

DESMOPACHRIA PORTMANNI (CLARK) IN THE UNITED STATES (COLEOPTERA: DYTISCIDAE)¹.

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Through the kindness of Hugh B. Leech of the California Academy of Sciences, I have recently been able to examine specimens of *Desmopachria portmanni* which were compared with Clark's type by J. Balfour-Browne of the British Museum. This species has apparently not been previously recorded from the United States, but specimens from Arizona and Texas have probably been masquerading in various collections as *mexicanus* Sharp. It will not fit either choice of the first couplet of my key to the U. S. and Canadian species (*Bull. Brooklyn Ent. Soc.*, 46 (4): 109-110, 1951); but can be recognized by the lack of basal plicae on the pronotum, the larger size (2.3 to 2.6 mm.), and the sutural striae which vary from well-defined to almost absent.

D. portmanni is placed in his Group II by Zimmerman (*Archiv für Naturgesch.*, Abt. A., Heft 12 (1917): 130, 1919), but the sutural stria is often very vague if not lacking. Sharp in his original description of *dispar* (*Biol. Cent. Amer., Coleoptera I* (Part 2): 17, 1882) also remarks of that species: "... there is an indistinct sutural impression which can scarcely be called a stria." There is, however, in *portmanni* a vaguely impressed discal series of punctures, apparently above an internal groove on each elytron, but this series is about $\frac{1}{4}$ the width of the elytron distad to the suture at its base and slants obliquely backward so that it diverges strongly to the elytral apex.

One of the interesting features of *portmanni*, and apparently of some other species of *Desmopachria*, is the occurrence of two distinct types of prosternal processes. In the males the tip of the process seems to be hollowed out so that it is bifurcate with a pit-like depression in the middle. In the females the process is more nearly normal, the tip merely being slightly depressed. Sharp (*loc. cit.*) mentions a similar condition in *D. laevis*, *variegata*, and *dispar*, but not in *portmanni* of which he had apparently seen only the unique type in the Fry collection (British Museum). He surmised that individuals with the furcate process were the females, but the converse is true in all specimens examined (both males and females dissected).

¹ Contribution No. 595 from the Zoological Laboratories of Indiana University.



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