



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

Vol. 99

Washington: 1949

No. 3236

THE WEEVILS OF THE GENUS *TACHYGONUS* IN THE  
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM, WITH DESCRIPTIONS  
OF NEW SPECIES

By OSCAR MONTE<sup>1</sup>

THE author received from the United States National Museum to be studied a fine collection of weevils of the genus *Tachygonus*<sup>2</sup> Schoenherr numbering 47 specimens, comprising 20 species, of which 12 are new to science, some of these being represented by unique types. There are also several new geographical records.

He takes the opportunity to express his thanks to the authorities of the United States National Museum for their permission to study this material and to L. L. Buchanan, of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, for the offer of specimens in his charge for the study of this interesting genus from South and Central America. The author is greatly indebted also to Mrs. Ruth C. Altieri for making the fine illustrations.

The type specimens of new species described herein are in the collection of the United States National Museum. Certain paratypes have also been deposited, as indicated in the text, in the Monte collection.

**TACHYGONUS RUFUS** *Hustache*

Four specimens, Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brazil, April 14, 1933, collected by E. J. Hambleton, taken on an undetermined species of Apocynaceae. The original description was based upon three specimens collected at Jatahy, Goiaz, Brazil.

<sup>1</sup> The author of this paper was connected with the Instituto Biológico, São Paulo, Brazil. He died on July 1, 1948, after his manuscript had been submitted for publication.—EDITOR.

<sup>2</sup> Coleoptera : Curculionidae.

Three specimens have the posterior tibiae blackish. This character is not mentioned in the original description; the fourth specimen has the tibiae of the same color as the elytra, and this color is variable from reddish yellow to ferruginous. The pectinate white scales are not so scattered. The author thinks such characters do not differ sufficiently to warrant a varietal description.

Length 1.65–1.73 mm. (type 1.5 mm.); width 1.13 mm.

TACHYGONUS BUCHANANI, new species

FIGURE 21

Black, shining, the anterior and intermediate legs and posterior tarsi ferruginous. Head pitted, with a patch of pectinate white scales on the sides. Rostrum ferruginous, with the basal portion blackish, strongly pitted and with sparse, short, yellowish bristles laterally, the central area smooth. Antennae yellowish, the club paler.

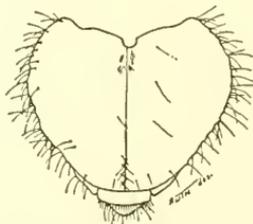
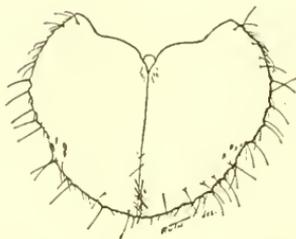
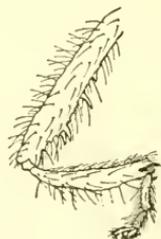
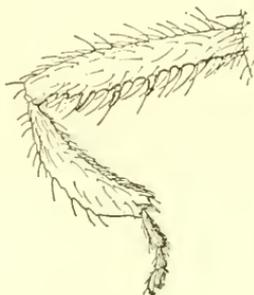


FIGURE 21.—*Tachygonus buchanani*, new species,  $\times 5$ .

FIGURE 22.—*Tachygonus bicolor*, new species,  $\times 5$ .

Pronotum thickly pitted laterally, rather sparsely so medially, with a few black, erect hairs, except along the narrow smooth median space; the flanks of the pro-, meso-, and metathorax thinly covered with pectinate white scales, the scales sparser on the mesothorax than on the other two segments.

Elytra very broad, cordiform, flat to the third interstice, strongly declivous posteriorly, deeply pitted, and covered with long, brown-red hairs; two or three forked scales in postscutellar region; suture toward apex with a few yellowish-white setae; elytra a short distance

beyond the middle with a series of setae in two transverse rows, forming a faint band from the sixth to tenth interstices.

