

NEW SPECIES OF STAPHYLINIDAE FROM TONKIN

by Malcolm CAMERON, M. B., R. N., F. R. E. S.

OXYTELINAE

Eleusis tonkinensis, sp. nov. — Colour of *humilis* Er. in build and antennal structure scarcely differing from *quadriiceps* Cam. but the puncturation of the head and thorax is much more distinct and the latter is furnished with a well marked tooth on each side. Head as long as broad, the temples very feebly rounded, sparingly very finely but distinctly punctured and with the usual fine wavy ground sculpture. Antennae with the 4th to 7th joints all longer than broad, decreasing in length, the 8th to 10th about as long as broad. Thorax transverse (6 : 5), the sides gently rounded and retracted towards the base, at the posterior third with a strong tooth, in the middle with an extremely fine, scarcely perceptible line, the sculpture as on the head. Elytra longer (7 : 5) than the thorax, very finely, sparingly and obsoletely punctured and with the usual fine ground sculpture. Length 3.5-4 mm. Hoa Binh (A. DE COOMAN). Type : coll. Muséum de Paris.

Lispinus tonkinensis, sp. nov. — Moderately shining, black, the elytra pitchy. Antennae reddish. Legs reddish-yellow. Length 2-75 mm.

Immature specimens are reddish-brown.

Near *aequalis* Fauv. similar in build colour and lustre, but at once distinguished by the much closer puncturation, different ground sculpture and longer antennae with less transverse penultimate joints. Head bi-impressed in front, moderately finely and moderately closely punctured, not coriaceous but with fine wavy striae. Antennae with the 4th joint as long as broad, 5th to 10th transverse, the penultimate only slightly. Thorax transverse (4 : 3), the sides gently rounded, before the posterior angles straight and retracted, the lateral impression very small and very obsolete, the median absent and without a median impressed line, the puncturation as on the head, the ground sculpture fine, longitudinal and wavy. Elytra longer than the thorax (4 : 3), as long as broad, the sculpture similar. Abdomen with the first three segments with rather close flat obsolete punctures, much finer, more obsolete and scanty on the following ; finely coriaceous.

Hoa Binh. (A. DE COOMAN). Type : coll. Muséum de Paris.

STAPHYLININAE

Gen. **Coomania**, nov.

Amongst the *Xantholini* at once distinguished by the immarginate abdomen and very narrow neck, systematically near *Diochus* Er.

Parallel, subconvex ; head free, neck very slender only about a fifth as broad as its base ; gular sutures distant slightly convergent behind, without

trace of infra-orbital ridge. Antennae straight. Prosternum arcuated, emarginate in front and furnished with a small transverse neck-plate, keeled along the middle and fused with the under surface of the pronotum at the anterior angles ; pronotal epipleura strongly reflexed, not visible from the side, the prothoracic stigmata entirely exposed. Anterior coxae large, conical and prominent. Mesosternal process short, narrowly rounded behind, the middle coxae large oval, narrowly separated in front, contiguous behind, the posterior with truncate conical inner parts contiguous at base. Elytra with straight suture. Abdomen cylindrical, immarginate, the 1st sternite with sharp entire median keel. Middle tibiae spinose along the outer border, the anterior and posterior, without spines. Tarsi 5-jointed, the anterior with the first four joints strongly dilated, patellate, at least in the ♂, the 5th as long as the four preceding together : middle with rather short 1st joint, the following decreasing in length : posterior with 1st joint about as long as the 2nd and 3rd together, these rather short. 4th and 5th decreasing in length : claws simple, lightly curved. Absence of material for dissection prevents study of the mouth parts.

Coomania tonkinensis, sp. nov. — Elongate subparallel, shining, black, the thorax pitchyblack, the posterior margins of the abdominal segments reddish. Antennae and legs reddish-yellow. Length 5 mm.

