

COLEOPTERA: DYTISCIDAE AND LATHRIDIIDAE  
OF SOUTH GEORGIA<sup>1</sup>By J. Linsley Gressitt<sup>2</sup>

The single species of dytiscid water beetle was described from South Georgia long ago, but the two species of lathridiids have apparently not been previously recorded.

Family DYTISCIDAE

Genus **Lancetes** Sharp*Lancetes* Sh., 1882, *Trans. R. Dubl. Soc.* ser 2, **2**: 602.**Lancetes clausii** (Müller) Fig. 1, 2.*Lancetes* Sh., 1882, *Trans. R. Dubl. Soc.* ser 2, **2**: 602.*Anisomera clausii* Müll., 1884, *Deut. Ent. Zs.* **28**: 417 (Glacial pond, Moltke Hrbr., Royal Bay, South Georgia).*Lancetes clausii*: Zimmermann, 1920, *Coleopt. Cat.* **4**(71): 195 (as syn. of *angusticollis*).—Schweiger, 1958, *Arkiv. Zool.* ser 2, **12**(1): 33.

**Adult:** Dull testaceous to black: Head largely black with anterior portion partly dull testaceous brown; antenna testaceous, slightly duller beyond basal portion; pronotum pale testaceous with a broad transverse pitchy area across central portion, projecting slightly forward at side; scutellum pitchy black; elytron pale testaceous with a somewhat reticulate pattern, of pitchy black, mostly consisting of longitudinal lines partly connected by irregular transverse lines or dots, all of these on discal area and not closely approaching external margin or apex but 1 median stripe nearly touching base and extreme apical margin slightly darkened; ventral surfaces essentially black or pitchy black, except for testaceous mouthparts, borders of prothorax, and elytra; legs reddish testaceous. Dorsum glabrous; venter nearly glabrous but with a few minute hairs, mostly in single transverse rows on median abdominal sternites; a few oblique or posteriorly directed brownish hairs on legs.

**Head** somewhat rounded, fairly smooth and micropunctulate above, with a slight depression internal to antennal support. **Prothorax** only slightly wider than head, considerably narrower than elytra, subparallel at sides, curved inward and forward at anterior angle; fairly even on disc with a few minute punctures across anterior portion parallel to anterior margin, a few subtransverse depressions and raised areas in central portion and near base on each side. **Scutellum** short, rounded behind. **Elytron** not quite 4 × as long as broad, with its mate somewhat elliptical, evenly widened from humerus to middle and evenly narrowed and rounded from middle to apex at suture; disc even, smooth with 3 irregular rows or double rows of very fine punctures. **Ventral surfaces** very smooth, with only a few weak creases or minute punctures on middle portions of middle abdominal sternites. Legs distinctly flattened, partly quite smooth, with punctures on under sides, particularly of middle leg; hind tarsal segment 1 slightly longer than 2 + 3; 2-4 decreasing evenly in length; 5 as long as 2 but more slender; tibiae each with 2 strong spines at apex. Length 0.5 mm; breadth 4.5.

**Larva:** Yellowish to reddish or brownish testaceous, slightly paler near eyes and at sides of pronotum; mandibles reddish brown; palpi pale, eyes black; fleshy portions of tergites somewhat dull; ventral surfaces paler; legs somewhat yellowish testaceous.

**Head** somewhat oblong, slightly longer than broad, rounded at corners, fairly smooth, with sutures fine;

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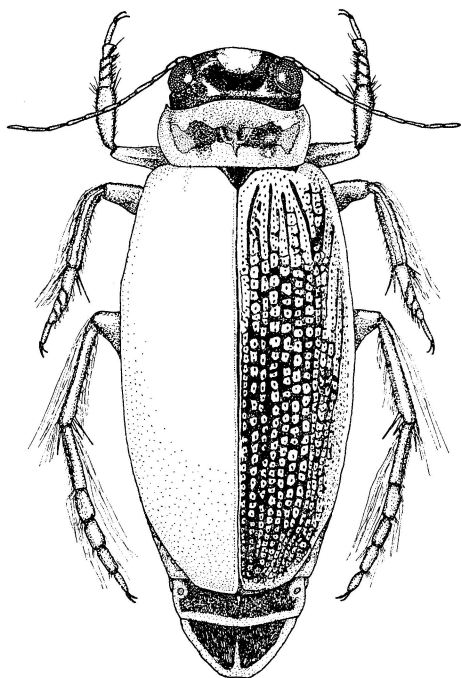


Fig. 1. *Lancetes clausi* (Müller); pattern shown on right elytron.

