

V. *Description of a new Species of the Coleopterous Family Paussidæ, from India.* By J. O. WESTWOOD, F.L.S., Sec. Ent. Soc., &c.

[Read 4th August, 1845.]

SINCE the publication of the last number of my "Arcana Entomologica," in which I completed an illustrated monograph of the family *Paussidæ*, I have been favoured by two gentlemen in India with specimens of two species of this family, forwarded to me through the medium of post letters, inclosed in small quills. One of these insects is the *Ceratoderus bifasciatus*, being the third individual of that species sent to Europe, the first having been brought from India by Fichtel, and deposited in the Royal Cabinet at Vienna, and the second being in the Collection of the Rev. F. W. Hope. This third specimen was sent me by Lieut. Col. J. B. Hearsey, having been taken on the clothes of one of his soldiers whilst on duty. The other insect, received by post, of which I now beg leave to lay a description and figure before the Society, was sent me by W. H. Benson, Esq., having been captured by that gentleman.

From the apparently 5-partite, depressed clava of the antennæ, the general structure of the maxillary and labial palpi (the former with the terminal joint smaller and more slender than the preceding, and the latter with the terminal joint large, subovate and subtruncate at the extremity), the tibiæ destitute of calcaria, and the long tarsi with the first joint larger than either of the three following joints, this new species enters into the genus *Ceratoderus*, which I proposed for the reception of *Paussus bifasciatus*; but in addition to a very different general facies, destitute of the glossy surface so peculiar in that species, with comparatively shorter and broader antennæ and feet, this new insect differs from it in the dilated second joint of the maxillary palpi, which is almost rounded and flattened, in the bipartite and angulated structure of the prothorax, the setigerous-margined elytra, and the outer angle of the extremity of the tibiæ being obliquely rounded off.

The genus *Ceratoderus** must therefore be more restrictedly

* It may be as well to observe in this place, that as this generic name is derived from *κεγ*, *cor*, and not from *κεγα*, *cornu*, it is strictly applicable only to the *C. bifasciatus*. It would therefore perhaps be better to propose a distinct generic name for the group, and to give each of the sections a separate subgeneric one; the name of *Melasnospilus* may therefore be proposed for the genus, *Ceratoderus* be retained for *C. bifasciatus*, and the name of *Merismoderus* be given to *C. Bensoni*.

characterized, so as to allow the introduction therein of the present new species as follows.

Antennæ clavâ depressâ, quasi 5-partitâ. *Palpi maxillares* articulo 2^{do} maximo, 4^{to} gracili, præcedente minori. *Palpi labiales* articulis tribus; 3^{tio} majori, ovali, apice subtruncato. *Pedes* haud dilatati; tibiis apice haud calcaratis, tarsorum articulo basali sequentibus tribus majori.

Sectio A. *Ceratoderus*.

Corpus supra glabrum, nitidum. *Palpi maxillares* articulo 2^{do} subovali, lateribus subparallelis. Prothorax cordato-truncatus. Tibiæ apicibus externe angulatis.

Sp. 1. *Ceratoderus bifasciatus*, Westw. Kollar. (*Paussus b.*)

Sectio B. *Merismoderus*.

Corpus supra opacum, plaga media elytrorum polita. *Palpi maxillares* articulo 2^{do} fere rotundato, depresso. Prothorax bipartitus, lateribus angulatis. Tibiæ apicibus externe obtuse truncatis.

Sp. 2. *Merismoderus Bensoni*, Westw. (Pl. II. fig. 2.)

Luteo-fulvus, opacus, capite punctulato, supra impressionibus duabus rotundatis inter oculos alteraque versus medium marginis antici; prothorace bipartito, parte antica angulis anticis productis subacutis, parte postica quasi 4-lobata; elytris coriaceis, singulo versus medium plaga magna nigra irregulariter triangulari ad suturam haud extensa, disco nitidissimo maculaque parva communi nigra ad apicem suturæ, lateribus setulosis.

Long. corp. lin. 3.

Habitat in India orientali. D. Benson. Mus. Westw. and Hope.

"I took two specimens under a brick near the river Ganges, about fifty miles below Cawnpore, last year (1844), and this year (1845), in January, I took one under a stone, in a black ant's nest, between the Savalik range and Saharumpore." (Benson in litt.)

Fig. 2. *Merismoderus Bensoni*; 2*a*, *b*, *c*, maxillæ in various points of view; 2*d*, labial palpus; 2*e*, portion of the hind margin of the antennæ; 2*f*, tarsus.



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