

Proceedings of  
the United States  
National Museum



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION • WASHINGTON, D.C.

---

Volume 115

1964

Number 3477

---

NOTES ON NEW AND OLD SPECIES OF ALTICINAE  
(COLEOPTERA) FROM THE WEST INDIES

---

By DORIS H. BLAKE

---

The present paper describes 17 new species of beetles of the subfamily Alticinae: 8 collected in Puerto Rico by R. G. Oakley, 4 in Jamaica by T. H. Farr, and 5 from other sources. Notes on other species are given, and the proper placing of species hitherto wrongly ascribed to *Pseudoeplitrix* is discussed.

*Aphthona crucifera*, new species

FIGURE 4

About 1.5 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, the prothorax and elytra lightly punctate, striate rows of punctures on elytra becoming faint near apex, pale yellow brown, occiput of head deeper in color, margins of prothorax usually dark brown and on elytra a brown humeral spot connecting narrowly along base with a sutural darkening, slightly below the middle a brown fascia, lateral margin more or less dark.

Head with interocular space a little more than half width of head, occiput rounded, few punctures near eye, frontal tubercles distinctly

marked, narrow carina down lower front; top of head deeper brown, pale in lower front. Antennae pale yellow brown with outer four joints slightly darker and wider, not extending much below humeri, fifth joint longer than fourth. Prothorax with rounded lateral sides, having oblique angle anteriorly, disc somewhat rounded, shining, finely punctate, pale yellow with lateral margin usually dark brown. Scutellum brownish. Elytra moderately convex, without depressions, shining, with rows of fine punctures becoming fainter near apex; pale yellow brown with dark reddish brown humeral spot connecting with brown sutural vitta more or less widely across base, sutural vitta extending to apex and sometimes connecting with dark lateral margin in darker specimens; in paler specimens only sutural edge darkened; slightly below middle a brown fascia usually connected at suture. Body beneath in darker specimens with middle of prosternum and breast chestnut brown, abdomen and legs pale yellow brown. Hind femora thickened, hind tibiae with short spur. Length 1.3–1.5 mm.; width .8 mm.

Type, female, USNM 66194, and 11 paratypes, taken on *Myrica cerifera* at Guanica, Puerto Rico, by R. G. Oakley, September 14, 1934.

REMARKS.—Dr. E. A. Schwarz originally identified this as *Aphthona maculipennis* Jacoby, a Central American species, but that species as described possesses a very different coloration.

*Aphthona lepta*, new species

FIGURE 5

Approximately 1.5 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, prothorax very finely punctate, elytra somewhat more distinctly striate punctate, entirely pale reddish brown with outer antennal joints slightly darker.

Head with interocular space approximately half width of head, occiput polished, a group of punctures near eye, frontal tubercles clearly marked, carina down lower front, lower front paler, occiput and mouth parts deeper brown. Antennae extending below humeri, fifth joint longer than fourth; joints two, three, and four paler; outer joints broader and hairier. Prothorax with arcuate sides, oblique angles anteriorly and tooth at basal angle, smoothly convex, without depressions, shining, very finely punctate. Scutellum brownish. Elytra smoothly convex, without depressions, with fine striate punctures; in male specimen more indistinct than in female; entirely reddish brown. Body beneath and legs reddish brown. Length 1.5 mm.; width .7 mm.

Type, male, USNM 66193, and one female paratype, collected at Guanica, Puerto Rico, by R. G. Oakley, September 27, 1934.

REMARKS.—This is approximately the same size as *Aphthona crucifera*, which was also collected at Guanica. It lacks the elytral

dark markings and has a narrower aedeagus with a more tapering point. The striate punctation on the elytra is also less distinct.

*Aphthona inornata* Blake

FIGURE 8

*Aphthona inornata* Blake, Journ. Wash. Acad. Sci., vol. 39, no. 11, p. 308, 1949.

Numerous specimens of this species, which was described from a single female collected at Río Piedras, Puerto Rico, have been taken by R. G. Oakley at Ponce, Puerto Rico. Because of the similarity in the yellow brown coloration of several species of West Indian *Aphthona*, a drawing of the aedeagus is given here for the first time.

*Aphthona insularis*, new species

FIGURE 1

About 2 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, pronotum very finely punctate, elytra somewhat more coarsely and striately punctate, with slight depression below basal callosity, deep black with faint bluish lustre, antennae pale at base, deeper brown towards apex, femora piceous, tibiae and tarsi sometimes slightly paler.

Head with interocular space a little less than half width of head, frontal tubercles clearly marked but not swollen, occiput smooth, impunctate, a short carina, slightly produced between antennal sockets and down lower front, entirely dark. Antennae not reaching middle of elytra, basal two joints swollen, third joint slightly shorter than fourth, remainder subequal, becoming somewhat wider and darker in color. Prothorax moderately convex with arcuate sides and oblique angles anteriorly, disc without depressions, polished and finely punctate, entirely dark. Scutellum entirely dark. Elytra convex, lateral margin almost invisible from above, a slight depression below basal callosity, lines of fine striate punctures slightly irregular near suture, between these a line of very fine striate punctures; entirely dark with faint deep bluish lustre. Body beneath entirely dark, hind femora enlarged, hind tibiae with short apical sulcus and spur at apex. Length 2-2.4 mm.; width 1-1.3 mm.

Type, male, USNM 66202, and 9 paratypes from Dominica, West Indies, collected by H. W. Foote of the Yale 1913 Expedition in June and July, 1913.

REMARKS.—The dark bluish black coloration of this species distinguishes it from the smaller yellowish brown species of *Aphthona* from the West Indies.

*Aphthona lamprocyanea*, new species

FIGURE 9

Between 2 and 3 mm. in length, oblong oval, polished, dark violaceous blue, nearly impunctate, a remnant of striate punctation on

elytra in transverse depression below basal callosity and along suture at base.

Head with interocular space more than half width of head, occiput polished, rounded, impunctate, groove from eye to frontal tubercles with punctures along it, carina short and distinct, head entirely dark. Antennae extending below humeri, entirely dark, basal joints with metallic blue sheen, third joint about same length as fourth, remainder subequal and hairy. Prothorax slightly wider than long, with arcuate sides and oblique anterior angles, moderately convex, without depressions, polished, impunctate, entirely dark. Scutellum dark. Elytra moderately convex, below basal callosity a transverse depression in which are remnants of striate punctation, rest of surface with very fine confused punctation visible only under high magnification; surface polished, dark blue. Body beneath and legs shining, entirely dark blue. Length 2.3–2.9 mm.; width 1.3–1.5 mm.

