

Description of new species of Articerus,

By REV. R. L. KING, B.A.

[Read 1st October, 1868.]

THE genus *Articerus* was first established by Dalman* upon a species, named by him *A. armatus*, which had been discovered in gum-copal. He was not able, however, to give any very detailed description; nor was any thing more known of the genus until the Rev. Mr. Hope† described and figured a species sent to England from South Australia under the name *A. Fortnumi*. The next additions made to the genus were those contained in Westwood's Monograph of Australian and other *Pselaphidæ* in the Transactions of the Entomological Society of London (Vol. III., N.S., p. 271). He added *A. curvicornis*, *angusticollis*, *dilaticornis*, and *setipes*, all from Victoria, and *A. braziliensis* from South America. Pascoe has since described a species from Western Australia, under the name *A. Bostockii*, and has distinguished the species found so abundantly in South Australia, near Gawler, by my friend Mrs. J. Kreuzler, under the name *A. Odewahnii*. It is evident, however, that both these last species are remarkably close to, if not identical with the original species described by Hope, as *A. Fortnumi*. *A. Duboulayi* has been added by Waterhouse from Western Australia—a species from Syria, (*A. Syriacus*) has also been described; and another from North America, (*A. Fuchsii*) has been added, *vide* Proceedings of Soc. Phil., 1866.

The species *Braziliensis* and *Fuchsii* appear to have been removed from the genus *Articerus*, by Brendel, and placed under the new genus *Fustiger*; (*fustis gero*). Not having had an opportunity of consulting the diagnosis of the genus, I can only imagine that the peculiar elongate antennæ of the former species have been regarded as of sufficient importance to justify the erection of a

* Dalman, Om., Ins. innes i Copal, p. 23.

† Ann. Nat. Hist. XI., p. 319; and Trans. Ent. Soc., London, IV., p. 106, pl. viii.

new genus. In this particular, however, the species placed under the new name are certainly united with *A. Fortnumi*, *Bostockii*, and *Odewahnii*, and in a less decided way with *A. Curvicornis*. I prefer, therefore, for the present, to place the first of the species which I am about to describe under the old genus; although from its singular resemblance to *A. Braziliensis*, it may eventually find itself under the new genus *Fustiger*.

These insects are rare in New South Wales. But their small size, and particularly the ferocity of the ants, under whose protection they live, may in some measure account for the infrequency of their capture. I have been able, however, to add four species to our Colonial Fauna. *A. angusticollis* occurs in ants' nests, at Paramatta, and in the Liverpool Plains. *A. setipes* was captured by my son, Mr. R. King, at Goono Goono, in the Liverpool Plains district—hardly differing from specimens in my cabinet from Gawler, South Australia. *A. curvicornis* is frequently captured at Liverpool, in the nest of the small black ant—and differs only in its somewhat smaller size from the description given by Westwood, (Loc. cit.) of Melbourne specimens. The fourth species, *A. regius* (*mihi*) is as far as is yet known peculiar to Liverpool. Mr. Masters has also captured a species in debris, after a flood, at Rope's Creek, near Penrith, which I have described as *A. breviceps*.

ARTICERUS REGIUS.

Obscure castaneus, elytrorum disco pallidiori, punctatissimus, minute pubescens; capite oblongo, antennis capite longioribus linearibus cylindricis ad basin constrictis; thorace subgloboso, lateribus rotundatis; elytris sutura nigricante et linea suturali notatis; abdomine nitido parcissime setoso; pedibus robustis, tibiis maris prioribus et intermediis ad medium dentatis.

Long. mas. .14 poll.

fem. .10 „

Ants' nests in wood; Liverpool, New South Wales, from June to September.

A specimen of the male has been deposited in the Australian Museum, and another in the collection of W. MacLeay, Esq.

The correspondence between this species and *A. Braziliensis*, as described and figured by Westwood, (Loc. cit.) is certainly very close. Yet the specific differences are quite sufficient to leave no doubt on my mind that our insect is quite distinct from the American. *A. regius* has neither the foveoles on the thorax nor the discoidal striæ on the elytra, which mark the *Braziliensis*. Westwood also describes the legs of the latter as *graciles*, a term which might apply to those of the female of *regius*, but by no means to those of the male. In our species, the fore tibiæ of the male are deeply notched and toothed. The intermediate legs have the tibiæ toothed at the middle, and the femur is armed with a strong spine. The female, which is much smaller, has all the legs unarmed.

The head is slightly enlarged between the antennæ. The antennæ are nearly straight, cylindrical, and very slightly enlarged towards either extremity. They are somewhat longer than the head.

Westwood says of *A. Braziliensis* that it is very distinct from all the Australasian species in its sub-cylindrical antennæ, and in the form and sculpture of the head and thorax. This discovery of our present species greatly qualifies this assertion, and adds another to an already considerable list of forms existing in the fauna of Australia closely allied to those of South America.

ARTICERUS BREVICEPS.

Brunneus setosus; capite brevi postice rotundato, antennis capite longioribus ad apicem clavatis truncatis; thorace ad medium valde depresso, ante medium latiori, postice subrotundato; elytris stria suturali notatis.

Long. .10.

Rope's Creek; under debris after a flood. *Mr. Masters.*

The head is very short, increasing in breadth to the eyes; the breadth behind the eyes being nearly equal to the whole length. The antennæ are longer than the head, thin at the base, but



King, Robert Lethbridge. 1869. "Description of new species of Articerus."
Transactions of the Entomological Society of New South Wales 2, 54-57.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54870>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/244197>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.