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MARQUESAS ISLAND VITICIS

(Coleoptera: Curculionidae, Brachyderinae)[1,2,3]

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Abstract: A distinctive genus easily recognized among the Ottistirini because it has lost tarsal claw segments; eight species of the genus *Viticis* are listed. *Viticis marquesanus* n. sp., from *Ficus prolixa?*, collected on Nukuhiva, 390 m, 22. X. 1929, by Mumford & Adamson is here described. It is the only species of *Viticis* known to me that lacks squamae.

No member of the weevil genus *Viticis* (Ottistirini) has been described heretofore from the Marquesas Islands. In 1943 (p. 169), I said that I had studied a new Marquesan species and would describe it in a "forthcoming" paper, but the pressure of other duties prevented my keeping that promise. Now, after a 20 year interval, I am happy to fulfill my obligation and to place in the published record details concerning the easternmost and most distinctive species of this interesting genus of small weevils.

Viticis was described by Lea in 1930 (p. 463) for the type species, *bidentatus* Lea from Fiji. In 1939 (p. 306), I redescribed the genus, illustrated the type species and gave a key to the genera of Fijian Ottistirini. In 1943 (p. 159), I published a revised key to the genera and gave additional notes on the type species.

Viticis is a distinctive genus easily recognized among the Ottistirini because it has lost its tarsal claw segments. The tarsi are thus only 3-segmented, and the 3rd segment is broad, entire and subtruncate at the apex. The antennal funiculus is only 6-segmented, the post-epistomal area of the rostrum is not delimited behind by a deep transverse sulcus, and the femora are dentate.

A list of the species of *Viticis* known to me follows:

1. **Viticis bidentatus** Lea, 1930: 307.—Zimmerman, 1939: 307, fig. 1, g; redescription; 1943: 170, additional distribution records.

   Fiji: Viti Levu.

2. **Viticis guamae** Zimmerman, 1942: 80, pl. 1, B.

   Mariana Islands: Guam, Saipan (new record).

3. **Viticis maculosus** Zimmerman, 1940: 477.

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2. Rhynchophora of Southeastern Polynesia, part 11.

