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STUDIES IN OXYBELIDAE I

C. F. BAKER.

Having been engaged for many years in the collection and study of material in this family, such results as have been obtained will now be published from time to time. A provisional table of the genera is presented herewith. Dr. Brauns has kindly sent a specimen of his South African *Oxybelomorpha*. It is evidently closely related to *Oxybelus*, but possesses mandibles deeply emarginate below. The sub-median cell is much shorter than the median, the transverse median nervure uniting with the median much before the origin of the basal nervure; but this condition occurs also among some of our American *Oxybelus*. The form of the scutellar armature in *Oxybelomorpha* is quite unique.

We have, in America, what we suppose to be true *Belomicrus*, separated as indicated in the following table. If our species are true *Belomicrus*, then the *Belomicrus capensis* of Brauns is not. Indeed I can see no reason why *capensis* should not be placed in true *Oxybelus*, as it has the spine and squamae of that genus and the characteristic metanotal sculpture which so well separates all true *Oxybelus* from the group that we have been calling *Belomicrus*. On the other hand, specimens of *Belomicrus Handlirschii* Brauns, and *Oxybelus ligula* Gerst., sent by Dr. Brauns, both belong to *Notoglossa*.

As we now know them, the Oxybelidae are best developed in North America and Europe, the few African species being quite anomalous in one way or another. Members of the family are common in Central and South America, but all of the many species of those regions which I have seen, belong in *Notoglossa*.

A. Metanotum with only fine sculpturing on the lateral faces, the lateral bounding carinae strongly crested above; squamae approximate or coalescing behind, completely enclosing the post-scutellum, and without pointed limbs or angles; scutellum never carinate.

Belomicrus Costa.

AA. Metanotum with very coarse sculpturing on the lateral faces, more so above, the lateral bounding carinae not strongly crested above; squamae never coalescing behind, always leaving apex of postscutellum free, and usually either with pointed limbs or angled margins; scutellum usually carinate.

B. Mandibles deeply emarginate beneath.

Oxybelomorpha Brauns.

BB. Mandibles not distinctly emarginate beneath.

C. Spine very narrow and entire at the slender tip; mandibles with a median tooth within; clypeus in male usually tridentate.

Oxybelus Latr.

CC. Spine broad and emarginate, or very broadly truncate at tip; mandibles without a median tooth within; clypeus in male usually 4 or 5-dentate.

Notoglossa Dahlb.

Genus *Belomicrus* Costa

The group of species referred to this genus are alike in having the puncturation of body fine, close, and remarkably uniform. They all have on the anterior two-fifths of mesonotum a very fine double median stria. The scutellum is always entirely without a median carina. The squamae are quite characteristic, not possessing either a lateral or a terminal tooth, and completely enclosing the post-scutellum. The sculpturing of the metanotum is peculiar to the group; there are median and lateral carinae, the lateral being distinctly elevated above; the median fovea is of various shapes; the lateral faces are covered with numerous fine irregular oblique striae, and between these the surface is variously punctuate. The clypeus is usually stated to be simple in both sexes, but in the male of *cookii* it is tridentate. The lateral ocelli are said, in generic characterizations, to be as near to the median ocellus as to the eye margin or nearer, but in *colorata* for instance, they are nearer to the eye margin. A sharp groove extends from the upper part of the inner eye orbit to the lateral ocelli.

TABLE OF SPECIES.

A. Abdomen almost entirely reddish; funicle longer than the first flagellar article.

B. Length of postscutel and squamae together more than half the entire width.

colorata n. sp.

BB. Length of postscutel and squamae together much less than half the entire width.

cladothericis Ckll.

AA. Abdomen largely black; funicle as short or shorter than the first flagellar article.

B. Scape and all tibiae, of male, clear honey yellow.

cookii n. sp.

BB. Scape and all tibiae, of male, with large piceous spots on one side.

forbesii Robt.

***Belomicrus colorata* n. sp.**

FEMALE: Length 5 mm. A large species with bright yellow markings, and a largely reddish abdomen, and related to *cladothricis*.

Clypeus truncate anteriorly, its disc subtuberculate, the raised portion naked, smooth, shining, and with a few large punctures; remainder of face covered with appressed silvery hair, which is thickest below. Antennae piceous above and sordid yellowish below, the funicle distinctly longer than the first flagellar article. Mandibles honey yellow at base to piceous at the simple tips. Lateral ocelli distinctly nearer to the eyes than to the median ocellus.

Pronotum honey yellow, except a spot at middle. Tegulae rufous. Mesopleura with the vertical groove broad, shallow, and ill defined. Postscutel yellow, and with its broad squamae longer than half the entire width, the squamae completely coalescing, the median posterior emargination is shallow and with a rounded apex. Median fovea of metanotum broader than long, the oblique striae on lateral faces distinct, but the puncturation very inconspicuous.

Legs with tips of femora, all of tibiae, and basal joints of tarsi honey yellow; the tarsi are piceous apically. Abdomen ferruginous, the first, second, and third tergites with posterior margins broadly yellow. Pygidium triangular, the width at base greater than the length.

This fine species was taken in Ormsby county, Nevada.

***Belomicrus Cookii* n. sp.**

MALE: Length 4.75 mm. A medium-sized species with banded abdomen, without ferruginous except at tip, and related to *forbesii*.

Clypeus tridentate anteriorly; its disc not subtuberculate, entirely covered with the silky appressed pubescence of the face, and near the anterior margin transversely banded with yellow. The antennal scrobes are unusually large and deep. Antennae with honey yellow scape and sordid ferruginous flagellum, the funicle distinctly shorter than the first article of flagellum. Mandibles honey yellow at base to piceous at their simple tips. Lateral ocellus about as far from eye margins as from median ocellus. Pronotum with a broad, yellow, almost continuous band which reaches on to scapulae. Tegulae rufous. Mesonotum with the vertical groove distinct and sharply marked. Postscutel yellow, and with its squamae not longer than half the entire width at base, the squamae coalescing behind, the posterior emargination V-shaped.

Median fovea of metanotum triangular and twice as long as broad, the oblique striation on lateral faces very fine and the puncturation very distinct.

Legs with tips of femora, all of tibiae, and basal portion of tarsi honey yellow, the tarsi piceous apically. Abdomen black, the first to fifth tergites broadly banded posteriorly with very pale yellowish, the last two segments sordid ferruginous.

FEMALE: Clypeus truncate. Scape honey yellow only at tip, the remainder piceous. Abdomen with yellow bands on segments I to IV, but gradually fading out posteriorly, the last half of third segment, and the remainder of abdomen bright ferruginous. Pygidium broader at base than long, triangular, but the

lateral margins incurved, the surface shining and with scattering coarse punctures.

This well marked wasp is common at Claremont, California, during the month of April. I have named it for Dr. A. J. Cook, the veteran head professor of Biology in Pomona College.

***Belomicrus cladothricis* Ckll.**

This species is common about Claremont, California, during the early spring

***Belomicrus forbesii* Robt.**

I have specimens of this species taken at Denver, Colorado, by Oslar.