Head narrower than the thorax (4.5 : 6), subtriangular, widened behind the small flat eyes, the posterior angles broadly rounded ; between the eyes with a transverse row of four small punctures, the median pair a little further from one another than from the lateral which are adjacent to the eye, a little behind the lateral puncture with another, otherwise without puncturation, the ground sculpture fine, transverse and limited to the frontal region. Antennae rather short, the 1st joint cylindrical, 2nd a little shorter, as long as the 3rd, 4th as long as broad, 5th to 10th slightly transverse, the penultimate joints about a half broader than long, the 11th short, oval. Thorax quadrate, as long as broad, the sides almost straight, very slightly retracted in front, all the angles rounded ; a little behind the anterior border with a transverse row of four small punctures, on the middle of the disc with a pair, and towards the anterior angles with a single puncture, otherwise without puncturation or ground sculpture. Scutellum small and without sculpture. Elytra as long and as broad as the thorax, along the suture with about four minute, scarcely perceptible punctures, otherwise impunctate and without ground-sculpture. Abdomen cylindrical, a little narrowed before the apex, finely and sparingly punctured on the anterior, yet more sparingly on the posterior segments. Fore parts glabrous. Abdomen with long scanty pubescence.

♂ : 6th ventral segment with an acute triangular emargination.

♀ : unknown.

Hoa Binh (A. DE COOMAN). Type : coll. Muséum de Paris.

ALEOCHARINAE

Coenonica philippina Bernh. var. **tonkinensis**, nov. — Differs from the type form in the entirely black colour of the whole body, similar in all other respects including the ♂ characters which have not as yet been described. 3rd and 7th tergite with two little tubercles close together and a little in front of the posterior margin (sometimes obsolete) : 8th truncate, on each side with slight, curved spine, the border between with four or five little teeth.

Hoa Binh (A. DE COOMAN). Type : coll. Muséum de Paris.

Phymatura orientalis, sp. nov. — Moderately shining ; head black, thorax pitchy ; elytra yellow with the postero-external region extensively infuscate. Abdomen with the first two visible tergites yellowish-red, the following black. Antennae black, the first three joints and legs reddish-yellow. Length 2.5 mm.

Rather more depressed than *brevicollis* Kr. differently coloured, the antennae longer and more slender, the head less obsoletely, the thorax more finely and more closely, the elytra much more finely and much less roughly punctured. Head closely covered, except in front, with moderate umbilical punctures, very finely coriaceous. Antennae with the 3rd joint a little longer than the 2nd, 4th as long as broad, 5th to 10th transverse, the penultimate about a half broader than long, the 11th as long as the 9th and 10th together. Thorax transverse (5 : 3.5) convex, the sides rounded, more retracted in front, the posterior angles obtuse, the base slightly bisinuate, before the scutellum with a small obsolete impression, rather finely, closely and roughly punctured and without ground sculpture. Elytra as broad as, but a little longer than the thorax, slightly transverse, more finely and more closely but less roughly punctured. Abdomen narrowed before the apex, very finely and closely punctured on the first three segments, much more sparingly on the following. The whole insect covered with a fine and rather close pubescence. The two examples present no sexual characters and are probably females.

Hoa Binh (A. DE COOMAN). Type : coll. Muséum de Paris.

Gen. Pedinopleurus, nov. (Bernh. in litt.). — Broad robust species, narrower in front and behind, in build much resembling certain of the genus *Zygra* (*gravidula* Pér.). Head a good deal narrower than the thorax, transverse, the eyes very large, the post-ocular region very short, rounded and retracted to the stout neck, not bordered below : maxillary excavation narrowly separated from the eye in front and behind extending a little beyond the level of the posterior border. Antennae with the 4th and following joints laterally compressed. Labrum transverse, the anterior border broadly arcuatedly emarginate. Mandibles not prominent, stout, curved, pointed, the right with a small tooth. Maxillary palpi elongate, the 1st joint small, 2nd curved, slightly thick-

ened towards the apex, 3rd elongate, fully twice as long as the 2nd, scarcely thickened, 4th very small, subulate. Outer lobe of the maxilla narrow, much longer than the inner, its apex ciliate ; inner lobe broad, membranous and ciliate internally. Mentum very slightly transverse the sides rounded behind, retracted in front, the anterior border truncate. Labial palpi rather long, the 1st and 2nd joints of equal length and breadth, 3rd narrower and a little shorter than the 2nd. Tongue very short and broad, the anterior border broadly emarginate. Paraglossae well developed. Thorax strongly transverse, the pronotal epipleura fused with the under surface and not visible from the side. Prosternum transverse, convex, its anterior and posterior margins gently rounded, articulated at some distance behind the anterior angles of the thorax. Mesosternum short, truncate behind, extending about a third of the length of the coxae ; metasternal process elongate, rounded at apex and separated from the mesosternum by a short intersternal piece, the coxae rather widely separated. Legs moderate. Femora compressed, sulcate throughout ; tibiae compressed, finely spinose ; tarsi 4,5,5 finely spinose, the anterior with the first three joints rather short and subequal, 4th as long as the three preceding together ; middle with the first four joints moderate in length, subequal the 5th as long as the 3rd and 4th together ; posterior with the 1st joint a little longer than the 2nd, 3rd and 4th shorter, subequal, 5th as long as the 3rd and 4th together. Claws slender, slightly curved. Elytra emarginate postero-externally. Abdomen broad, scaphoidal, the lateral margins strongly elevated, the first two visible tergites transversely impressed.