3. A Pacific Entomological Survey Publication.

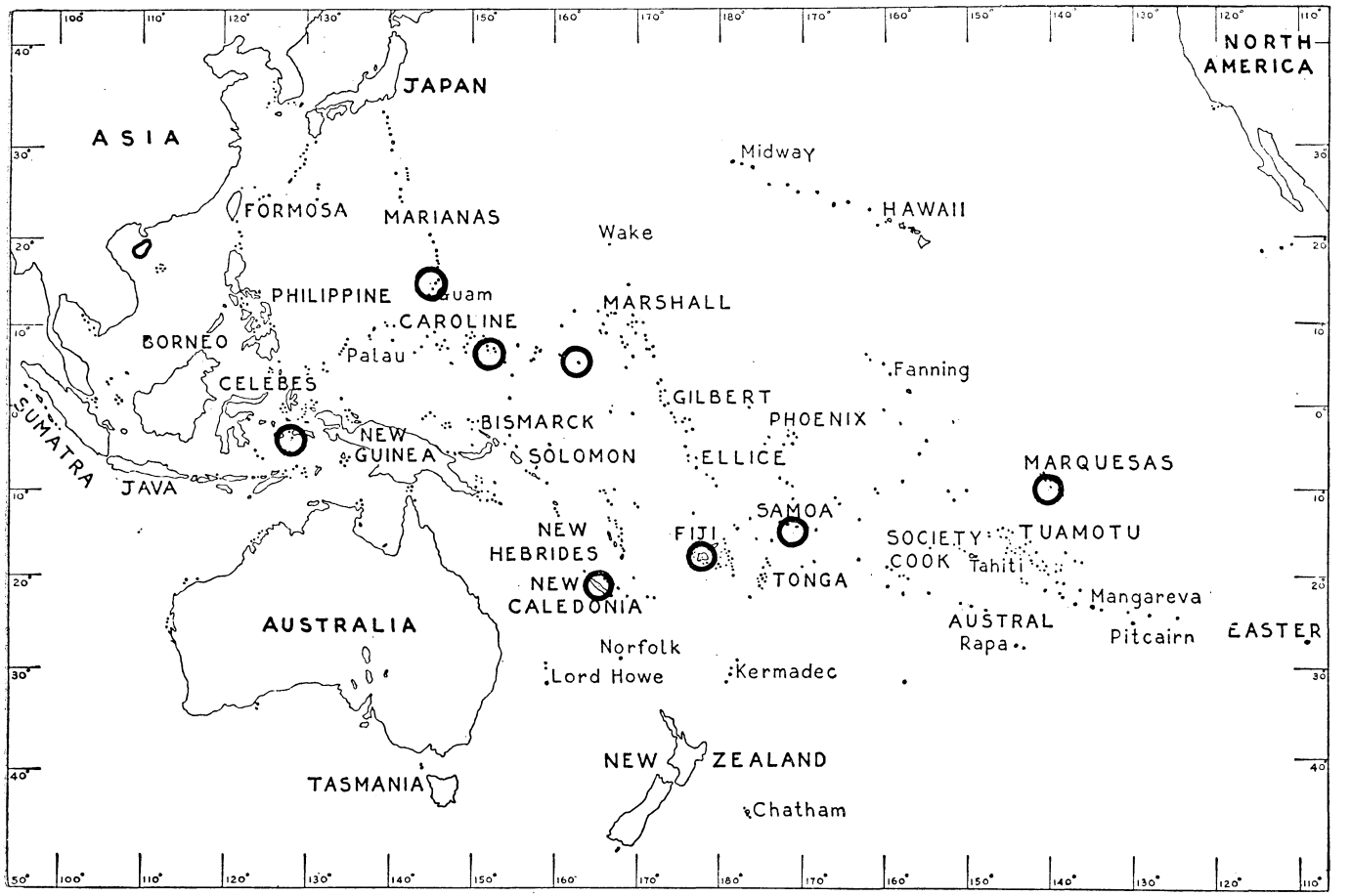


Fig. 1. Map showing the areas where species of *Viticis* have been found.

Amboina (S of Ceram, W of New Guinea).

4. **Viticis marquesanus** Zimmerman, n. sp.
Marquesas Islands: Nukuhiva.

5. **Viticis**, n. sp. to be described.
Caroline Islands: Truk.

6. **Viticis**, n. sp. to be described.
Caroline Islands: Kusaie.

7. **Viticis**, n. sp. to be described.
New Caledonia.

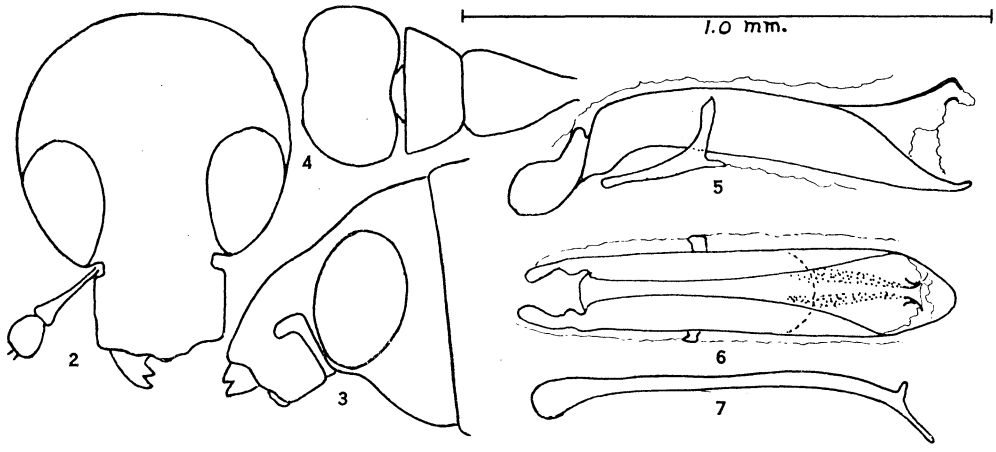
8. **Viticis**, n. sp., in Zimmerman manuscript.
Samoa: Tutuila, Upolu.

The species of *Viticis* appear not to be common. They have fully developed wings, and they fly. It is possible that they are nocturnal and may be most abundant on vegetation after dark. *Viticis bidentatus* was described from 2 specimens, and I found only 8 specimens during 3 months of intensive field work in Fiji in 1938. Only 7 specimens of the new Samoan species were found during 3 months by Dr. Swezey and me in 1940, and being especially interested in the genus, I made every effort to obtain specimens. Only a few specimens of the other species listed here are known. During the many months of the Mangarevan Expedition to SE Polynesia in 1934, I failed to find the genus on any of over 50 islands explored. However, now that we know that the genus has made its way entirely across the mid-Pacific to the distant Marquesas, I expect that additional species may occur in SE Polynesia, at least in the Society Islands. No doubt numerous species remain to be discovered in the islands west of Fiji.

Viticis marquesanus Zimmerman, n. sp. Figs. 2–7.

Devoid of squamae; derm of rostrum, elytra and body black; legs pitchy-brown; antennae mostly somewhat more yellow than legs; appendages contrasting strongly in color with the black body; elytra quite shiny, more shiny than remainder of body and with a very slight greenish aeneous tinge in some specimens; derm of remainder of body mostly rather coarsely alutaceous and surface mostly dull.