Type, male, USNM 66195, and 13 paratypes, from Ponce and Aibonito, Puerto Rico, collected on *Croton* species by R. G. Oakley, September 7, 1933, August 1933, and July 10, 1934.

REMARKS.—It is interesting to note that many species of *Aphthona* occur on the Euphorbiaceae.

*Longitarsus cylindricus*, new species

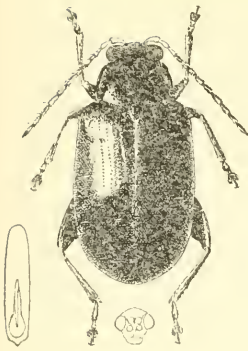
FIGURE 2

About 1.5 mm. in length, elongate oval, shining, very finely punctate, elytra without wings or humeral prominences, widest at middle, yellowish brown, sides of pronotum darker brown; antennae dark with joints three, four, ten, and eleven pale; outer joints thicker and hairier.

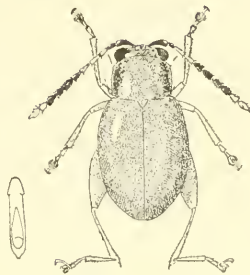
Head with interocular space approximately half width of head, occiput polished, deeper brown than lower front, a group of punctures near eye, frontal tubercles clearly marked, carina down lower front. Antennae fully half length of body; third, fourth, tenth, and eleventh joints pale; outer joints slightly longer and thicker. Prothorax convex, somewhat wider than long, sides slightly arcuate with oblique angles anteriorly and tooth at base, a long hair at each corner; very finely punctate, surface polished, yellow brown with sides deeper brown. Scutellum brownish. Elytra convex with rounded sides and no humeral prominences, without wings, surface polished, more distinctly punctate than prothorax, entirely yellowish brown. Body beneath with breast and prosternum usually slightly deeper brown than abdomen and legs, shining, anterior coxal cavities open, hind femora enlarged, hind tibiae shallowly channelled with spur at end, first tarsal joint very long. Length 1.2–1.6 mm.; width .6 mm.

Type, male, USNM 66190, and three paratypes, collected on weeds at Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, by R. G. Oakley, October 11, 1934.

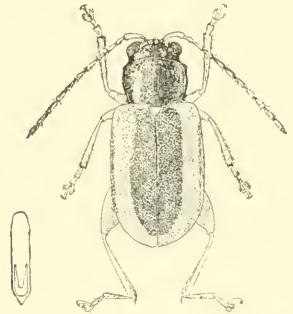




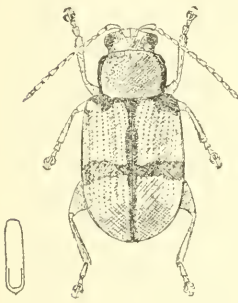
1. *Aphthona insularis*, n.sp.



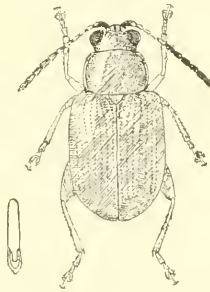
2. *Longitarsus cylindricus*, n.sp.



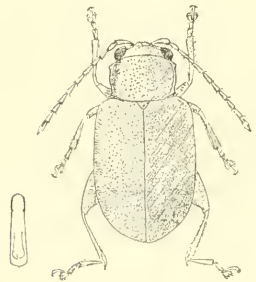
3. *Longitarsus chlanidotus*, n.sp.



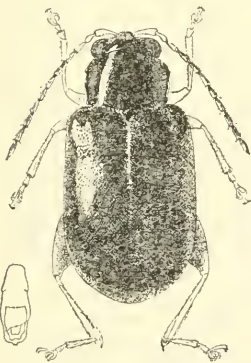
4. *Aphthona crucifera*, n.sp.



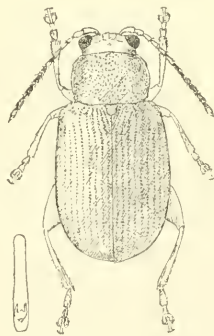
5. *Aphthona lepta*, n.sp.



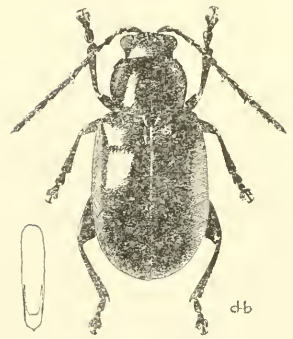
6. *Longitarsus oakleyi*, n.sp.



7. *Longitarsus atypicus*, n.sp.



8. *Aphthona inornata*, n.sp.



9. *Aphthona lamprocyanea*, n.sp.

FIGURES 1-9.—1, *Aphthona insularis*, new species; 2, *Longitarsus cylindricus*, new species; 3, *Longitarsus chlanidotus*, new species; 4, *Aphthona crucifera*, new species; 5, *Aphthona lepta*, new species; 6, *Longitarsus oakleyi*, new species; 7, *Longitarsus atypicus*, new species; 8, *Aphthona inornata* Blake; 9, *Aphthona lamprocyanea*, new species.

REMARKS.—This tiny flealike beetle is distinguished from other species of *Longitarsus* in the West Indies by its wingless elytra lacking humeral prominences and by its black and white antennae. It is closely related to *L. oopterus* Harold, another wingless species, from Colombia, which has an impunctate prothorax, and *L. intermedius* Jacoby from Panama, which is also impunctate but has similarly colored antennae. In *L. angusticollis* Jacoby the antennae are longer than the body. *L. impuncticollis* Blatchley from Florida, another wingless species, is dark chocolate brown with fuscous antennae.