Posterior femora dark, thicker apically than basally, granulose, covered with black and white setae, the latter most numerous on the basal half; armed with numerous scattered minute teeth and with three long, black teeth, the second slightly the longest, first and third subequal, the most distal of the three teeth placed on the interior edge, the other two on the exterior edge. Posterior tibiae rather broad, arcuate, provided with strong, erect setae on the external border, and long adpressed ones within. Tarsi ferruginous and covered with long white hairs.

Length 2.17 mm.; width 1.73 mm.

*Type*.—U.S.N.M. No. 58186.

One specimen, Teffé, Amazonas, Brazil, December 10, 1919. Collection Bovie through Buchanan.

This species is most closely allied to *T. guerini* Monte but is smaller; elytra with the interstices lower, the pits deeper, and with the pectinate white scales on the external margin extending across the middle; the posterior femora with fewer teeth. It is smaller than *T. hydropticus* Chevrolat, a species which has the teeth on the posterior femora differently placed. The species is named in honor of L. L. Buchanan, who has taken great interest in weevils.

#### TACHYGONUS BICOLOR, new species

##### FIGURE 22

Black, shiny. Legs yellowish. Rostrum smooth, dark at base with the sides pitted, the tip ferruginous. Antennae yellowish white. Prothorax and elytra densely covered by testaceous and whitish hairs. Prothorax with shallow pits; the sides of the prothorax and of the meso- and metathorax densely covered with white pectinate scales.

Elytra very broad, lightly pitted, apical third of the suture with some crossed, erect, yellow setae; a scutellar patch on each elytron with pectinate white scales; the pectoral channel and the last (third and fourth visible) abdominal segments covered densely with white scales, the genital (fifth) segment with long white hairs instead of scales.

Posterior femora very elongate, covered with long, black and white hairs, armed with three long, strong teeth, two of which are opposite each other, forming a pair at apical two-sevenths, the other principal tooth submedian, the latter placed between two very short teeth. Posterior tibiae swollen, arcuate, yellowish, but with the external border reddish.

Length 2.17 mm.; width 1.56 mm.

*Type*.—U.S.N.M. No. 58187.

One specimen, Bolivia, Huachi, Beni. W. M. Mann, 1922. Mulford Biol. Expl., 1921-22.

Closely related to *T. rufovarius* Kirsch but distinguished by the color of the posterior legs and by the shape and larger size of the posterior tibiae.

**TACHYGONUS MONTANUS, new species**

FIGURE 23

Black, shiny, rounded subquadrate, with a red, arrow-shaped mark on the elytra (formed by a reddish sutural line, which is branched near the postscutellar patch).

Prothorax black, shiny, sparsely pitted; the flanks red and covered by pectinate scales, which are spread along the dorsal and basal edges. Flanks of meso- and metathorax densely clothed with white pectinate scales.

Rostrum black, but testaceous at tip; the sides pitted. Antennae cream white.

Elytra black, shiny, with two dense white postscutellar tufts; the interstices raised; terminal part of the suture with a series of about eight pairs of short, yellow, strongly crossed setae. Abdominal segments with white hairs and a few white pectinate scales.

Anterior and intermediate legs yellowish; the posterior ones black, with the femora reddish apically, and armed with several small teeth and also with four long teeth, one pair at apical two-sevenths, one tooth at the middle and basad of this a shorter one. Posterior tibiae sinuate, with short, yellowish setae. Hind tarsi with the first segment ferruginous, the rest missing.

Length 1.73 mm.; width 1.30 mm.

*Type*.—U.S.N.M. No. 58188.

One specimen, Bolivia, Cosincho, Beni, collected by G. L. Harrington.

Near *T. neivai* Monte but distinguished by the posterior femora being totally black and narrower at tip.

