

- 15 (14). ♂.—First joint of antennæ nearly cylindrical, simple on the inner side, the inner apical angle a little produced: second joint as in *bulbifer*.
 ♀.—First joint of antennæ not twice as long as wide...

clavicornis, Panz.

- 16 (1). Elytra nearly or quite impunctate*glabratus*, Rye.

Colesborne, Cheltenham :

September 4th, 1913.

TRIBOLIUM CASTANEUM, HERBST = *FERRUGINEUM*, AUCT. (nec FAB.)

BY K. G. BLAIR, F.E.S.

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In the Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. (6) XVII, pp. 230-231, Mr. C. O. Waterhouse published a re-description of the type of "*Tenebrio ferrugineus*, Fab.," still preserved in the British Museum, drawing attention to the fact that it belongs to the family *Cucujidæ*, and that the insect known in our collections as "*Tribolium ferrugineum*, F.," which had been wrongly identified, "will have to bear a different specific name." Mr. Champion followed (Ent. Mo. Mag., 1896, p. 82) by disputing this conclusion. While admitting that the original description of *Tenebrio ferrugineus* by Fabricius (Spec. Ins. I, 1781, p. 324) certainly did not refer to our insect, he contends that the *Tenebrio ferrugineus* of the "Mantissa Insectorum," I, 1787, p. 212, or the *Trogosita ferruginea* of the "Entomologia Systematica," I, 1792, p. 116, may quite well refer to our species, and says that in these works "no reference whatever is made to the original description in the Species Insectorum." He continues: "It is perfectly evident that he (Fabricius) confused more than one species under the name *ferrugineus*, and till the contrary is proved the name *ferrugineus* (1787) can be retained for the *Tribolium*." Gebien, in Junk's "Coleopterorum Catalogus," 1911, accepts Champion's view, and cites the insect as *T. ferrugineum*, F., Mant. Ins. I, 1787, p. 212. But this *Tenebrio ferrugineus* (1787) is an absolute homonym of *Tenebrio ferrugineus* (1781), and consequently, even if differing in meaning from its previous usage, is invalid. We have no evidence, however, that a different meaning is intended. Though Mr. Champion says that in the two later descriptions no reference whatever is made to the original description, this is hardly correct. As regards the "Mantissa," no reference is

made to the Species Insectorum, and a different origin is indicated by "Habitat et Halæ Saxonum Dom. Hybner." So far, though in any case a homonym, this *Tenebrio ferrugineus* may be intended to mean a different insect from the *Tenebrio ferrugineus* of the Species Insectorum. The description of *Trogosita ferruginea*, Ent. Syst. I, 1792, quite disposes of this possibility, for here it is definitely synonymised with the *Tenebrio ferrugineus* of the "Mantissa," and Fabricius continues: "Habitat in Africa æquinociali Mus. Dom. Banks, in Americæ Insulis Dr. Pflug," the words in italics being obviously quoted from the Species Insectorum, 1781. It is perfectly clear, therefore, that Fabricius supposed that he was dealing with one and the same species in these three instances. Furthermore, this conclusion is borne out by Sherborn's "Index Animalium," which quotes *Trogosita ferruginea* (1792) as synonymous with *Tenebrio ferrugineus* (1781), and in the "Epitome Entomologiæ Fabricianæ," by Bergsträsser, p. 18, where *Trogosita ferruginea* is the only one that appears. From these facts then, it is evident that the name *ferrugineum*, F., as applied to the *Tribolium*, can have no *locus standi* whatever.

That *Dermestes navalis*, Fab., Syst. Ent., 1775, p. 56, cannot refer to this insect, has been sufficiently demonstrated by Champion, *loc. cit.*, yet the name *navale*, Herbst, Käf. IV, 1792, still appears in Junk's Catalogue as a synonym of "*ferrugineum*, F., 1787," though this reference is nothing more than a quotation, and translation, of the description of Fabricius.

In Käf. VII, 1797, p. 282, t. 112, f. 13, however, Herbst gives a description of our insect, together with a sufficiently recognisable figure, as *Colydium castaneum*; the name *castaneum*, Herbst, therefore remains in possession of the field as the specific name of this *Tribolium*.

It may be noted that the genus *Tribolium* (1825) was made by Macleay for the reception of *Colydium castaneum*, Herbst, and though *Trogosita ferruginea*, Fab. (Syst. Eleuth. I, 1801), is cited amongst its synonyms, this is merely a reference to *Trogosita ferruginea* (Ent. Syst., 1792), and Macleay was evidently doubtful of the correctness of the synonymy.

Neither Mr. Waterhouse nor Mr. Champion seems willing to assign to any genus the true *ferrugineus*, F., but rather than let it continue longer without any generic appellation I propose for it the name *Tribolioides*, which may be characterised as follows:—

TRIBOLIOIDES, n. gen.

Head rather small, depressed, strongly constricted into a neck behind; anterior margin broad, sinuate, meeting the lateral margin almost at right angles; clypeal suture distinct, meeting the sides a little behind the anterior angles; eyes large, round, and prominent, subentire; antennæ 11-jointed, gradually thickened from the base to the last joint, 3rd joint slightly longer than the 4th, and 4th than the 5th, joints 5–10 subequal, about as long as broad, last joint elongate ovate, subacuminate, as long as the two preceding together; *prothorax* depressed, subquadrate, sharply and completely margined, posterior margin very fine; anterior angles rounded, posterior angles acute and prominent; *elytra* depressed on the disc, base slightly emarginate, with the humeri prominent but rounded; suture and three rounded costæ on each elytron raised; *legs* rather slender, tarsi apparently 4-jointed, the penultimate joint produced beneath.

Type, *Tenebrio ferrugineus*, Fab.—Hab., Tropical Africa.

Mr. Waterhouse omits to give the length of the specimen, which is 5 mm., as against 3–4 mm. for *castaneum*, Herbst.

Tribolioides may be placed tentatively near *Xenoscelis*, Woll., as suggested by Waterhouse, though the alliance is by no means close. The head resembles that of the Tenebrionid genus *Mesotretis*, Bates, though narrower, more depressed, and strongly constricted to form a neck behind, and the eyes are much larger in proportion, being separated by a space scarcely double the width of one of them. The lamellate production beneath of the penultimate tarsal joint is very peculiar. It is to be hoped that additional examples of the insect may be found amongst collections of *Coleoptera* from tropical Africa.

To Mr. J. Hartley Durrant I must express my indebtedness for the aid he has rendered in the preparation of these notes. Recognising that the name "*ferruginea*, Fab.," could not logically be applied to this species, Mr. Durrant asked me to determine definitely the correct name of this insect for use in his recent publications in regard to the Army Biscuit Enquiry.

September, 18th, 1913.

NEW SPECIES OF

COLEOPTERA ALLIED TO *XANTHOLINUS OCHRACEUS*, GYLL.

BY NORMAN H. JOY, M.R.C.S., F.E.S.

It is quite evident that under the name *Xantholinus ochraceus*, Gyll., we have confounded two very distinct species. One of these has the last joint of the maxillary palpi small and conical, and the thorax with about 12 punctures in the dorsal series, whereas in the other the



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