*Longitarsus chlanidotus*, new species

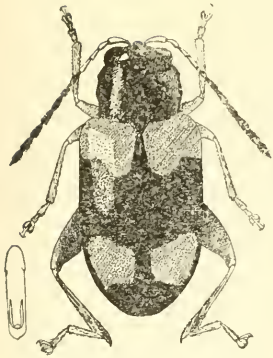
FIGURE 3

About 2 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, pronotum finely punctate, elytra more coarsely punctate, yellow brown with a brown head, pronotum and broad brown sutural vitta, and often brown along sides of elytra.

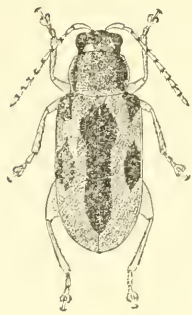
Head with interocular space approximately half width of head, occiput polished, a group of punctures near eye, frontal tubercles slightly swollen, interantennal area somewhat produced, a carina down front, shining dark brown, slightly paler in lower front. Antennae brown with four basal joints paler, extending to middle of elytra, third joint shorter than fourth, remainder subequal. Prothorax with slightly curved sides, oblique anterior angles and small tooth at basal angle, disc smooth, without depressions, polished, dark brown, or in pale specimens paler, distinctly punctate. Elytra without depressions, humeri not prominent, more coarsely and densely punctate than pronotum, yellow brown, usually with a wide sutural vitta covering half the elytra, not reaching apex, usually a brown lateral vitta between humerus and apex, in paler specimens only sutural and marginal edges brown. Body beneath brownish with legs yellowish brown, hind femora enlarged, first hind tarsal joint very long, hind tibiae grooved, a spur at end, claws appendiculate. Length 1.6–2 mm.; width .8–.9 mm.

Type, male, USNM 66191, and 23 paratypes collected on weeds in Boringuen Forest, at Guanica, Puerto Rico, by R. G. Oakley, September 14, 1934. One specimen taken at St. Thomas, 14½ miles east of Kingston, Jamaica, by T. H. Farr.

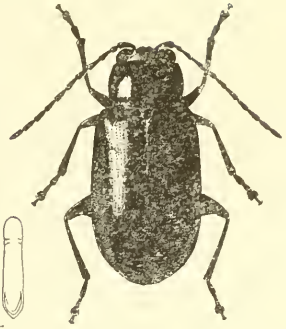
REMARKS.—This distinctive little beetle with its brown mantle was also taken on *Tournefortia gnaphalodes* on Lower Matecumbe Key, Florida, by Paul W. Oman, July 20, 1939.



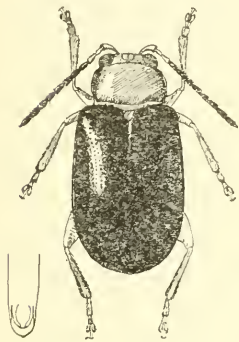
10. *Longitarsus subtilis* Harold



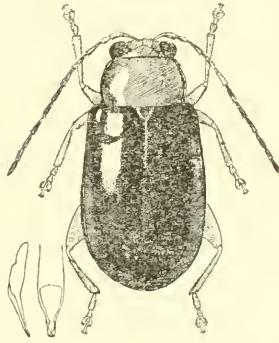
11. *Systena basalis*  
aberration Jacquelin Du Val



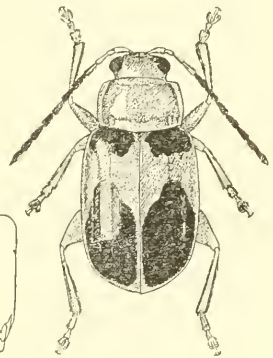
12. *Altica occidentalis* Suffrian



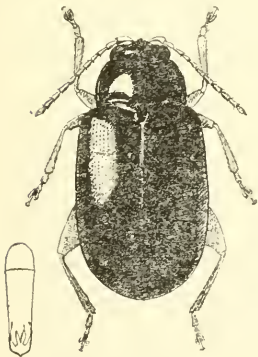
13. *Hermaeophaga jamaicensis*, n.sp.



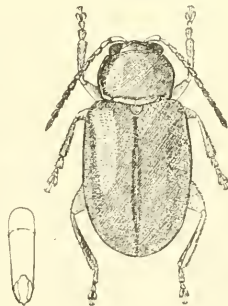
14. *Homoschema xanthocyaneum*, n.sp.



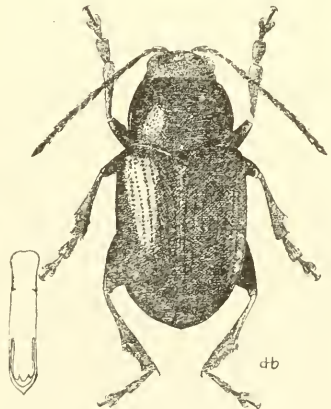
15. *Hemilactica portoricensis*, n.sp.



16. *Nesaecrepida asphaltina* (Suffrian)



17. *Nesaecrepida rufomarginata*, n.sp.



18. *Chaetocnema cyanoptera*, n.sp.

FIGURES 10-18.—10, *Longitarsus subtilis* Harold; 11, *Systena basalis*, aberration Jacquelin Du Val; 12, *Altica occidentalis* Suffrian; 13, *Hermaeophaga jamaicensis*, new species; 14, *Homoschema xanthocyaneum*, new species; 15, *Hemilactica portoricensis*, new species; 16, *Nesaecrepida asphaltina* (Suffrian); 17, *Nesaecrepida rufomarginata*, new species; 18, *Chaetocnema cyanoptera*, new species.

*Longitarsus oakleyi*, new species

## FIGURE 6

About 1.5 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, elytra moderately densely and strongly punctate, entirely yellow brown.

Head with interocular space slightly more than half width of head, occiput smoothly rounded, polished, a group of punctures near eye, interantennal area broad, somewhat produced, this rather flat carina broadening below, entire head pale yellow brown. Antennae extending to middle of elytra, fifth joint longer than third or fourth, entirely pale. Prothorax moderately convex with arcuate sides, oblique angles anteriorly and small tooth at basal angle, surface shining, without depressions, very finely punctate, entirely pale yellow brown. Scutellum brownish. Elytra moderately convex, without depressions, shining, strongly and coarsely punctate, yellow brown. Body beneath and legs entirely pale, shining, hind legs enlarged, hind tibiae grooved, spur at end, first hind tarsal joint very long. Length 1.3-1.8 mm.; width .7-.8 mm.