Pedinopleurus chapmani, sp. nov. (Bern. in litt.). — Shining reddish-yellow the head dark reddish-brown. Antennae and legs reddish-yellow. Length 7 mm.

Head transverse, only slightly more than half the width of the thorax, the eyes very large, fully as long as the gently rounded and retracted post-ocular region ; at the inner border of each eye behind the insertion of the antenna with a large tubercle, the interval between the tubercles and the vertex concave ; puncturation and ground sculpture absent. Antennae extending a little beyond the base of the elytra, the 3rd joint a little longer than the 2nd, the 4th and following laterally compressed, the 4th to 10th subtriangular, narrowed at the base, a little longer than broad and only slightly decreasing in length, the 11th nearly as long as the three preceding together. Thorax strongly transverse (9 : 5), the sides feebly rounded, more retracted in front, all the angles broadly rounded, the anterior border bisinuate, the posterior rounded ; towards the sides broadly impressed, the disc convex, on each side of the middle with a row of three or four small punctures, elsewhere with a few fine scattered punctures each with a short erect hair ; ground sculpture absent. Elytra as long as but slightly narrower than the thorax, a little widened behind and with similar punctures and hairs ; ground sculpture absent. Winged. Abdomen scaphoidal, the side margins strongly raised, the

first three visible tergites broadly impressed along the middle, the impression limited externally by a large flat tubercle ; the raised lateral margins finely punctured and pubescent, the rest of the surface completely devoid of punctures or hairs but with a very fine coriaceous ground sculpture.

The specimens show no sexual characters.

Hoà Binh (A. DE COOMAN). Type : coll. Muséum de Paris.

Two other species of this genus as yet undescribed are in my collection, one from Burma, the other from India, but their habits are unknown.

NOTE SUR LE BOLETOPHAGUS ARMATUS PANZ.

[COL. TENEBRIONIDAE]

par A. IABLOKOV.

Cet été, le hasard aidant, nous avons capturé le *Boletophagus armatus*, petit Tenebrionide inféodé aux vieilles futaies.

Plus d'une fois, nous avons déjà consulté l'ouvrage du Colonel GRUARD sur la faune entomologique de la forêt de Fontainebleau :

Catalogue des Insectes Coléoptères de la Forêt de Fontainebleau, page 14, n° 1699 : « — 10-11-12, Contre les vieux hêtres morts, surtout dans les parties mises récemment à nu, soit par sectionnement de l'arbre, soit par chute du Gros Fouteau, Le Tillais. R. R. Bonnaires, Bull., 1881, p. 19 », mais toutes nos recherches en forêt demeuraient vaines.

Cette année, 6 juin, journée chaude, lourde, 31° à l'ombre, la lune est en son premier quartier (nouvelle lune 5-6-38) — temps idéal pour le brossage des arbres morts sur pied sous les vieilles frondaisons de la Tillaie et du Gros Fouteau : sur les vieux chênes vermoulus pondent de nombreuses *Orthoplectes sanguinicollis* F., quelques *Opilo mollis* L., bêtes nocturnes, courent sur les troncs, un solitaire *Conopalpus testaceus* Ol., var. *flavicollis* Gyll. ; sur les hêtres décrépits des *Eucnemis capucina* Ahr., des *Ostoma oblongum* L., peut-être un *Ampedus fontisbellaquei* Iab. ; dans une clairière — sur un vieux hêtre mort en août 1933, partiellement écorcé, sec — une éclosion massive de *Tillolus elongatus* L. ♂ et ♀ — la vraie faune d'une très vieille futaie.