**TACHYGONUS MIRUS, new species**

FIGURE 24

Ferruginous, with dark spots somewhat variable in size and location. Head dark, its dorsal surface with small, somewhat elongate punctures separated by very narrow, longitudinal, more or less cariniform lines, this sculpture less distinct laterally; sides of head with some white pectinate scales. In one of the paratypes the dark color of head is separated by a narrow reddish streak.

Antennae whitish yellow. Rostrum dark brown, lighter at apex, with strong pitting at base and flanks. Dorsum of prothorax dark,

shiny, very little pitted, and bearing long brown hairs, which are present also on elytra; flanks of prothorax ferruginous, densely covered with white pectinate scales, which extend along the basal margin. The flanks of meso- and metathorax covered by dense white scaling, forming layers. Elytra widened in front, narrowing toward the apex, with numerous wide but shallow pits; interstices raised; base dark, this color extending on external margins to nearly half the length, declivity with two patches of the same color; postscutellar region marked by two patches of white pectinate scales; lateral margins of elytra with a series of white pectinate scales; sutural interstices with a series of crossed white setae. In one of the paratypes the same type of scaling can be noted on last interstices. Genital segment with white erect hairs.

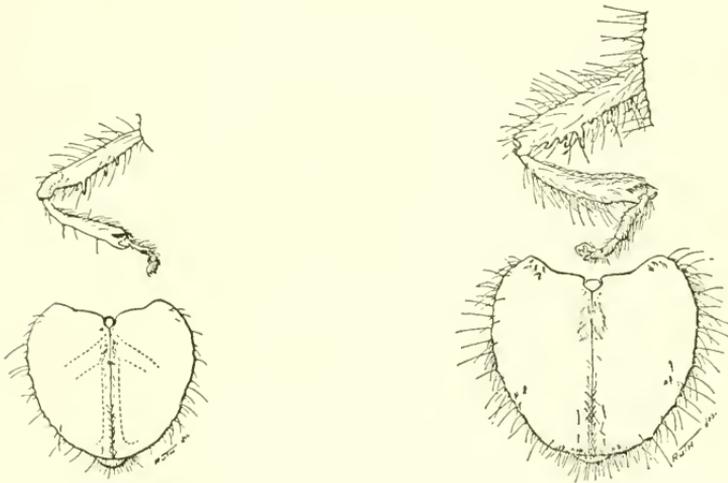


FIGURE 23.—*Tachygonus montanus*, new species,  $\times 5$ .

FIGURE 24.—*Tachygonus mirus*, new species,  $\times 5$ .

Posterior femora with basal two-thirds dark and apical third ferruginous and with white and dark hairs, the white ones more numerous on basal two-thirds and the dark on apical third; granulose, armed with 4 long teeth, 2 of which are better developed and form a pair at about apical two-sevenths, 1 tooth at middle, and another at basal third, and also with a series of about 10 small teeth, some almost reduced to tubercles, the 2 near apex larger. Hind tibiae ferruginous, dark on external margin, slightly spatulate, bearing various brown hairs. Hind tarsi yellow, with plentiful white hairs.

Underside of body dark.

Length 2.39 mm.; width 1.65 mm.

*Type*.—U.S.N.M. No. 58189.

Four specimens, San Miguel, Peru, two collected on September 1, 1911, and the other two, including the type, in July 1911, by the Yale Peruvian Expedition, at 6,000 feet. One paratype in the collection of the author.

These specimens suggest *T. rufovarius* Kirsch, described from Peru, because one of them has black patches on the elytra placed as called for in the original diagnosis of this species, but *mirus* differs by having the tibiae and base of femora darker, by having the pronotum not densely pitted, the elytra elongated, the femoral teeth, of which four are well developed, different, and in being larger.

TACHYGONUS COMPTUS, new species

FIGURE 25

Shiny black; anterior and intermediate legs yellow, with apex of the tibiae usually dark and with various whitish hairs, and two fringes formed by curved and golden hairs, one fringe on inner edge and extending entire length of tibiae, the other, on outer edge, short, apical and extending to a little above the tibial claw; all the tarsi dark with last segment paler.

