A NEW LATHRIDIID FROM TAHITI

(Coleoptera, Lathridiidae)

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INTRODUCTION

The family Lathridiidae is represented in Oceania, exclusive of New Zealand, by few species. None have been recorded from all of Micronesia, and all have heretofore been found only in Hawaii (three introduced, widespread species) and in the Marquesas in eastern Polynesia. It is noteworthy that no species have been discovered on such large island groups as Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, and the New Hebrides. The small size of the beetles, their ability to easily conceal themselves, and the habit of some species to fly at dusk and remain hidden away during the day have probably kept them out of the hands of collectors. There will undoubtedly be other species found on many of the islands of Oceania when more careful and thorough collecting is done.

The lathridiid fauna of New Zealand is a rich one. It is interesting to note that the some 60 species comprising this fauna make it more than three times as large as the lathridiid fauna of the entire Australian continent, and more than half as large as that of all America north of Mexico.

Genus **MUMFORDIA** Van Dyke

The following new species, found in the highlands of Tahiti, was the only species taken by the Mangarevan Expedition to southeastern Polynesia in 1934.

Mumfordia monticola, new species (fig. 1).

Derm dull black, covered with a greasy exudation; antennae, clypeus, and legs rufous. Head: hardly longer than wide, abruptly, laterally constricted before the eyes; clypeus separated from the front by an uneven sulcus, evenly rounded distally; a variable, poorly defined, tuberculiform granule on either side of the middle of the front, another on either side near inner margin of the eye; lateral margin behind the eyes with one or two variable spines; eyes prominent, the facets distinct, large, black and shining. Prothorax: wider

* Mangarevan Expedition Publication 1.

than long, minutely granulate, rather deeply constricted at posterior third, the constriction continuing prominently across the disk; margin with a large, heavy spine at middle and anterior angle, posterior angle with an obtusely rounded tubercle; disk with three stout spines either side the middle. Scutellum: not visible. Elytra: ovate, twice as long as wide, three times as long as prothorax, with four series of spines on each elytron, those on the sutural interval smallest and often rather indistinct, those in the outer three rows heavy and prominent; punctuation course, a single row of punctures marks the striae, spineless intervals very narrow and poorly defined. Beneath: dull and granular; ventrites 1-5 subequal in length, 6 short, 3-6 usually paler in color. Length: 1.6-1.8 mm; breadth 0.6-0.8 mm.

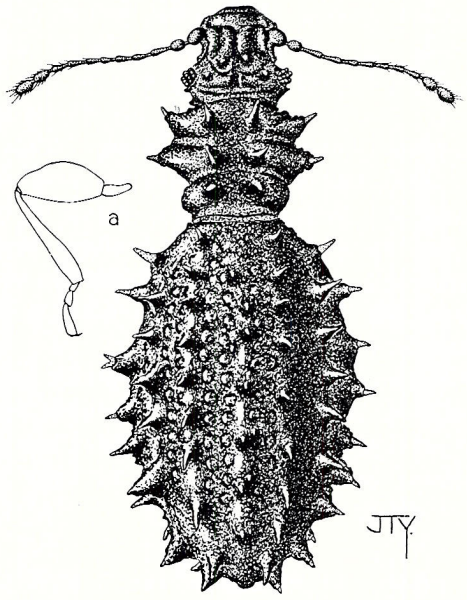

FIGURE 1.—*Mumfordia monticola,* new species, type; *a,* left fore leg of paratype.

Described from four specimens taken by me at altitudes between 5,500 and 6,300 feet on Mount Aorai Trail, Tahiti, Society Islands, September 15, 1934. The specimens were found beneath the incurled edges on the under sides of dead *Freycinetia* leaves hanging on the plants.

Type and two paratypes in Bernice P. Bishop Museum; the third paratype in my collection.

This species is most closely related to *Mumfordia spinata* Van

Dyke[1] from the Marquesas. *Mumfordia monticola* can easily be distinguished from *M. spinata* by the fact that its elytra are tumid, evenly arcuate in lateral outline, and bear four rows of spines, while the elytra of *M. spinata* are narrower, more parallel sided and bear five rows of spines. The spines of *M. monticola* are stouter and more pronounced than those of *M. spinata.*

There is some variation in the development of the spines. In one specimen, the sharp tips seem to have been broken off, leaving the spines blunt. There is a tendency for the prothoracic spines to become confluent for varied distances from their bases. When the specimens are illuminated by a strong lamp, the derm, especially of the elytra, appears reddish black. The constriction on the posterior third of the prothorax, and a variable sulcus that runs across the disk from between the two lateral spines, make the prothorax appear trilobed. There are two longitudinal carinae on the front of the type (a clean specimen) which are not clearly defined on the greasy-coated heads of the three paratypes. The antennal and leg structures are shown in figure 1.