Type, male, USNM 66192, from Ponce, Puerto Rico, collected on weeds, and also one specimen taken at Guanica, Puerto Rico, both collected by R. G. Oakley, September 27, 1934.

REMARKS.—This tiny pale species differs from both *L. cylindricus* and *L. chlanidotus* by being entirely pale and having rather coarsely punctate elytra.

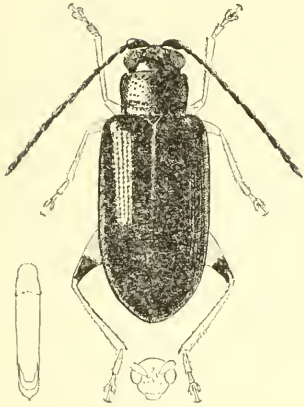
*Longitarsus atypicus*, new species

## FIGURE 7

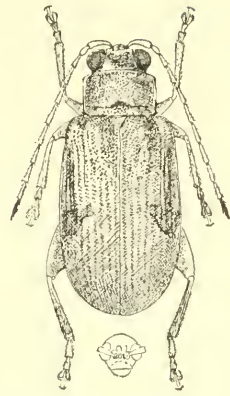
About 2 mm. in length, oblong oval, very shining, prothorax finely and elytra more coarsely punctate, elytra with distinct basal callosity and depression below, black with four basal joints of antennae pale and legs pale, posterior femora and lower front of face brownish.

Head with interocular space slightly more than half width of head, occiput polished, a group of punctures near eye, frontal tubercles slightly swollen, interantennal area produced, well-marked carina down lower front, lower front rather long and paler brown. Antennae about half as long as body, three basal joints pale, fourth slightly darker, remainder dark, third joint shorter than fourth. Prothorax moderately convex, smoothly rounded, without depressions, sides slightly arcuate, an oblique anterior angle and small tooth at base, surface polished black with distinct punctation. Scutellum dark. Elytra wider than prothorax, with distinct humeri, a basal callosity, below this a transverse depression, surface very shiny, with coarser

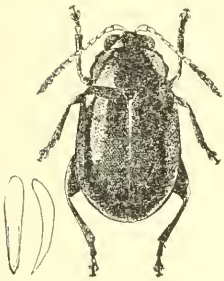




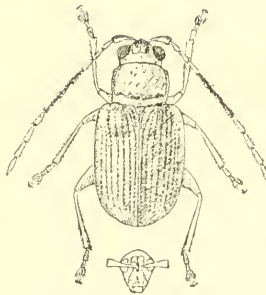
19. *Pseudoepitrix brasiliensis*, n.sp.



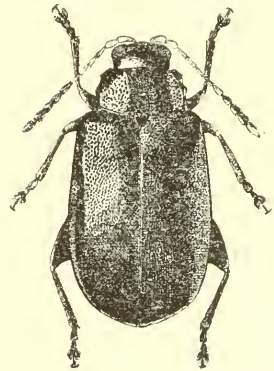
20. *Pseudoepitrix rugosa*, n.sp.



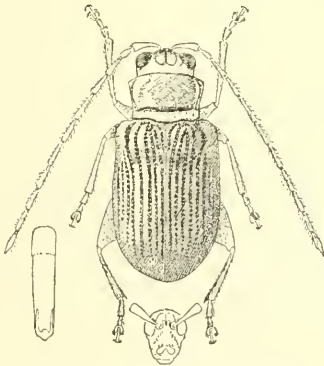
21. *Sidfaya polutima*, n.sp.



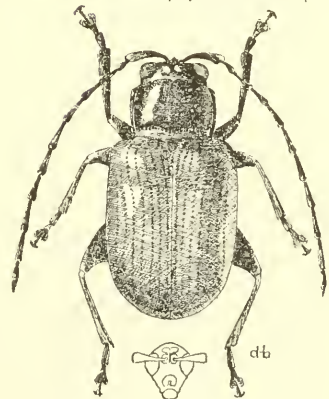
22. *Exoceras suffriani* (Jacoby)



23. *Sidfaya punctatissima*, n.sp.



24. *Exoceras heikertingeri* Bechyne



25. *Exoceras facialis* Jacoby

FIGURES 19-25.—19, *Pseudoepitrix brasiliensis*, new species; 20, *Pseudoepitrix rugosa*, new species; 21, *Sidfaya polutima*, new species; 22, *Exoceras suffriani* (Jacoby); 23, *Sidfaya punctatissima*, new species; 24, *Exoceras heikertingeri* Bechyne; 25, *Exoceras facialis* Jacoby.

punctuation than on pronotum, entirely dark. Body beneath dark brown or piceous with legs pale yellow brown except hind femora, which are brownish. Hind femora thickened, hind tibiae slightly channelled, spur at end, first tarsal joint very long, claws appendiculate. Length 1.8–2.5 mm; width 1–1.2 mm.

Type, male, USNM 66189, and 18 paratypes, collected on an "unknown vine," at Matrullas, Puerto Rico, October 22, 1934, by R. G. Oakley.

REMARKS.—H. S. Barber has labelled this "*?Longitarsus* sp." with the further note that "this is probably a new genus and new species." It does not resemble the usual species of *Longitarsus*: first, in its coloring, which is dark piceous or black instead of brownish or yellowish; second, in the shape of the elytra, which are considerably wider than the prothorax and with well-developed humeri and basal callosities and a transverse depression below them; and lastly, in the shape of the aedeagus, which is different from any of the species of *Longitarsus* that I have ever examined. On the other hand, the channelled tibiae and the very long first tarsal joint of the hind legs are typical of a species of *Longitarsus*, and for the present, until similar species appear, it seems better to assign the present species to this genus.

#### *Longitarsus subtilis* Harold

##### FIGURE 10

*Longitarsus subtilis* Harold, Coleopterologische Hefte, vol. 15, p. 31, 1876.

