Contributions

to the

Knowledge of the Fauna of the Canary Islands

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XVII.*

REMARKS CONCERNING COLLECTIONS OF CANARIAN COLEOPTERA IN THE ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM AT HAMBURG AND IN THE MUSEO PIETRO ROSSI AT DUINO.

Dr. R. Titschack collected in 1931 Thysanoptera in nearly all of the Canary Islands and in the meantime he also carefully collected the coleoptera, which were to be found on the plants. Dr. T. sent those beetles to me for determination. His Highness il Principe della Torre e Tasso organised in 1930 an entomological expedition to Madeira and to the Canary islands. The coleoptera collected on that occasion, with exception of the Carabidae and of the Staphylinidae, are entrusted to me for determination.

Below are given details concerning remarkable species and specimens from the said collections and also the description of a new Cercomorphus (Anthribidae) collected by Dr. Titschack in the island of Lanzarote.

Brachypterus *velatus* Woll. Between the specimens collected for the Museo P. R. is one that is much smaller and narrower, with a finer and more dispersed punctuation of the pronotum. This may be an individual aberration but after my opinion it is more likely to be another, probably new, species. However on only one specimen I do not feel justified to describe it as such. (San Mateo Gr. Can.).

Cryptamorpha *Desjardinsi* Guér. This remarkable bananabeetle seems to be at present rather common in the Canaries, at all events in Gran Canaria. The species is no doubt imported from some tropical country with banana-plants.

Malthinus *mutabilis* Woll. This species is even more variable than Wollaston describes it. Between the specimens

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collected for the Museo P. R. there is one with the head entirely black unto the insertion of the antennae (limit concave in the middle), the anterior femora brown with yellow apex, middle and posterior femora and tibiae entirely dark (black or brown), tarsi somewhat lighter coloured. (Las Palmas Gr. Can.)

Anthicus *canariensis* Woll. The specimens collected by Dr. Titschack in the island of Lanzarote are of a somewhat greater bulk and with a stronger punctuation than those collected on the more western islands. One of the Lanzarotan specimens is entirely infuscated (nearly pitchbrown) with exception of the tibiae, tarsi and of the first articulation of the antennae.

Pharoscymnus *10-plagiatus* Woll. ssp. *grancanariensis* mihi [1]).

One specimen collected for the Museo P. R. at Las Palmas Gr. Can. has the yellow discal spots (which have in this ssp. the form of sausages) enlarged versus both ends, connected forwards with the humeral spot. The longitudinal spot along the sides and the last but one backwards are also connected. The entire border of the elytra is broadly yellow.

Anthrenus sp. belonging to the subgenus *Helocerus* Muls.

One specimen of this species unknown to me was collected by Dr. Titschack in a fonda in Gran Canaria. It is allied to *fuscus* Latr. *(claviger* Er.) but differs from that species by the colour, by the squamose covering and by the pronotum, whose sideborders are much more undulated because of the fact that the anterior edges are bent down more strongly and on the contrary the sideborders behind the middle are more strongly bent upwards. The entire posterior half of the pronotum is covered with snow-white scales more densily towards the sides, dispersed white scales even until in the anterior edges. Elytra with three snow-white densely squamose transverse fasciae and with white apex. Groundcolour redbrown. Metathorax and abdomen entirely covered with white scales. Legs and antennae yellow infuscated.

Casapus *dilaticollis* Woll. Two specimens collected for the Museo P. R. at Santa Cruz de Tenerife, in both of which the anterior fascia is so strikingly distinct, that they differ in this respect entirely from Wollaston's types. However I can not detect any other difference of enough importance to consider them as a distinct variety or subspecies. The locality in which they are found should exclude *alticola* Woll.. but after my opinion it is quite possible that the latter so called species is only an aberration and not even a local race, in

[1]) Description in No. XVI.

which case I should classify the mentioned specimens as belonging to the same aberration.

Hegeter *costipennis* Woll. One specimen of this very rare *Hegeter* was collected for the Museo P. R. at San Mateo Gr. Can.

Cylindronotus *carbunculus* Woll. One specimen collected for the Museo P. R. at Santa Cruz de Tenerife. Edm. Reitter considers *carbunculus* Woll. and *aterrimus* Woll. as synonymous to *nitens* Woll. After my opinion the two first mentioned species differ inter se strikingly by the sculpture of the elytra, by the lustre and by the shape of the anterior edges of the pronotum. The antennae are in both species so much thicker than in *lucifugus, altivagans, elliptipennis, nitens* and *fusculus,* that I presume them not even to belong to the same genus, certainly not to the same subgenus.