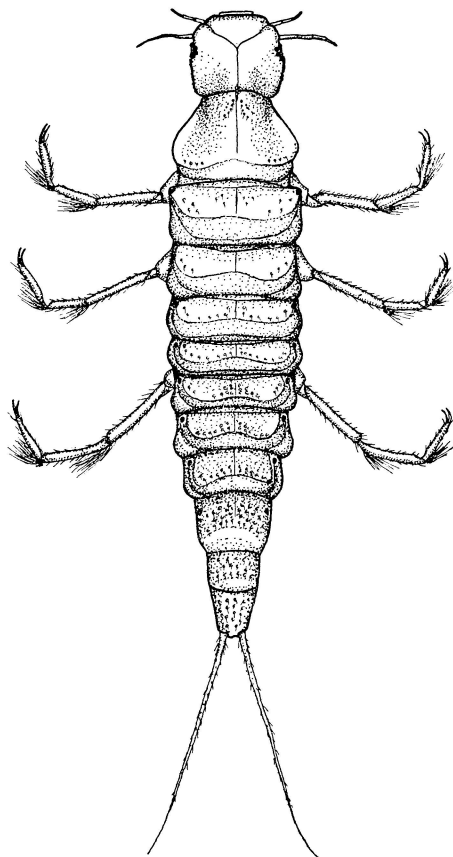


Fig. 2. *Lancetes clausi*, larva, dorsal view.

6 subequal eyes on each side. *Prothorax* nearly  $\frac{2}{3}$  as long as broad, finely grooved medially, fairly smooth, somewhat depressed parallel to lateral margin; mesonotum much shorter, nearly as broad, similar in texture; metanotum similar to mesonotum. Abdominal tergites similar to metanotum but shorter and slightly narrower; spiracles convex and blackish; cerci gradually tapering, about as long as last 4 abdominal segments combined. *Legs* long and slender; tarsi terminating in unequal pairs of claws. Length (without cerci) 13.5 mm; cerci 3.5; breadth 3.

Forty specimens, including a few larvae, were taken at Penguin River, sea level to 150 m, hand net trawl, Grytviken Peninsula, 28.XI.1963, H. B. Clagg.

This species was synonymized with *angusticollis* Curtis by A. Zimmermann in the *Coleopterorum Catalogus*. However, Schweiger (1958) and P. J. Spangler (pers. comm.) consider it distinct.

#### Family LATHRIDIIDAE

I am indebted to J. Balfour-Browne (British Museum, Nat. Hist.) for verifying my identification of the following species.

Genus **Aridius** Motschulsky

*Aridius* Motsch., 1866, *Bull. Soc. Nat. Mosc.* **39**(3): 260.

This genus, or part of it, has been synonymized with *Coninomus*.

**Aridius malouinensis** (Champion), n. comb. Fig. 3.

*Lathridius malouinensis* Champ., 1918, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* ser 9, **1**: 174 (Port Stanley, Falkland Is.; BMNH).

Orange testaceous to pitchy black, slightly shiny: Head orange testaceous above and on mouth parts, reddish brown beneath and on neck; antenna orange testaceous on segment 1, paler testaceous on 2-8, pitchy brown on 9-11; prothorax ochraceous brown, paler anteriorly and darker reddish brown beneath; scutellum pitchy; elytron orange testaceous, with most of suture and a basal discal arcuate band starting just internal to humerus and ending near suture in basal 1/5, and a much larger somewhat oblique area consisting of 2 spots, one anterior and subexternal centered just anterior to middle and the other closer to suture and situated obliquely behind former, all of pitchy black; portions of disc immediately behind latter blackish marks, of deeper ochraceous; apical portion (beyond margins of abdomen), including apical portion of suture, paler and subtranslucent; ventral surfaces reddish brown, darker on mesosternum and paler on last abdominal sternite; legs orange testaceous, slightly darker on tibiae and in part nearly pitchy on hind tarsus. Body with minute very sparse suberect hairs, those on elytron mostly in 3 longitudinal rows on major carinae; ventral surfaces subglabrous; legs with sparse suboblique hairs.