Two specimens collected at Aguirre, Puerto Rico, by H. E. Box in May 1925, resemble a series from El Valle, Venezuela, taken by C. H. Ballou September 4, 1939, on *Heliotropum indicum*, and a series from Pichilingue, Ecuador, taken by E. J. Hambleton, October 15, 1944. Harold's description of *Longitarsus subtilis* from Venezuela appears to fit these beetles. He describes the species as a beetle with a rufous head, a piceous thorax, and smooth rufotestaceous elytra, having the apex and a wide median fascia more dilute at the suture, rufopiceous, the feet testaceous, the posterior femora rufous, the four basal antennal joints as testaceous, and the remainder fuscous. Although there are minor differences, this description appears to apply fairly well to the present species, which now is found to occur in Puerto Rico.

#### *Systema basalis* Jacquelin Du Val, aberration

##### FIGURE 11

*Systema basalis* Jacquelin Du Val, in Ramon de la Sagra, Historia física, política y natural de la Isla de Cuba, vol. 7, p. 129, 1856.

A single female beetle from Cuba in the Wickham collection has an

unusual coloration. Instead of being almost entirely piceous with a bronze lustre, with the elytra having only a trace of a pale vitta near the base, as is uniformly found in the female of *Systema basalis*, this specimen has pale elytra with a humeral dark spot and a median lateral short vitta, as well as a wide sutural dark vitta, widening below the scutellum for a short way, then narrowing and extending down the suture but not reaching the apex. The legs are entirely pale, the antennae also pale, with a slight darkening at the apex of each joint. The breast and abdomen are brownish piceous. If it were a male, in which the usual elytral markings are paler, with a full-length pale vitta, this would not appear so unusual. Structurally, however, the specimen does not seem to differ from *Systema basalis*, being of the same size and dimensions and possessing the same sort of punctation. Thus, it seems highly unlikely that this is a different species.

*Altica occidentalis* Suffrian

FIGURE 12

*Altica occidentalis* Suffrian, Arch. Naturg., vol. 34, p. 197, 1868.

In describing this species Suffrian was somewhat in doubt as to whether or not it might be the European *A. oleracea* L., which it strongly resembles and which he thought might have been introduced into Cuba with vegetables. The present species is very similar in outward appearance to the European species but the aedeagus is different. This species appears to be endemic in the West Indies and occurs not only in Cuba but also in Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Jamaica, Dominica, and St. Lucia. It is of the same elongate shape as *A. ludoviciana* Fall, another Caribbean species found on the same food plant, *Jussiaea*, and a species distinguished by its pale yellow legs.

*Hermaeophaga jamaicensis*, new species

FIGURE 13

About 2 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, prothorax with basal sulcus not limited at ends, elytra faintly striate punctate, pale yellowish brown with elytra shining metallic green, breast and abdomen dark brown and outer joints of antennae dark brown.

Head with interocular space about half width of head, occiput smoothly rounded, impunctate, frontal tubercles clearly marked, a narrow carina down front, entirely pale yellow brown. Antennae extending slightly below humeri, first four basal joints pale, without much pubescence, remainder thicker, dark and very hairy. Prothorax moderately convex, shining, impunctate, pale yellow brown with basal sulcus across pronotum not limited at ends. Scutellum

pale. Elytra faintly striate punctate, punctures evanescent at apex, a slight transverse depression below basal callosity, shining, metallic green. Body beneath with breast and abdomen dark brown, legs entirely pale. Length 2–2.3 mm.; width 1–1.1 mm.

Type, male, USNM 66199, one female paratype, and one male paratype, in Institute of Jamaica, collected at St. James, about 4 miles northeast of Montego Bay, Jamaica, September 12, 1958, by T. H. FAIR.

REMARKS.—This is the second species of *Hermaeophaga* to be described from Jamaica, the other being *H. cupraea* Blake.

*Hemilactica portoricensis*, new species

FIGURE 15

Between 3 and 4 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, finely punctate, prothorax with remnants of basal sulcus apparent at limiting ends and middle, elytra in female conspicuously costate, less so in male, pale yellow brown, with outer joints of antennae deeper brown, on elytra a basal dark blue or green spot not reaching suture, from middle almost to apex a larger metallic blue or blue green area.

Head with interocular space more than half width of head, occiput distinctly punctate with a median depression over well-marked frontal tubercles, interantennal area broad and somewhat produced but not extending down lower front, lower front short. Antennae scarcely reaching middle of elytra, basal two or three joints paler than deep brown outer ones, third joint shorter than fourth, remainder subequal. Prothorax almost rectangular with only slightly arcuate sides, disc convex in middle, a poorly developed basal sulcus with limiting ends clearly marked, a depression in middle of base, surface distinctly punctate, shining yellow brown. Scutellum pale. Elytra in female with three distinct costae, outer one from humerus to apical angle, two inner ones shorter, in male these costae less distinct but apparent, surface finely punctate. Epipleura wide and extending nearly to apex, anterior coxal cavities open, legs robust, hind femora enlarged, tibiae all faintly channelled, a short spur at end of hind tibiae, claws appendiculate. Length 3–3.8 mm.; width 1.5–1.8 mm.

Type, male, USNM 66196, and 27 paratypes, from Matrullas, Puerto Rico, collected on *Micropholis curvata* by R. G. Oakley, October 15, 1934. Other specimens were taken at Villalba on a tree by R. G. Oakley, June 18, 1934.

REMARKS.—This is the first species of the genus to be described outside of Cuba. It has the characters of the group: the rather indistinct basal sulcus on the prothorax, the costate elytra (more distinct in the female), and the coloring, which is pale yellow brown with metallic blue or green markings on the elytra.



*Nesaecrepida*, new genus

Small (2–3 mm. in length), oblong oval beetles, similar in appearance to species of *Crepidodera* but with basal sulcus across the entire base of prothorax, elytra very finely punctate, punctures tending to be striate but not entirely so.

Head with groove from large puncture near eye running down and cutting around frontal tubercles, carina down lower front slightly produced, as in *Crepidodera*. Antennae not extending to middle of elytra; first two joints swollen, third scarcely as long as second, fourth and fifth subequal; from fifth on, joints wider but not longer. Prothorax moderately convex, with rounded sides, an oblique angle anteriorly and a small tooth at basal angle, a somewhat sinuate basal sulcus extending completely across base, not distinctly limited at ends but with inconspicuous line going downward not upward on prothorax slightly before lateral margin. Elytra moderately convex, without depressions, with very fine inconspicuous punctation obsolete at apex, tending to be striate, but not always so. (In one of the two species are traces of more than a dozen striae, in the second species the striations tend to be geminate and become confused in places, but in neither species are the striations clear cut and impressed as in others of the *Crepidodera*.) Epipleura wide until apical curve, then vanishing, anterior coxal cavities closed, hind femora enlarged, hind tibiae shallowly sulcate near apex, a very short spur at tip, claws appendiculate.

