

PLATYPUS WILSONI—A NEW SPECIES OF *PLATYPUS*
FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA (*PLATYPODIDÆ*,
COLEOPTERA) *

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The species of *Platypus* described herewith is very abundant and injurious on the southern half of the British Columbia coast. Although mentioned in literature and not unknown to collectors, it apparently has never been described. Its habits are those of a true ambrosia-beetle; the adults excavate a cylindrical tunnel from about six to fourteen inches in length through the bark and directly into the wood of large and small trunks, in small trunks usually curving around the heart. A characteristic fungus always found coating the walls, which are stained black thereby, serves as food for the larvæ, and to a lesser degree for the adults. Eggs, larvæ and adults are found free in the tunnels. The boring dust, ejected in abundance from the tunnel entrance and lodged in heaps in the bark crevices, is in the form of minute white splinters (Pl. VII, Fig. 1). It is readily distinguished from the meal-like boring-dust of *Gnathotrichus* frequently found in the same trunks.

It attacks all conifers of the British Columbia Coast, with the exception of *Thuja* and *Chamæcyparis*, but is most abundant in *Pseudotsuga*, *Tsuga*, and *Abies grandis*. The species is abundant on the coast as far north as Seymour Narrows and inland in the south to Agassiz.

Dying or badly weakened trees and freshly cut logs are usually selected for attack, but standing trees with considerable green foliage are not infrequently affected. A tree showing the piles of boring-dust of this species and of *Gnathotrichus* is invariably beyond hope of recovery. These piles of boring-dust are frequently seen on the blackened bases of trees injured by ground fire; in such cases the beetles enter through the fresh tissue exposed by cracks in the drying outer bark. The details of the life-history will be given elsewhere. The specific name is given in honour of our colleague, Mr. Tom Wilson, of Vancouver, B. C., who first collected the species in British Columbia.

*Contribution from the Entomological Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

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Platypus wilsoni n. sp. The female type: Length, 5.5 mm.; width, 1.3 mm., shining, with the pubescence inconspicuous above, except on the front and about the declivity.

The head has the whole front broadly and deeply excavated, densely granulate-punctate and clothed with long yellow hairs; the vertex coarsely punctured, the punctures shallow and elongate, and with a narrow, shining, median carina; the epistomal margin nearly straight, very broadly concave, with a small, inferior median lobe clothed above with orange setæ. The antennal scape is stout, longer than the funicle, the pedicel subglobular, as long as the remaining three segments, the club densely pubescent and with sparsely scattered stouter bristles.

The pronotum is one-fifth longer than wide; the cephalic margin broadly evenly arcuate and finely margined; the sides subparallel, with a broad and deep emargination just behind the middle; the hind angles rounded; the caudal margin transversely bisinuate with the median prolongation rather small and acute; the disc irregularly depressed about the median line, with a median sub-oval area on the caudal half very finely and densely punctate, this densely punctured area divided on the middle line by a fine, black, slightly impressed line, and with the strongly convex caudal margin extending nearly to the caudal margin of the pronotum; the remainder of the pronotum finely punctured, more sparsely in front, more closely on the sides and behind, with coarser setose punctures close to the cephalic margin; the pubescence elsewhere minute and inconspicuous.

The scutellum is strongly depressed, very elongate and very sharply acuminate.

The elytra are elongate, slightly more than twice as long as wide, about as wide as the pronotum; with the sides parallel, slightly inflated behind the middle, gradually arcuately narrowed on the caudal fifth to the subtruncate apex; the disc gradually depressed behind on the apical fourth to the very short, nearly perpendicular declivity; the striæ distinctly impressed, but disappearing near the apical declivity; the stria punctures close, rather faintly impressed, individually narrow and elongate; the interspaces convex, smooth, similar, almost unipunctate on the basal two-thirds, on the apical third with nearly uniseriate, granu-

late and setose punctures with small punctures intermixed, the granules coarser and acute on the sides; the third interspace strongly widened at the base, swollen and densely, finely granulate; the short abrupt declivity with a rounded prominence on each side above, finely, closely granulate and setose-punctate, without striations, moderately concave apically, with the caudal margin subtruncate, bisinuate, and the lateral angles rather strongly dentate.