Head strongly pitted, sparsely so on sides, and there with small pectinate scales.

Rostrum smooth, shiny and dark, slightly ferruginous at apex. Antennae light yellow.

Prothorax black, shiny, pitted, dorsal pitting smaller, flanks with abundant pectinate white scales. Flanks of meso- and metathorax, and posterior margins of abdominal segments with dense pectinate white scales which in some places form layers.

Elytra black, cordiform, the white postscutellar patch well marked, each sutural interval with a series of white setae, the setae crossing in about apical half of elytra.

Posterior femora armed with a series of numerous small tubercles and with four well-developed teeth, a subapical pair of which the inner tooth is a good deal larger than outer, a rather long submedian tooth, and, in line with it, a smaller one at about basal third; distad of the subapical pair of larger teeth are two or three small teeth on inner edge. Hind tibiae more or less thickened, with numerous tubercles on external and internal margins; white and brown hairs spread over femora and tibiae. Hind tarsi covered with pale hairs, dark, the last segment yellow.

Length 2.17 mm.; width 1.41 mm.

*Type*.—U.S.N.M. No. 58190.

Four specimens; four, including the type, from San Miguel, Peru (6,000 feet), September 1, 1911, and one specimen from Paltaybamba (5,000 feet), August 6, 1911, Yale Peruvian Expedition. One paratype in the collection of the author.

Similar to *T. rugosipennis* Hustache but differs by having the femora more pointed and the femoral teeth differently placed, the scaling denser and the elytra somewhat narrower. Differs from *T. scutellaris* Kirsch in the pectinate scales of abdomen, by the posterior legs being totally black, and by the nonflattened tibiae.

TACHYGONUS CASEYI Champion

Two specimens, Bequeren, Puerto Rico, Cabassa Finca, R. G. Oakley, collector. On *Guacima guacima*. Heretofore known from Mexico and Guatemala.

TACHYGONUS NIGER, new species

FIGURE 26

Shining black, the first two pairs of legs light brown. Rostrum ferruginous, dark at base, smooth and shining, slightly pitted at sides and with a small depression at base.

Head rugose, with a few scales laterally. Antennae yellowish, with a silky white club.

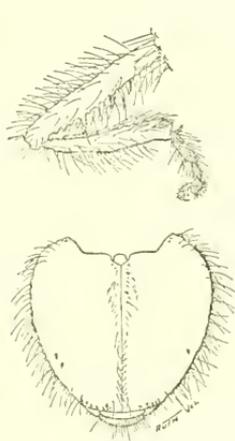


FIGURE 25.—*Tachygonus comptus*, new species,  $\times 5$ .

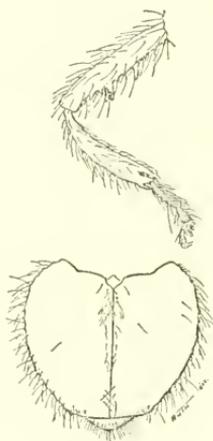


FIGURE 26.—*Tachygonus niger*, new species,  $\times 5$ .

Dorsum of prothorax smooth, shallowly pitted and with some fine hairs; flanks covered with pectinate white scales.

Elytra wide, with salient shoulders, strongly pitted and with whitish yellow hairs over whole surface and with setae of same color on declivity. The white pectinate scales in postscutellar spot every dense. Flanks of meso- and metathorax covered with same type of scales, these more numerous on mesothorax.

Hind femora long, granulated, with light and dark hairs, armed with numerous small teeth reduced to tubercles and with three well-developed teeth, a subapical pair and one submedian tooth; there are

also four smaller teeth, three situated between subapical pair and apex of tibia, the fourth based of the submedian tooth. Hind tibiae paler than femora, serrated on inside, curved and bearing white and dark hairs, tarsi with first two segments ferruginous and the last two yellowish, all covered with white hairs.