Type of genus, *Haltica asphaltina* Suffrian.

The generic name is derived from the Greek  $\nu\eta\sigma\hat{\alpha}\iota\omicron\varsigma$  (nesaios = insular) + crepida.

REMARKS.—The two West Indian species of this genus, *Nesaecrepida*, which is allied to *Crepidodera*, differ from the other New World Crepidoderini in having inconspicuous elytral punctation that consists of very fine punctures in many (over 12) striae. In *Nesaecrepida asphaltina* (fig. 16) these striae are slightly confused, but in both species the punctation becomes obsolete near the apex. In addition, these two West Indian species have a basal groove that extends completely across the prothorax to the lateral margins, without the usual limiting lines perpendicular to the base; these lines are represented by a very short and inconspicuous line from the sulcus down to the basal margin, but not extending upward from the groove. *Nesaecrepida asphaltina* was described by Suffrian from Cuba as *Haltica asphaltina* and was recorded in the Junk Catalogue as a species of *Crepidodera*; it occurs also in Puerto Rico and Jamaica. The other species, which has been collected by T. H. Farr in Jamaica, is known also from Cuba, where it was collected on rice; it is described below.

*Nesacrepida rufomarginata*, new species

FIGURE 17

Between 2 and 3 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, prothorax large, with basal sulcus not distinctly limited at ends; elytra very densely, feebly, and finely striate punctate; anterior coxal cavities closed, pale yellow brown, with suture narrowly reddish brown.

Head with interocular space approximately half width of head, a large fovea near eye with finer punctures about it, a deep groove extending down from fovea over frontal tubercles, which are slightly swollen, frontal carina pronounced, pale yellow brown with mouth parts deeper in color. Antennae extending approximately to middle of elytra, pale yellowish brown, two basal joints swollen, third joint somewhat shorter than second or fourth, fourth and fifth subequal, remainder slightly wider, longer, and deeper brown in color. Prothorax about one-third wider than long, somewhat convex, with rounded sides, anterior angles oblique, a small tooth at basal angles, sulcus extending across base, not very distinctly limited at ends, a feeble line at end extending downward only from sulcus to base, surface very finely punctate, shiny yellow brown, lateral margin reddish brown. Scutellum pale. Elytra smoothly and moderately convex, without depressions, punctation slightly coarser than on prothorax, but not conspicuous, very densely and feebly striate, pale yellow brown with suture and lateral margin narrowly reddish brown. Epipleura wide to apical curve, then disappearing. Body beneath reddish brown, anterior coxal cavities closed, legs short, posterior femora enlarged, posterior tibiae channelled, a small spur at end. Length 2.2 mm.; width 1.2 mm.

Type, male, USNM 66197, and one paratype, one female paratype in Institute of Jamaica, collected at St. Elizabeth, Luana, Jamaica, July 21, 1961, by T. H. Farr. Other specimens collected at Jababa, Cuba, December 2, 1957, on rice.

REMARKS.—This species, like *N. asphaltina*, occurs both in Cuba and Jamaica.

*Homoschema xanthocyaueum*, new species

FIGURE 14

About 2.5 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, nearly impunctate, head with a group of punctures on each side near eye, prothorax with a slightly pinched-in depression at basal angle, pale yellow with darker antennae, elytra shining dark blue or purplish.

Head with interocular space about half width of head, a group of coarse punctures on either side near eye, rendering surface uneven, frontal tubercles clearly marked, a short carina not extending down rather flat lower front, pale yellow. Antennae extending to middle of

elytra, first two joints swollen, third joint not as long as fourth, remainder subequal, diminishing slightly toward end, basal joints pale, outer joints becoming dark brown. Prothorax not twice as wide as long, with rounded sides, oblique anterior angles and a small tooth at basal angle, a small pinched-in depression near this basal angle, surface very shiny and very finely punctate, pale yellow. Scutellum reddish brown. Elytra moderately convex with transverse depression below basal callosity, polished dark violaceous blue and very finely punctate. Body beneath and legs pale yellow, anterior coxal cavities open, legs short, hind tibiae with short spur, claws appendiculate. Length 2.2–2.7 mm.; width 1–1.2 mm.

Type, male, USNM 66198, collected at Clarendon, Portland Ridge, north side, July 23, 1958, by T. H. Farr; one female collected at Hanover, Bloody Bay, February 15–24, 1952, by F. A. McDermott.

REMARKS.—This is the second species of *Homoschema* to be found on Jamaica. It differs from *H. jamaicense* in having a more transverse prothorax with a little depression on each side near the basal angle. The aedeagus also is different and, in its long narrow point, suggests that of *H. hoffmani* from Haiti.

*Chaetocnema cyanoptera*, new species

FIGURE 18

About 2.5 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, pronotum and head densely punctate, elytra striately punctate, greenish blue with brown tibiae and tarsi, and darker femora.

Head with interocular space more than half width of head, occiput rounded, strongly alutaceous and punctate, tubercles not defined, lower front flat and wrinkled and with pale pubescence, entirely dark with metallic blue-green lustre. Antennae extending below humeri, basal joints reddish brown, outer ones piceous. Prothorax convex, with arcuate sides, sinuous basal margin, shining although alutaceous, strongly punctate, bluish green. Scutellum dark. Elytra shiny, alutaceous, strongly striate punctate, dark blue. Body beneath dark shiny piceous, punctures anteriorly on metasternum and abdomen densely punctate. Hind femora enlarged, dark with faint greenish lustre, middle and hind tibiae deeply emarginate near apex, hind tibiae with spur, all tibiae somewhat brownish, darker toward apex, claws appendiculate. Length 2.5 mm.; width 1.3 mm.

Type, male, USNM 66188, taken on an avocado from Cuba, July 7, 1930.

REMARKS.—This is about the size of *C. plicipennis* Blake and is one of the larger species of *Chaetocnema* from the West Indies. It is distinguished by its blue-green color.