The metasternum is smooth and shining, finely punctured, the pubescence slender, the median line deeply striate on the caudal two-thirds; the abdominal sternites are closely, finely, granulate-punctate and clothed with slender hairs, the last more densely granulate; the last three sternites with the cephalic and caudal margins somewhat elevated, the last sternite rather distinctly concave therefrom.

The *male* has the epistomal margin more deeply though very broadly emarginate dorsally with the inferior lobe more prominent; the front similar though less deeply concave and with somewhat shorter hairs; the pronotum similar, lacking the densely punctured median area, but with a median black line in the same position and very distinct; the elytra with the sides parallel for three-fourths the length then strongly arcuately narrowed to the individually strongly produced apices, the lateral margin concave at the base of the prolongation; the apical prolongations each slightly longer than wide, emarginate at the apex, with the outer angle much longer than the inner, blunt and obtusely carinate above from a continuation of the united 2nd and 3rd interspaces, the carina ending in a third blunt point on the dorsal apical margin of the prolongation; with a smaller tooth between the dorsal and outer teeth and three serrations between the dorsal and inner teeth; the suture, viewed from the side, straight on the basal two-thirds, and gradually depressed on the caudal third to the apices, without an abrupt declivity; the stria punctures notably coarser than in the female; the interspaces somewhat more convex; the second less strongly widened at the base and more finely granulate; the interspaces minutely, uniseriately punctured on the disc, but not striate; the punctures coarser, more numerous and finely granulate at the base of the 1st and 3rd; on the depressed caudal third all the inter-

spaces more strongly but similarly convex, except the 8th, carinate and closely, uniseriately, coarsely granulate, with stout reddish, uniseriate hairs; the 2nd and 3rd united at the base of the apical prolongation to form its dorsal carina, the 8th more strongly carinate on the apical third, the 9th granulate throughout its length, sparsely and more feebly on the middle third, rather coarsely and irregularly at the base.

The metasternum has the middle line sulcate on the caudal half; the abdominal sternites are closely, moderately granulate-punctate, more coarsely than the metasternum and more coarsely than in the female, and with distinctly longer hairs.

The type, a female, is from *Tsuga heterophylla*, taken at Campbell River, B. C. It is in the collection of the Entomological Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

PLATE VI.

A. *Platypus wilsoni*, ♀. Greatly enlarged. Slightly modified from Entomological Bulletin No. 7, Dept. of Agriculture, Canada.

B. *Platypus wilsoni*, ♂. Apices of the elytra. Greatly enlarged.—(Original).

PLATE VII.

1, Boring dust of *Platypus wilsoni*; 2, Maxilla; 3, Labium; 4, Maxillary Palp, greatly enlarged; 5, Antenna. All enlarged. (Original).

DESCRIPTION OF ELEVEN NEW SPECIES OF CHALCID FLIES.

BY A. A. GIRAULT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

***Neomphaloidella ceroplastæ*, n. sp.**

Female—Length 1.00 mm.

Differs from *Tetrastichus periplanetæ* Crawford in being darker, the scape is partly metallic, there is no lateral carina on the propodeum, the latter is not distinctly scaly, there are punctures along the lateral margin of the scutum.

Greenish black, the wings hyaline, the venation pale yellow, the knees, tibiæ and tarsi (except the last joint) distal half of scape and the pedicel, except the proximal half above, golden yellow. Funicle joints subequal, each nearly twice longer than wide, slightly longer than the pedicel; club 1 as long as funicle



1916. "Platypus wilsoni a new species of Platypus from British Columbia." *The Canadian entomologist* 48, 97–100. <https://doi.org/10.4039/Ent4897-3>.

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