Length 2.00 mm.; width 1.39 mm.

*Type*.—U.S.N.M. No. 58191.

One specimen, Las Mercedes, Santa Clara, Costa Rica, 200 to 300 meters, collected by F. Nevermann, December 1921.

Extremely close to *T. curvicrus* Champion but differentiated in the placing of the hind femoral teeth. The present species has four teeth, a pair close to apex, one more or less in the middle, another at the basal third; there are several others almost reduced to tubercles.

Differentiated from *T. femoralis* Monte by the shape of the femora.

#### TACHYGONUS LATICRUS Champion

Two specimens, Coronado, Costa Rica (1,400 to 1,500 meters), collected by F. Nevermann, May 24, 1925, on leaves of *Inga edulis*.

This species is of the same group as *guerini* Monte and *bondari* Marshall. It is distinguished from *guerini* by its smaller size, fewer teeth on posterior femora, and by its shorter and stouter tibiae.

Length 2.39 mm.; width 1.91 mm.

#### TACHYGONUS FERRUGINEUS, new species

##### FIGURE 27

General color ferruginous; fore and middle legs yellowish; hind legs dark brown. Rostrum of same color as elytra.

Head slightly darker than prothorax, upper surface with some fine, longitudinal punctate striations, flanks with white scaling and with pitting which becomes somewhat denser close to eyes. Antennae ferruginous, with whitish club.

Prothorax with wide and shallow pits; flanks of pro-, meso-, and metathorax covered with pectinate white scales. Elytra and dorsum of prothorax with long, erect, yellow hairs.

Elytra wide and flattened, shoulders slightly produced; besides the hairs strong setae are present, some of the setae fringing external margin of elytra; postscutellar region with a few white scales.

Posterior femora very long, dark brown, lighter at base, granulose, with a pair of subapical teeth, and a smaller submedian tooth, and also a series of small teeth along inner edge; tibiae spatulate, dark, paler at base, the external margin with a series of four to five rigid, erect setae, the internal margin with abundant hairs. Hind femora and tibiae with various white and brown hairs. Hind tarsi with first

two segments ferruginous and the last two yellow, all covered by dense white hairs.

Underside of body dark.

Length 1.82 mm.; width 1.30 mm.

*Type*.—U.S.N.M. No. 58192.

One specimen from Guapiles, Santa Clara, Costa Rica, collected by F. Nevermann, February 17, 1924.

Perfectly distinct from all described species.

TACHYGONUS ATRO-SIGNATUS, new species

FIGURE 28

General color brown, elytra lighter than prothorax and marked with dark patches of which the largest is close to the shoulder.

Head light brown with a small, dark, median patch close to eyes, and laterally with numerous white scales.

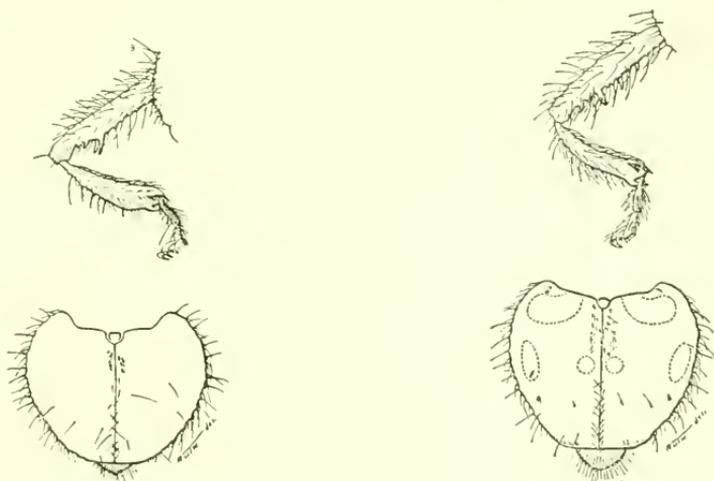


FIGURE 27.—*Tachygonus ferrugineus*,  
new species,  $\times 5$ .