Vers 17 heures, dans la Tillaie, le brossage d'un hêtre mort sur pied, donne quelques petits insectes dont l'un d'un aspect un peu particulier — mais nous n'y attachons pas, sur l'instant, tout l'intérêt voulu. Ce n'est qu'à Paris que nous reconnaissons en cet insecte le *Boletophagus armatus* Panz.

Le 16 juillet suivant, toujours dans la Tillaie, par temps chaud (29° à l'ombre) à 17 h. le brossage d'un hêtre mort sur pied nous donne un autre exemplaire du *Boletophagus armatus* Panz. Mais, cette fois, l'arbre est plus vigoureusement repéré. C'est un hêtre très puissant, mort depuis au moins 6 ans

éclaté partiellement en mai 1936, laissant à nu une vaste plaque d'aubier dur (voir fig. 1) d'environ 5 mètres de haut, couverte de larges taches brunes du Polypore : *Xanthochrous obliquus* desséché ; par place, des plaques boursouflées d'un blanc laiteux, tantôt mat, tantôt brillant comme de la porcelaine, puis de légers voiles noirs, opaques, d'apparence rugueuse. Sur la partie non écorcée de nombreuses colonies du *Polyporus versicolor*, etc. Cet arbre nous avait déjà donné des *Stenagostus villosus* Geoffr. en juillet 1936, lors d'une chasse de nuit, des *Abdera affinis* Payk., peu après l'éclatement d'une partie du tronc. Et puis, c'est la faune habituelle des hêtres morts sur pied, *Boletophagus reticulatus* L., *Helops laevioctostriatus* Goere, *Hypophloeus unicolor* Pill., *Diaperis boleti* L., etc., etc.

Le 29 juillet, soit 15 jours plus tard, mon frère et moi nous revenions examiner cet arbre, mais le brossage du tronc ne donna, cette fois, aucun résultat. C'est alors que mon frère eut l'idée d'explorer minutieusement la plaque d'aubier éclaté, ainsi que les moindres fissures qui traversaient cette plaque. Un brossage intensif des moindres recoins amena sur la nappe un invraisemblable amalgame de détritiques de toutes sortes : toiles d'araignées, poussières, débris d'aubier, parties d'insectes morts, entre autres un élytre de l'*Allagenus punctatus* Scop., parcelles de divers cryptogames, et, parmi tout ce fatras, une quinzaine de *Boletophagus armatus* Panz., absolument immobiles.

Les chasses se succédèrent : 30 juillet, 10 ½ heures, 30° ; 6 août, 19 heures, 25°, temps lourd ; 7 août, 10 heures, 23°, temps superbe ; 23 août, 11 heures, 15° ; 17 heures, 16° ; 9 octobre, 10 heures, temps frais. Le total des captures s'élève à environ 60 exemplaires, tant dans la Tillaie, que le Gros Fouteau, ou les Hauteurs de la Solle.

Nous pensons, donc, pouvoir donner quelques précisions sur l'habitat de ce Tenebrionide.

Le champignon, le *Xanthochrous obliquus* (1), auquel le *Boletophagus armatus* Panz. semble définitivement inféodé, se développe dans les vieux hêtres morts sur pied, le plus souvent entre l'aubier et l'écorce ; au bout d'un certain temps il provoque l'éclatement d'une partie de l'aubier, et se retire dans les failles de l'aubier, ainsi mis à nu, et dont la partie externe reste revêtue de plaques brunes très caractéristiques, — dépouilles de *Xanthochrous obliquus* desséché après l'éclatement (fig. 2).

Le *Boletophagus armatus* Panz. vit dans ce champignon, où sa larve doit, d'ailleurs, se développer, hypothèse que confirme la présence dans le *Xanthochrous obliquus* d'exemplaires immatures. Il ne quitte que rarement les profondeurs des fissures, et cela uniquement par temps très lourd et orageux, ce qui expliquerait la rareté apparente de cet insecte ; toutefois, le *Boletophagus obliquus* Panz. semble devoir être diurne — nous ne l'avons jamais capturé après le coucher du soleil, mais par deux fois (voir plus haut) à

(1) Nous sommes heureux de remercier ici MM. BUCHET et MAUBLANC qui ont bien voulu déterminer ce champignon.