Cercomorphus *Titschacki* nov. sp. Caput instrumenta cibaria et prothorax subrufa nitida, mandibularum pars exterior apexque et maxillarum palparum articulus ultimus fuscescentia, antennarum articuli quattuor ultimi nigri, quinque primi rufi ; elytra et posterior pars corporis fusconigra ; pedes rufi femorum apicibus partibusque superioribus et tarsis fuscescentibus. Pube demissa albido-argentea punctisque subtilibus sed perspicuis omnino dense tectus. Tuber humeralis proferrens. Tibiae angustae simplices. Frons inter oculos latiore quam rostrum inter antennarum insertionem. Oculi prominuli. Genae deficientes. Elytra plana lateribus subparallelis modice versus basem coarctatis. Pronotum transversum lateribus aequaliter rotundatis. Volucer. Long. 1¼—1¾ mM. Habitat insulam Lanzarote (Batteria) super Frankenia ericifolia Chr. Sm. mense V captus. Spec. typica in Mus. Zoöl. Hamburgense et in coll. mea.

The nearest relation to this species is *C. bicolor* Ab. [1]) but it is easily to be distinguished by the size, the colour, by the broader forehead between the eyes and by the want of cheeks, the eyes immediatly touching the frontborder of the prothorax. [2])

Head, mouthparts and prothorax light-red shining, the outer-rim and the points of the mandibulae and the last joint of the maxillar palpae brownish ; the last four joints of the antennae black, the first five red ; the elytra and the abdomen of a dull black ; feet red with the upperside and the apex

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[1]) Please compare this description with the Peyerimhof's dichotomic table in Annales d. l. Soc. Ent. de France 1925 p. 17.

[2]) I defer of opinion with Dr. Jordan (Trans. Ent. Soc. of London 1925) as to the right place in the system of the *Urodonini.* The structure as well of the instrumenta cibaria as of the antennae points doubtless to a greater affinity to the *Anthribidae* than to the *Laridae* (Bruchidae). As regards *Cercomorphus* the structure of the mouthparts leads to assume a carnivorous diet (like *Brachytarsus)* consisting of Aphidae or Coccidae.

of the femora and the tarsi brownish ; entirely covered with a silvery white pubescence. Punctuation of the whole body fine but distinct and dense. In the male sex the punctuation of the elytra, seen straight from above (enl. × 110), makes the impression of a fine granulation. Humeral hunch protruding. Tibiae narrow and simple. Wings developed. I dedicate this species, the first of the genus detected in the Canaries, to its collector Dr. E. Titschack, custos of the Zoological Museum at Hamburg.

Apion *tubiferum* Schh. collected by Dr. Titschack at Los Tilos Gr. Can. All the specimens from the Canaries of this species that came to my knowledge (including those in Wollaston's collection) are strikingly smaller than those in my collection from different localities in the south of Europe. The Canarian specimens are about as tall as the Algerian ones in my collection.

Apion *spartocytisi* G. K. Marsh. ♀ collected by Dr. Titschack at Los Tilos Gr. Can. Mr. H. Wagner communicated to me (26.II.30) that he supposed this species to be identical with *canariense* H. Wagner and he lent me ♂ and ♀ for comparison, also from *curvipilosum* H. Wagn. *Spartocytisi* differs from both these species already at first sight by the considerably smaller bulk and by the more compact habitus, which is caused by the steeper descent of the elytra towards their apex. Only the ♂ of *curvipilosum* shows a similar shape.

Moreover the ♀ of *spartocytisi* differs from that of *canariense* by the form of the scales who are much longer and narrower in *canariense*. The pubescence is in *canariense* much shorter and entirely decumbent in such a way that she is only evident seen from the sides.

The posterior tibiae of *canariense* ♀ are black in the middle but entirely yellow in *spartocytisi*.

From *curvipilosum*, *spartocytisi* differs by the relatively much bigger scales, by the longer pubescence, which is more erect, the hairs being only sligtly bent at their apex. A curious difference consists in the ♀ of *curvipilosum* being slenderer than the ♂, while in *spartocytisi* the difference in the habitus of the sexes is just the reverse. This sounds strange but the shape of the rostra leaves no doubt as to the right determination of the sexes.

From both *canariense* and *curvipilosum*, *spartocytisi* differs by the shape of the prothorax whose sides are curved in the two first mentioned species while in the last they are straight giving the pronotum a rather purely conical appearance. No doubt they ought to be considered as three different species and I feel quite certain that as soon as also the feeding plants of Wagner's species will be known it will ap-

pear that each species lives on a different species of the Leguminosae.

Gymnetron *pascuorum* Gyll. *lancerotensis* nov. ab. differt a forma typica pronoto, pedibus, antennis elytrisque rufis, capite, rostri basi ungulisque nigris, rostri apice badio.

A most distinct aberration by the red colour of pronotum, legs, antennae and elytra, while the head, base of the rostrum and the claws are black and the apex of the rostrum red-brown. One specimen collected by Dr. Titschack in the island of Lanzarote. Type in the Museum at Hamburg.

Uyttenboogaart, Daniel Louis. 1934. "Contributions to the knowledge of the fauna of the Canary Islands XVII." *Tijdschrift voor entomologie* 77, 162–166.

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