FIGURE 28.—*Tachygonus atro-signatus*,  
new species,  $\times 5$ .

Rostrum rather stout, brown, darker medially, strongly pitted at sides. Antennae yellowish, club whitish and covered with silky hairs.

Prothorax ferruginous, dorsum dark and with wide but shallow pits and erect brown hairs; flanks with abundant whitish-yellow scales.

Elytra with deep pits and raised interstices, pale ferruginous, tinged with black near shoulders, laterally, and a little posterior to the postscutellar patch; postscutellar patch formed of white, pectinate scales; apical part of the suture with yellowish-white crossed setae. Flanks of meso- and metathorax with pectinate white scales.

Front and middle legs yellowish; hind legs ferruginous. Posterior femora with numerous small tubercles and with four big teeth, two

at about apical third, one median, and one behind middle, the last the smallest. Hind tibiae darkish brown covered with white and dark hairs. Hind tarsi yellowish and densely covered with long white hairs.

Length 2.21 mm.; width 1.48 mm.

*Type*.—U.S.N.M. No. 58193.

One specimen, Hamburg Farm, Reventazón, Ebene Limón, Costa Rica. F. Nevermann, collector, on a shrub, August 10, 1924.

This species is chiefly distinguished by the disposition of the teeth on the posterior femora and by the dark spots on the elytra.

TACHYGONUS VALIDUS, new species

FIGURE 29

Black, the elytra slightly brown at the shoulders. Prothorax pitted dorsally, the pits larger at sides than medially. The whole body bearing long dark-brown hairs. The sides (flanks) of the pro-, meso-, and metathorax with white pectinate scales. Elytra wide, the pitting rough, shoulders salient, a few white pectinate scales in the post-scutellar region forming a vaguely defined patch, suture from this patch to apex with a series of brown, crossed setae.

Anterior and intermediate legs yellowish; posterior legs with femora dark medially, reddish at the apex and base, the basal reddish part with abundant white hairs which are more numerous on the external surface. Hind femora granulose, the dark median part with four stout teeth on the internal edge (two larger and two smaller) and also with two on the external edge, of which the antemedian tooth is opposite one of the large teeth on internal side and forms a pair with it, the second of the external teeth quite distant from the others and placed slightly beyond basal third of femur. Hind tibiae curved and widening toward the apex, which is ferruginous and bears a few white pectinate scales; remainder of tibia dark and covered with abundant dark hairs; hind tarsi ferruginous and covered with white hairs.

Length 2.82 mm.; width 2.08 mm.

*Type*.—U.S.N.M. No. 58194.

One specimen taken by Dr. R. E. Blackwelder, at Ciricito, Panama (Canal Zone), March 3, 1930.

Similar to *T. quinquedentatus* Champion but differentiated by the femoral teeth, by the widening of the hind tibiae, and by the indistinct postscutellar patch, which is formed by about six pectinate scales on each side of the suture. Near to *T. bondari* Marshall, but smaller, with narrower tibiae, the femora with four teeth on the inside (two larger and two smaller) and small tubercles, and with two teeth widely separated from each other on the external side.

## TACHYGONUS FEMORALIS, new species

## FIGURE 30

Shiny black; fore and middle legs yellowish, hind legs with ferruginous femora and black tibiae. Rostrum ferruginous. Antennae yellowish white.

Prothorax smooth and sparsely pitted above, with few erect hairs, flanks with abundant white pectinate scales; flanks of meso- and metathorax with similar scales, these more abundant on metathorax.

Elytra dark, lightly ferruginous in the center; a white patch formed by pectinate scales, on the postscutellar region; yellowish, crossed setae along the suture and long, fine hairs dispersed over the elytral surface.