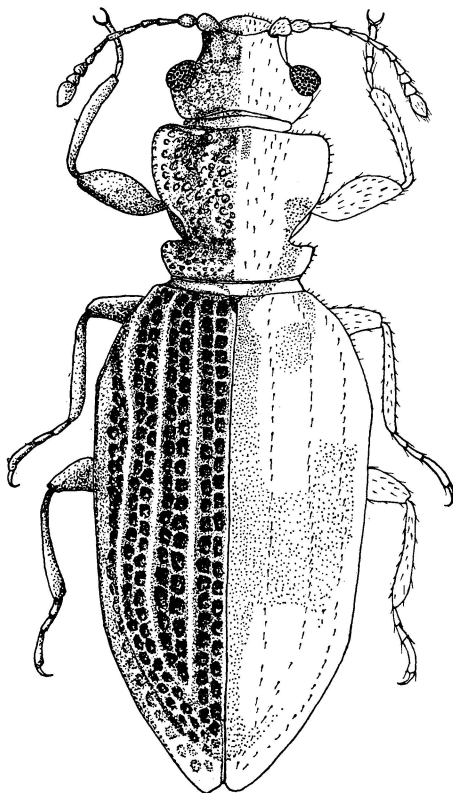


Fig. 3. *Aridius malouinensis* (Champion), dorsal view; structure at left; pattern and setae at right.

*Head* narrowed before and behind eyes, rugose above with some distinct punctures at an irregular raised longitudinal area on each side of central portion between eyes; frons short, depressed and feebly punctured; clypeus transverse, strongly convex; labrum similar to clypeus; gena larger than eye, partly depressed. *Antenna* reaching to about middle of prothorax; segment 1 as broad as long, truncate apically; 2 slightly longer than broad, ovate; 3 slightly shorter and much more slender than 2; 3-8 similar, becoming slightly shorter and thicker at apices; 9 strongly thickened apically; 10 similar but shorter; 11 slightly larger than 9 and 10 combined, subacute apically and somewhat hairy. *Prothorax* slightly broader than long, subtransversely expanded immediately behind short apical collar, expanded portion rounded and gradually narrowed to behind middle at very deep constriction then suddenly and subtransversely widened, subrounded externally and slightly narrowed before base; subbasal broad portion not quite as wide as anterior expansion; disc irregular, with a sublongitudinal irregular ridge on each side of median portion anteriorly and with a few vague punctures and weak nodes; subbasal expansion somewhat smoother, slightly raised and weakly granulose parallel to basal margin. *Scutellum* minute, somewhat raised in middle. *Elytron* 2/7 as broad as long, distinctly widened in basal 1/5 from humerus, with subexplanate margin also widened in that portion and then gradually narrowed and disappearing at apex; disc with 8 rows of longitudinal punctures of fairly uniform size to beginning of posterior declivity, separated by longitudinal raised lines, 3 alternate ones starting with second wider and more strongly raised, forming 3 distinct carinae, the second somewhat depressed just behind base. *Ventral surfaces* rather smooth, somewhat shiny, with a depressed area on side of each abdominal sternite somewhat roughened. *Legs* short; femora somewhat swollen; hind tibia nearly straight, gradually thickened; hind tarsal segment 1 hardly longer or thicker than 2; 3 slightly longer than 1 + 2. Length 2.1 mm; breadth .76.