*Pseudoepitrix rugosa*, new species

FIGURE 20

About 3 mm. in length, elongate oblong, faintly shining, pronotum densely and coarsely punctate with basal sulcus very distinct in middle of base, elytral punctation irregularly striate, somewhat confusedly punctate in depression below basal callosity, pale yellowish brown, prothorax more reddish, a reddish brown irregular marking along side of elytra, legs and antennae pale yellow.

Head with interocular space half its width, front of head coarsely punctate down middle from occiput to somewhat swollen frontal tubercles, carina between antennal sockets short and broad, lower front short. Antennae long and slender, extending below middle of elytra, pale yellow with terminal joint brownish, third joint shorter than fourth. Prothorax wider than long with oblique anterior angles and tooth at basal angle, sides straight, basal sulcus very distinct in middle, marked at sides by depression, surface coarsely and contiguously punctate, pale reddish brown. Scutellum reddish brown. Elytra long, with well-marked basal callosity and a slight depression below this, rows of striate punctures irregular, almost geminate at times, especially confused in depression below basal callosity and about scutellum, along sides feebly costate, yellowish brown with irregular brown areas on sides between humerus and middle. Body beneath reddish brown, legs pale yellow brown, anterior coxal cavities closed. Length 2.9 mm.; width 1.3 mm.

Type, female, USNM 66201, collected at Hardwar Gap, Portland, Jamaica, June 28, 1959, by T. H. Farr.

REMARKS.—The characters of this Jamaican species resemble more the characters of the genus that Jacoby described as *Pseudoepitrix* from Central America than the species that have been described from the West Indies under the same genus. Like the Central American species, this Jamaican species is more elongate, with long elytra and with a shorter face than in the West Indian species, and the anterior coxal cavities are closed.

*Pseudoepitrix brasiliensis*, new species

FIGURE 19

About 3 mm. in length, elongate oblong, shining, prothorax with inconspicuous basal sulcus not distinctly limited at ends, strongly punctate, elytra elongate with striate punctation, shining black with yellow legs, hind femora with dark apex.

Head with interocular space half width of head, a row of punctures near eye, frontal tubercles somewhat swollen, with distinct carina down lower front, entirely dark piceous, shining. Antennae extending



nearly to middle of elytra, third joint shorter than fourth, rest subequal, entirely dark. Prothorax almost rectangular with nearly straight sides, anterior oblique angles thickened, a faint basal sulcus, slightly more distinct at ends, disc somewhat flat, with scattered not dense coarse punctures, shining black. Scutellum black. Elytra elongate, tapering at apex, strongly striate punctate, punctures becoming weaker at apex, shining black. Body beneath black with legs pale yellow except apex of hind femora, which are dark. Anterior coxal cavities closed, tibiae not channelled, hind ones with short spur, claws appendiculate. Length 2.8–3 mm.; width 1.2–1.4 mm.

Type, male, USNM 66200, and three paratypes, from São Paulo, Brazil, collected by H. L. Parker on a "labiate plant." Two other specimens were collected by W. M. Mann in the Baturites Mountains, Brazil. One of these, which may be immature, has yellow brown elytra; the head and prothorax are brownish.

REMARKS.—This South American beetle has been included among the West Indian species to show how the West Indian species assigned (up to this time) to the genus *Pseudoepitrix* differ from the Central and South American species of *Pseudoepitrix*.

#### *Exoceras facialis* Jacoby

FIGURE 25

*Exoceras facialis* Jacoby, in *Biologia Centrali-Americana*, Coleoptera vol. 6, pt. 1, suppl., p. 273, 1891.

*Exoceras facialis* Jacoby was described from a single male specimen from Volcan de Chiriqui, Panama. In 1897 Jacoby described a closely related species from St. Vincent as *Pseudoepitrix suffriani*. Mr. Bryant has followed Jacoby in describing, as species of *Pseudoepitrix*, two others closely related to *suffriani*, one from Trinidad, *P. trinitatis*, the other from Puerto Rico, *P. hoffmani*. The present writer has followed them in ascribing to the genus *Pseudoepitrix*: *hispaniolae* from the Dominican Republic, *punctatissima* and *hottensis* from Haiti, *jamaicensis* from Jamaica, *tetraspilota* and *longicornis* from Cuba. In all these species the strongly marked sex characters described in the male *Exoceras facialis* are either very much reduced or not at all apparent, with the result that there is little to relate these species to *Exoceras facialis*, which is a much larger beetle, with very long antennae, much enlarged frontal tubercles, and a prominent enlargement in the lower front of the face in the male. Recently, Bechyne<sup>1</sup> has described several species of *Exoceras* from Central and South America in which the characters found in *E. facialis* are more apparent. In addition to these he described one species from Guadeloupe, *E.*

<sup>1</sup> Bechyne, Ent. Arb., Band 6, Heft. 1, 1955, pp. 145-148

*heikertingeri*. The present writer recently has examined specimens from Dominica and St. Lucia that are probably this species. The writer at once recognized the relationship of these specimens to the other West Indian species described under *Pseudoepitrix* although, in *E. heikertingeri* (also a larger species), the male characters are very long antennae, very swollen frontal tubercles, and two well-developed tubercles in the lower front of the face—all characters to be found in *E. facialis*.

In all the West Indian species the head is long, as in *E. facialis*. In *P. longicornis*, described from a male only, the antennae approximate those of *facialis*. In *P. suffriani* the frontal tubercles over the antennae are very swollen, as in *facialis*. To a slightly less extent this may also be true in *P. trinitatis*, as shown in Mr. Bryant's drawing (the present writer has not examined the type). In the remainder of the West Indian species (*hoffmani*, *hispaniolae*, *punctatissima*, *hottensis*, *jamaicensis*, and *tetraspilota*) none of these striking male characters so far has been observed, but it is evident that all of these species belong to the genus *Exoceras*, rather than to *Pseudoepitrix*.

The West Indian species are all smaller than *E. facialis*, and all very similar, forming a homogeneous group. Several have been collected on tree ferns. Mr. Bryant records *trinitatis* as destroying young fronds of the fern *Adiantum tenerum*. These species do not have the long elytra common to *Pseudoepitrix* and, unlike this genus, the anterior coxal cavities are open. The head in *Pseudoepitrix* is normal, not elongate, and there are no traces of tubercles on the lower front nor enlarged tubercles over the antennal sockets.