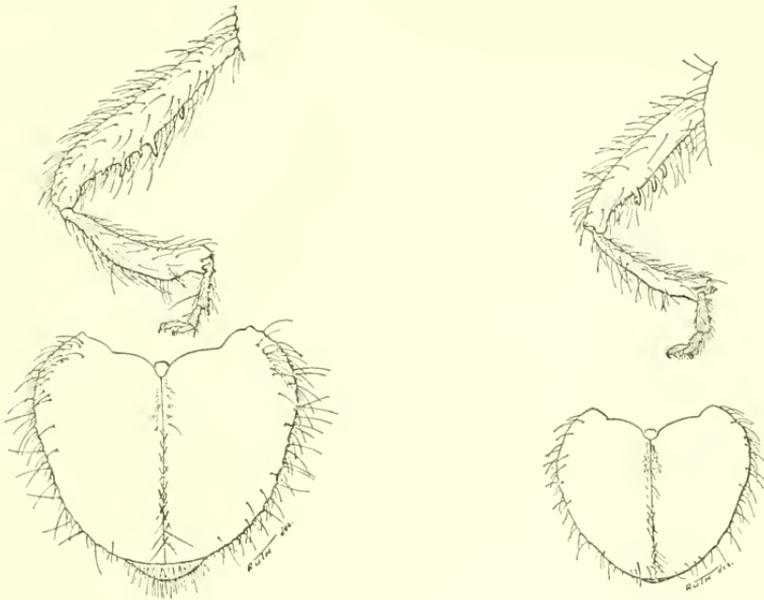


FIGURE 29.—*Tachygonus validus*, new species,  $\times 5$ .

FIGURE 30.—*Tachygonus femoralis*, new species,  $\times 5$ .

Posterior femora much thickened (which characterizes the species), constricted at the apex, bearing small tubercles and long white hairs basally, and brown hairs apically; femoral teeth placed as follows: On the inside a large one at about apical fourth, and two very small ones distad of it; on the external side are two short ones of which the more distal is fairly large and opposite the large tooth on the internal side, the next one (proceeding toward base of femur) reduced nearly to a tubercle, this followed by three others of which the second is well developed on the left femur but much reduced on the right.

Hind tibiae dark and curved, the internal surface slightly serrated and covered with white hairs. Hind tarsi dark brown, the last segment yellowish, all segments covered densely with white hairs.

Length 2.00 mm.; width 1.52 mm.

*Type*.—U.S.N.M. No. 58195.

One specimen, Porto Bello, Panama (Canal Zone), collected by A. Busck, February 20, 1911.

Close to *T. curvicerus* Champion but with more teeth on the femora and with much thickened femora (thicker than the tibiae).

**TACHYGONUS SEMIRUFUS** Champion

Six specimens, Paraiso, Panama (Canal Zone), collected by E. A. Schwarz, January 26, March 16, April 17, and May 10, 1911.

Sometimes the color is red brown, in this case the posterior femora and tibiae are dark, but lighter on the apex of the former and on the base of the latter.

**TACHYGONUS GOWDEYI** Marshall

Eight specimens, El Salvador, on madre de cacao, A. K. Salman, collector, March 20, 1925.

**TACHYGONUS NITIDUS**, new species

FIGURE 31

Shining black; front and middle legs, basal two-thirds of the hind femora, and entire hind tarsi ferruginous.

Rostrum with basal half darker and with whitish hairs near the eyes. Head with delicate pitting.

Prothorax with wide but shallow pitting, upper surface with brown, erect hairs, the flanks with fine, white, pectinate scales, which are also present on the flanks of meso- and metathorax, the scales on metathorax more abundant on metepisternum than on sides of metasternum.

Elytra with deep pitting, each pit being the origin of a fine light-brown hair, the interstices with longer ones of the same color. Post-scutellar patch wanting.