Head densely, rather coarsely punctured, the punctures bearing fine, decurved, pale setae; interocular area flattened, its longitudinal contour shallowly concave from anterior edge of crown onto base of rostrum; eyes large, the ventral edge on a level very near ventral end of scrobe; dorsoventral, diagonal chord of an eye about 2× as long as distance between pronotum and eye and somewhat greater than interocular distance. *Rostrum* sculptured as head and with similar setae; hardly expanded on sides from scrobes to apex; length of side distad of scrobe (frontal view) only little more than 1/2 as long as apical breadth; epistome sinuously slightly arcuate. *Antennae* with scape (measured on specimen) hardly as long as funicular segments 1–5; funicular segment 1 ovoid, very much larger than others, fully as broad as club of scape, about as broad as long, as long as funicular



Figs. 2–7. Outline sketches of parts of *Viticis marquesanus* Zimmerman. 2, frontal view; 3, lateral view of head of ♀ paratype (2 & 3 drawn to same scale); 4, left fore tarsus of ♂ holotype (drawn to a larger scale than 2 & 3); 5 & 6, lateral and dorsal views of ♂ genitalia; 7, spiculum gastrale of ♂ (5–7 drawn to same scale from a paratype, and the mm scale line applies only to these figures. The aedeagus is subequal to the length of the entire abdomen).

segment 2 plus about 1/2 of 3; funicular segment 2 pear-shaped, appearing more slender and somewhat longer than segment 3; segments 3–6 moniliform; club nearly 2× as long as broad, as long as funicular segments 2–6 inclusive. *Pronotum* somewhat broader than long (about 28 : 22), broadest at about middle, apex subtruncate, base strongly bisinuate, sides moderately strongly convex and distinctly broader across middle than at base; longitudinal dorsal contour gently convex but with a shallow, subapical, transverse depression; closely, rather coarsely punctate, the punctures bearing small, pale, decurved setae; scutellum with microscopic microsculpture and vestiture, appearing nude. *Elytra* about 2/3 as broad as long, broadest at about caudal 1/3, about 3× as long as pronotum, longitudinal dorsal contour gently convex in about basal 2/3 but with a shallow transverse depression within basal 1/3; basal margin elevated and somewhat collar-like on either side of scutellum to fit into the concavities of the sinuous base of pronotum; intervals on disc appearing rather wide, nearly flat to gently convex, 1st interval narrower than 2; striae only moderately impressed, not appearing coarse, their punctures moderate and mostly narrower than intervals, their setae decurved, small, fine, pale, inconspicuous; striae 6–9 kept distant from base by humeral callus; stria 1 not, or vaguely joining 10 at apex, 2 joining 9, 3 evidently joining 8, 4 joining 5, 6 & 7 free or joining at apex, thus striae 4–7 apically enclosed by 3 & 8. *Sternum* and *venter* sparsely setose, punctures mostly sparse, shallow and not coarse, the setae small and pale; intercoxal process of prosternum with a depression in front of intercoxal suture; sutures between ventrites 5 & 4 coarse, deep, precipitous, thus making these ventrites subcostiform; ventrite 5 broadly and straightly truncate at apex in ♂, apex margined and median length about equal to length from its base to apex of ventrite 2, its surface gently convex, and apex of pygidium visible at its apex; in both ♀♀ seen, posterior part of abdomen withdrawn upward under elytra and pygidium hidden, ventrite 5 with a strongly convex caudal margin, sub-semicircular in shape, its median length as long as ventrite 3 plus 4 plus about 1/4 of 2. *Legs* with rather sparse

setae; femora moderate; fore femur with a small acute tooth at about basal 1/3 and 1 on either side of median line at about middle; mid femur with similar teeth; hind femur with proximal tooth distinct, but with only a single, very small submedian tooth; tibiae subtriangular in cross-section; front and mid tibiae rather strongly arcuate, hind tibia feebly arcuate; uncus well developed on all tibiae and all tibiae not denticulate along inner edges; fore tarsal segment 3 strongly transverse, not quite 2× as broad as long, broader than length of segment 1+2, segment 2 about 2× as broad as long. Length (excluding head and rostrum) 2.2–2.3 mm; breadth 0.9–1.1.

DISTRIBUTION: Nukuhiva, Marquesas Islands.

Holotype ♂ (BISHOP 3204), allotype ♀ (BISHOP) and 1♂ paratype, collected at Maauu, 390 m, *Ficus prolixa?*, 22. X. 1929, Mumford & Adamson; 1♀ paratype, Toovii, 750 m, Teuanui, beaten from *Metrosideros collina*, 25. X. 1929, Mumford & Adamson. These specimens are from the Pacific Entomological Survey collections.

This is the only species of *Viticis* known to me that lacks squamae, and it is easily distinguished. It does not have the cephalic costae of *maculosus* or the cephalic asperate callosities of *bidentatus*, and, of course, *guamae* is squamose. Its paler appendages contrast strongly with its black body, and it is thus a bicolored species.

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