Two new species of *Pseudoepitrix* are included in this paper to illustrate the differences in the two genera. Drawings have been made of *Exoceras facialis* Jacoby (fig. 25), *E. suffriani* (Jacoby) (fig. 22), and what is probably *E. heikertingeri* Bechyne (fig. 24).

### *Sidfaya*, new genus

Small, between 2 and 4 mm. in length, ovate, convex, shining black, with coarsely and confusedly punctate prothorax and elytra, head with groove extending down from eye to frontal tubercles, inter-antennal area broad, somewhat produced, front below slightly declivous. Antennae not extending much below humeri, first two joints swollen, third to sixth slender and subequal, joints seven to eleven much thicker but not much longer. Prothorax twice as wide as long with lateral sides slightly angulate, with anteriorly a prominent oblique angle, middle of margin sharply rounded and at basal angle a well-developed tooth, disc without basal depression and strongly punctate. Elytra widened slightly behind, convex, with prominent

basal callosities and transverse depression below them, surface coarsely and confusedly punctate. Body beneath with prosternum extending down widely between anterior coxae, hind femora enlarged, hind tibiae not channelled but rounded, spur at end, claws appendiculate.

Type of genus, *Sidfaya polutima*, new species.

REMARKS.—The beetles are somewhat similar in shape to those of the genus *Heikertingerella* but are not so smoothly convex, the elytra having basal callosities and a transverse depression. In addition, the strong, even coarse, punctation is unlike any found in *Heikertingerella*.

The genus is named in memory of Dr. Sidney Fay Blake. This name also has an interesting parallel in Greek: *σιδαρος* (sidaros=iron) and *φάω* (phao=shining).

*Sidfaya polutima*, new species

FIGURE 21

About 2 mm. in length, ovate, convex, shining, with dense and somewhat confused punctation, dark piceous black with tibiae and tarsi yellowish brown and basal seven joints of antennae pale yellow, four terminal joints thickened and dark, hind femora enlarged, hind tibiae rounded with small spur at end, claws appendiculate.

Head with interocular space half width of head, smoothly rounded, polished and impunctate over occiput, a groove on each side extending from fovea near eye down to frontal tubercles with several punctures along it, frontal tubercles small and distinct, interantennal area slightly produced, flat, with no definite carina and somewhat declivous below. Antennae reaching below humeri, the two basal joints swollen, joints three to six pale yellow, subequal, joints seven to eleven gradually becoming wider and last four joints piceous. Prothorax approximately twice as wide as long with sinuate, almost angulate, lateral margin, a broad oblique angle anteriorly ending in prominent tooth at lower end and another tooth at basal angle, moderately convex, without depressions, surface shining black, with strong punctation. Scutellum dark. Elytra moderately convex, with small humeral prominences and short intrahumeral depression, distinct depression below basal callosities, surface shiny with strong and not too dense punctation becoming somewhat less distinct at apex, punctation with tendency to being striate but not actually so, epipleura vanishing at apical angle. Body beneath having prosternum extending down widely between anterior coxae and closing anterior coxal cavities. Hind femora much enlarged, hind tibiae entire, rounded, a spur at end, claws appendiculate. Length 1.8–2 mm.; width 1.1 mm.

Type, male, MCZ 30491, and one female paratype in the U.S. National Museum collection, taken at Buenos Aires, Trinidad Mountains, Cuba, by P. J. Darlington, Jr.

REMARKS.—In shape this species approaches the species of the genus *Heikertingerella*, being ovate, moderately convex, with a prothorax about twice as wide as long and without a basal sulcus of any sort. The species differs from that genus, however, in the less sinuate basal margin of the prothorax, which does not dip down as much over the scutellum, and in the lateral margin, which is very sinuate, even angulate, and with a more distinctive oblique angle anteriorly and a larger tooth basally. The elytra, too, are not as smoothly convex but have a transverse depression below the basal callosity. The terminal joints of the antennae are much more enlarged than in *Heikertingerella*, and the head has wider interantennal space. The punctation of this and the species below is much coarser than that of any species of *Heikertingerella*.

*Sidfaya punctatissima*, new series

FIGURE 23

Between 2 and 3 mm. in length, oblong ovate, shining piceous black, pronotum and elytra densely and moderately coarsely punctate, prothorax twice as wide as long with prominent oblique angles anteriorly and somewhat angulate lateral margin, elytra with transverse depression below basal callosities, antennae yellowish brown with four terminal joints wider and darker, not extending much below humeri.

Head with interocular space approximately half width of head, occiput rounded, impunctate, polished, a groove with several punctures along it from eye to frontal tubercles, frontal tubercles small and clearly cut, a broad and somewhat produced interantennal area widening below, lower front slightly concave. Antennae not extending far below humeri, joints one and two swollen, joints three to six slender and subequal, joints seven to eleven gradually wider, but not much longer, hairier and darker. Prothorax twice as wide as long with prominent oblique anterior angles having tooth at lower end, at mid-point margin sharply rounded, at base a small tooth, disc not very convex, shiny piceous black with numerous moderately coarse and deep punctures, not too closely placed in all parts. Scutellum dark and shiny. Elytra slightly wider in apical half, moderately convex, with prominent basal callosities and transverse depression below them, surface shining black, coarsely and almost contiguously punctate, epipleura vanishing at apical curve. Body beneath entirely dark, prosternum extending down widely between anterior coxae, hind femora enlarged, hind tibiae not channelled, but rounded, with spur at apex, claws appendiculate. Length 2.8 mm.; width 1.4 mm.

Type, female, MCZ 30492, collected on Main Range, Blue Mountains, Jamaica, 5000-7388 ft., August 17-19, 1934, by P. J. Darlington, Jr.



REMARKS.—Although somewhat larger than *Sidfaya polutima*, the structure of the head, with the incised line from the eye to the frontal tubercles, the somewhat declivous face, the wide prothorax, with the prominent angles, the elytra, with the basal callosities and transverse depression, and the coarse punctation over all the surface—all cause this species to resemble *S. polutima*.