Posterior femora with the basal two-thirds ferruginous, the remainder black. White hairs are present on the basal part and black ones on the apical. The femora are armed with five teeth on the internal side, the one nearest apex very short, the second longer, the remainder gradually diminishing in length. Hind tibiae black, slightly serrated inwardly, with hairs subappressed, the external margin with a few erect setae. Hind tarsi brown, with short, dark hairs.

Length 1.56 mm.; width 1.21 mm.

*Type*.—U.S.N.M. No. 58196.

Two specimens, Trece Aguas, Alta Vera Paz, Guatemala, collected by Schwarz and Barber, on cacao, April 18, 1906.

Very near to *T. gowdeyi* Marshall but distinguished by the absence of the postscutellar patch and by the placing of the femoral teeth. *T. bidentatus* Champion is another allied species.

**TACHYGONUS FLOHRI** Champion

One specimen, Trece Aguas, Alta Vera Paz, Guatemala, on cacao, Schwarz and Barber, collectors, April 4.

**TACHYGONUS RUGOSUS**, new species

FIGURE 32

Shiny black; pronotum, elytra, femora, and tibiae bearing plentiful long, erect, rigid, black setae; postscutellar patch wanting, base of pronotum at middle with a small tuft of white pectinate scales.

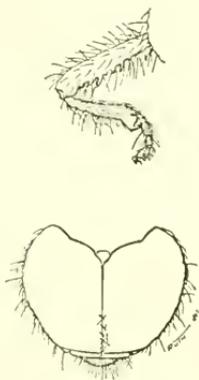


FIGURE 31.—*Tachygonus nitidus*, new species,  $\times 5$ .

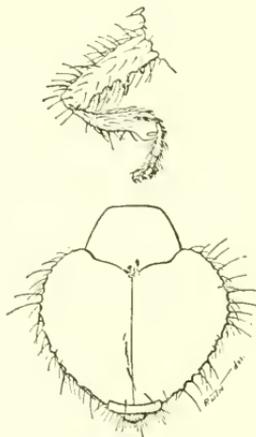


FIGURE 32.—*Tachygonus rugosus*, new species,  $\times 5$ .

Pronotal pits sparse but wide; flanks of prothorax covered with pectinate white scales. Flanks of meso- and metathorax covered with similar scales, these more abundant on the metathorax.

Antennae ferruginous, club lighter. Rostrum dark brown, sides with delicate yellow hairs.

Elytra rugose, interstices distinctly raised, pits wide and deep. Abdominal sternites laterally with a few white pectinate scales.

Posterior femora thick, black with yellowish apex, rugose, pits wide but sparse; armed with a long, strong tooth situated between two shorter ones, and with various small tubercles placed in lines on the

two margins. Posterior tibiae short, black, yellow at extreme base, rugose, internal side with light-brown hairs, the external side with about four strong, erect setae. Hind tarsi light brown, with dark and rigid setae on upper side, and abundant white hairs on under.

Length 1.82 mm.; width 1.48 mm.

*Type*.—U.S.N.M. No. 58197.

One specimen, Cordoba, Mexico, collected by Frederick Knab, April 8, 1908.

Close to *T. pectinisquamis* Champion but without scutellar patch. *T. rugosus* is characterized by the short femora and by the patch of erect scales on base of pronotum.

#### TACHYGONUS MINUTUS Blatchley

Three specimens, Tampico, Mexico, collected by E. A. Schwarz.

Length 1.30 mm.; width 0.86 mm.

#### TACHYGONUS PECTINISQUAMIS Champion

One specimen, Temescaltepec, Mexico, May 20 to June 4, H. E. Hinton and R. L. Usinger, collectors, collection E. C. Zimmerman, 1941, which does not agree exactly with the description of *pectinisquamis*, but whether the apparent differences are significant or not could only be determined by a comparison with the type.

Length 1.65 mm.; width 1.13 mm.

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