 I collected no more specimens of this very common species.
L. J. T.

I have seen specimens of this from Ceylon, Assam, Burma und Singapore. It was first recorded from the Philippine Is.

6. *Anadastus* sp.

A single specimen of a species unknown to me. Station 9. May, 1921.

7. *Anadastus* sp.

Another unique example. Station 1.

8. *Thallisellodes angulosus*, ARROW.

Only two specimens of this species were previously known, both from Ceylon. It is therefore probably a wide ranging insect.

ENDOMYCHIDAE.

Seven species of this family were taken by Mr. TOXOPEUS. Two of them are cosmopolitan insects and three others were previously known from other islands of the Archipelago. The 6th is a new species of *Chondria*, a genus known only from Japan, India and the Malayan Region. It is the 11th species at present discovered and, like each of the other ten, is represented only by a single known specimen.

1. *Encymon immaculatus*, MONTR.

This very abundant insect was found in large numbers at Stations 9 & 22 in January, April, May, June and July. It has a wide range, examples in the British Museum having been found in the Philippine Is., Ternate, Mysol, Goram, Amboina, Ceram, Aru Is., New Guinea and N. Queensland. It is also recorded from Java, Celebes and Timor, Woodlark I. etc.

2. *Encymon buruanus*, sp. n.

Black or pitchy-black, with the elytra deep violet-blue.

Oblong-oval, with the elytra highly convex, and rather broad, but with well-marked shoulders. The pronotum is strongly transverse, not very convex, its sides diverge from the base, which is not very narrow, to the front angles and are nearly straight in the anterior half and very feebly sinuated in the posterior half. The disc is very minutely and scantily punctured, the front angles are a little produced, but blunt, the hind angles right angles, the base is completely and deeply furrowed and the lateral foveae are deep, feebly divergent and almost reach the middle. The elytra are highly convex, broad but not very short, impressed along the whole length of the suture, which has a deep stria on each side, the shoulders are prominent and the flattened outer margins moderately broad. The metasternum is rather smooth and shining, the abdomen rather closely, but very finely, pubescent. The middle and hind tibiae are a little sinuated.

Length, 7 mm.; breadth, 4 mm.

Station 9, April, May.

2 female specimens were found.

The colour and size of this species are those of *E. ferialis*, GORH. and *papuanus*, CSIKI, but the prothorax is more transverse than in either and the upper surface more smooth and shining, the elytra much more so than in *E. papuanus*, in which they are closely punctured, while those of *E. buruanus* show only very minute and scanty punctures. The basal furrow and lateral foveae of the pronotum, not deep in the former, according to the description, are here very strongly impressed.

The shape of the elytra is intermediate between the long-oval and short-oval types, according to which Mr. CSIKI has grouped the species in his Table of 1902.

3. *Encymon bipustulatus*, GORH.

One specimen taken at Station 7 in Sept. 1921. The species has only been previously recorded from the Aru Is. and New Guinea.

4. *Ancylopus melanocephalus*, OLIV.

Stations 1, 4, 5, 8 & 14. Jan. to April, June, Sept. to Nov.

This is an insect of almost worldwide range, occurring from Southern Europe to South Africa and N. Australia. It has not been found in America.

5. *Saula variipes*, ARROW.

June, Stations 5 and 9.

This was previously recorded only from Singapore and Borneo. It occurs also in Celebes and Ternate.

6. *Chondria buruana*, n. sp.

Bright orange-tawny, with the antennae black, except at the base, and entirely and rather closely clothed with greyish hair, which is not longitudinally arranged.

Oval, convex, not shining, with slender, but not long, legs and not very long antennae (about $\frac{1}{2}$ the total length of the body), of which the last 3 joints are almost equal in length to the rest and the terminal joint is equal to the two preceding. The pronotum is very finely punctured, its raised borders are wide and of uniform width throughout, the front and hind angles are almost rectangular, the base is not margined and the lateral foveae are small but deep. The elytra bear longitudinal rows of large, deep and not very close punctures, those in the external rows larger and farther apart than the rest. The lower surface of the body is rather shining and clothed with fine decumbent pubescence, which is almost absent at the middle of the metasternum. The 1st ventral sternite, which is as broad as the remaining 4 together, has rather large scattered punctures. The 2nd joint of the tarsi (and especially of the hind tarsus) is produced into a lobe much longer than usual in this genus, but very narrow, not dilated as in *Stenotarsus*.

Length, 3 mm.; breadth, 2 mm.

Buru: Stations 9, between 20th. June & 10th. July 1921.

Type in the British Museum.

C. buruana has a very close resemblance to *C. ovalis* from Penang. In size, shape and colour the two are almost identical, but the elytra of the new species bear rows of much larger and deeper punctures.

7. *Trochoideus desjardinsi*, GUÉR.

Between Feb. 10th. & March 16th. 3 males and 1 female were taken at Station 1.

This is an extremely widely distributed insect, found in nearly all the islands of the Indian Ocean and Pacific, from Ceylon to Fiji and the Seychelles and also in Siam and the Malay Peninsula. It is frequently mistaken for a Paussid and has been described under many names.