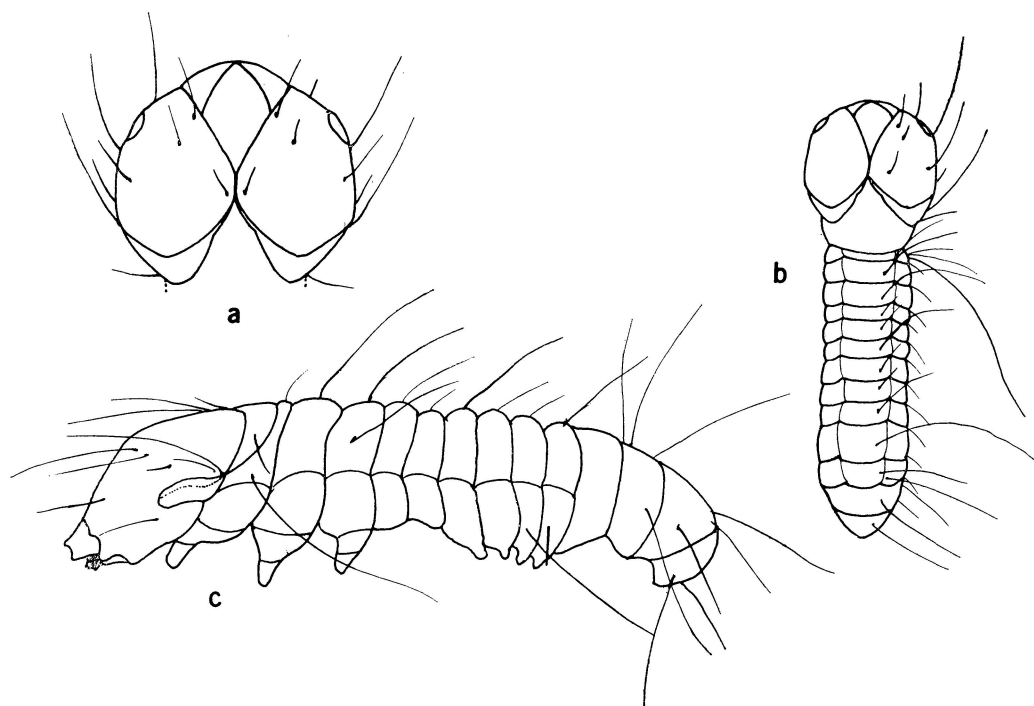


Fig. 4. Unidentifiable newly emerged pyralid(?) larvae, probably accidentally imported into South Georgia and not established. a, head capsule; b, dorsal view of larva; c, side view, greater enlargement.



Additional specimens varying in color from slightly paler to considerably darker, but with generally similar pattern. Length 1.6–2.1 mm; breadth .6–.75.

SOUTH GEORGIA: 64, King Edward Point, Grytviken Peninsula, hand net sweeps through tussock grass, sea level to 150 m, 21.XI.1963, SG-54, H. B. Clagg; 1, Black Point, Right Whale Bay, sample from moss, SG-1C, N. V. Jones 1961.

This series agrees with typical material from the Falkland Islands. In many of the specimens, there is a thick white wax secretion forming a symmetrical border and covering most of side of prothorax and over entire under side of prothorax.

**Aridius** sp.

A single specimen of another species was taken near sea level at Husvik, Stromness Peninsula, I.1964, by H. B. Clagg. This species is darker, without the deep constriction in side of prothorax, and has elytral puncture-rows less distinctly paired and more equally spaced. It seems quite likely that this may represent an introduced species, or a single accidental introduction.

ADDENDUM: LEPIDOPTERA FROM SOUTH GEORGIA

A few imperfect young larvae of Lepidoptera were collected near Grytviken in 1961 by Neville Jones. These cannot be identified for certain, and the accompanying drawings (fig. 4) may not be entirely correct because of the minute size and condition of the specimens. They were kindly examined by Dr Lauren Anderson of University of California, Riverside and George T. Okumura of California Dept. Agriculture, Sacramento, and the opinion expressed was that they might belong to the *Pyalidae*. I assume that these newly hatched larvae may have resulted from the introduction in packing of an egg mass which was blown into moss near the station.