CHECK LIST

The following check list of Lathridiidae includes species from Polynesia and eastern Melanesia. The first citation under each species name is that of the original description; the second is a locality record. If only one reference is given, it applies to both original description and geographical record.

For synonymy and detailed bibliography, see Schenkling, Coelopterorum Catalogus, pt. 85, 1926, Lathridiidae by Hetschko. For keys and classification, see Belon, Révue d'Entomologie, vol. 16, pp. 105-221, 1897; and Fall, American Ent. Soc., Trans., vol. 26, pp. 101-190, 1899.

Merophysiini

1. Coluocera maderae Wollaston.

Wollaston: Insecta Maderensia, p. 180, tab. 10, fig. 1, 1854.

Illingworth: Hawaiian Ent. Soc., Proc., vol. 7, p. 478, 1931.

Hawaii, Madeira, Burma, Brazil. Widely distributed.

[1] Van Dyke, E. C., Two New Lathridiidae from the Marquesas: B. P. Bishop Mus., Bull. 98, p. 237, fig. 52, *a*, 1932.

HOLOPARAMECINI

2. **Holoparamecus kunzei** (Aubé).
Aubé: Soc. Ent. France, Ann., ser. 2, vol. 1, p. 245, pl. 10, no. 1, fig. 4, 1843 (*Calyptobium*).
Heller: Nova Caled. zool., vol. 2, pt. 3, p. 246, 1916.
New Caledonia, Europe, Africa, China, America; widely distributed.

LATHRIDIINI

3. **Lathridius nodifer** Westwood.
Westwood: Intro. Mod. Class. Ins., vol. 1, p. 155, pl. 13, fig. 23, 1839.
Swezey: Hawaiian Ent. Soc., Proc., vol. 7, p. 185, 1928.
Hawaii (?). Cosmopolitan.

4. **Coninomus constrictus** (Gyllenhal).
Gyllenhal: Insecta Suecica, vol. 4, p. 138, 1827 (*Lathridius*).
Fullaway: Hawaiian Ent. Soc., Proc., vol. 5, p. 81, 1922.
Hawaii. Cosmopolitan.

5. **Enicnus minutus** (Linnaeus).
Linnaeus: Syst. Nat., 12th ed., p. 675, 1767 (*Tenebrio*).
Heller: Nova Caled. zool., vol. 2, pt. 3, p. 246, 1916.
New Caledonia: Paita. Cosmopolitan.

6. **Mumfordia monticola** Zimmerman, new species.
Society Islands: Tahiti.

7. **Mumfordia spinata** Van Dyke.
Van Dyke: B. P. Bishop Mus., Bull. 98, p. 237, fig. 52, *a*, 1932.
Marquesas: Hivaoa.

8. **Mumfordia tuberculata** Van Dyke.
Van Dyke: B. P. Bishop Mus., Bull. 98, p. 237, fig. 52, *b*, 1932.
Marquesas: Uahuka.

CORTICARIINI

9. **Corticaria longula** Broun.
Broun: New Zealand Inst., Bull. 1, p. 26, 1910.
Kermadec Islands: Sunday Island. New Zealand.

10. **Corticaria serrata** (Paykull).
Paykull: Fauna Suecica, vol. 1, p. 300, 1798 (*Dermestes*).
Heller: Nova Caled. zool., vol. 2, pt. 3, p. 246, 1916.
New Caledonia: Paita. Cosmopolitan.

11. **Melanopthalma antipodum** (Belon).
Belon: Révue d'Ent., vol. 4, p. 252, 1885 (*Corticarina*).
New Caledonia: Tongue.

12. **Melanopthalma fauveli** (Belon).
Belon: Révue d'Ent., vol. 4, p. 253, 1885 (*Bicava*).
New Caledonia: Mount Cogi.

13. **Melanopthalma setiger** (Belon).
Belon: Révue d'Ent., vol. 4, p. 251, 1885 (*Corticarina*).
New Caledonia: Mount Cogi.