

SEVEN NEW SCARAB BEETLES FROM CALIFORNIA.

By LAWRENCE W. SAYLOR,

Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The new species here described have been brought to light through the author's studies of the California Scarabaeidae, which it is expected will lead eventually to a synopsis of the species of this family from the State.

Phobetus comatus robinsoni, new subspecies.

Male.—Robust-oval, body black, legs and antennae testaceous; the long cilia of the entire body a light-brown color, a few short hairs on the side of the abdomen whitish. Head and clypeus with fine dense punctures, a large area on the vertex impunctate; clypeal disc with a few erect, short hairs. Antenna 9-segmented, club one-third longer than the funicle. Terminal segment of the maxillary palpi two and one-half times longer than wide, slightly flattened on outer basal two-thirds, the flattened area not impressed. Shape and punctation of thorax, elytra, and pygidium as in typical *comatus*. Length 11–14 mm. Width 6–7 mm.

The *holotype* and *paratype*, males, from "San Diego, California, collected by Morris on Nov. 11, 1931," were received from Mark Robinson of Philadelphia. The *type* has been returned to Mr. Robinson for disposition, while the *paratype* remains in the author's collection.

The male genitalia and most of the external characters are the same as in typical *P. comatus*; the entirely black color and small size are very striking and enable one to place the species readily. Possibly a distinct species, this form seems best treated as a subspecies until such time as taxonomic characters in the genus are better understood. In Cazier's recent excellent revision of the genus, *P. robinsoni* runs out closest to *P. saylori*, which it approaches in size, but from which it differs in the entirely black dorsal surface and in the color of the body pile.

Chaunocolus cornutus Saylor.

Chaunocolus cornutus Saylor, Bull. S. Calif. Acad. Sciences, Vol. 36, Jan.-Apr., '37, part 1, p. 35.

The unique type of this interesting species was described by the writer from La Paz, Lower California. Recently the author has received for examination, through the courtesy of Mark Robinson of Philadelphia, a second specimen from "Lower California." This is apparently either a male minor or a female, but its condition does not permit dissection.

This second specimen differs from the *type* as follows:

Clypeal horn one-half as long; thorax convexly rounded, with no trace of the oblique tumosities mentioned in the original description; the apical fourth of the disc is abruptly, semi-circularly declivous to the apical margin; the surface of the thoracic disc is sparsely, and rather coarsely punctured laterally and on each side of the median line; the hind angles and a median longitudinal area of the disc are practically impunctate; the surface of the declivity is nearly impunctate, except for a row of coarse punctures along the apical margin.

Serica craighead, new species.

Male.—Testaceous-castaneous, head with traces of picous; above moderately shining and faintly iridescent. Clypeus tumid at center, the punctures fine and separated by distances equal to one or more times their diameters; front margin sharply reflexed, apex slightly emarginate, lateral margins with no trace of clypeal notch; front very sparsely punctate, vertex impunctate. Antennal club shorter than funicle. Thorax with fine dense punctures, and with a few short, erect hairs on each side. Elytra sparsely clothed with short erect hairs.

Female.—Slightly pruinose above; antennal club only slightly shorter than in male; scutellum more densely hairy; otherwise similar to male. Length 7.5 mm. to 7.8 mm. Width 4 mm.

The *type* male is from "Sangre de Cristo, Lower California," collected in June (L. W. Saylor collection) and the *paratype* male and *allotype* female are both from "V. Trinidad, Lower California, also collected in June." *Type* and *allotype* will be deposited on loan in the United States National Museum, while the *paratype* remains in the Saylor collection. The male genitalia of the new species are most closely related to those of *S. watson*, described herein. The author takes pleasure in naming this species for his good friend Dr. F. C. Craighead of Washington, D. C.

Serica cruzi, new species.

Male.—Unusually elongate, subparallel, piceo-castaneous; head with a few scattered hairs; thorax apparently glabrous except at lateral margins; surface shining. Clypeus long, faintly tumid at center and with coarse and dense punctures, the sides strongly convergent apically, and the apex moderately reflexed with a wide, shallow, semicircular emargination, without trace of clypeal notches; front punctured like the clypeus, vertex impunctate. Antennal club as long or longer than the entire stem. Thorax with sides evenly arcuate, punctures on disc moderately coarse, and not close. Elytra with coarse, rugose punctation and wrinkled; a few scattered short, erect hairs near side margins. Length 5.4 mm. Width 3 mm.

The unique male *type* is from "Santa Cruz Island, California, May," L. W. Saylor collection, and will be deposited on loan in the United States National Museum. The long antennal

club, slender form, shape of the clypeus and head, and the strong elytral punctation (as well as the insular habitat) readily distinguish this species. The male genitalia, somewhat similar to those of *S. abdita*, are, however, specifically different.

Serica joaquinella, new species.

Male.—Robust, rufo-picco-castaneous, with moderate pruinose sheen above; elytra and clypeus with a very few erect scattered hairs. Entire clypeal surface with coarse, moderately close punctures, center of disc somewhat convex; apical margin strongly reflexed, truncate (viewed from above) or arcuately rounded with the center a little the highest (viewed from above and behind); no clypeal notches; front densely pruinose, punctation, if present, obscured by the pruinosity. Antennal club subequal to funicle. Thorax finely and densely punctate, sides evenly and arcuately rounded. Elytral apices subtruncate. Length 7 mm. Width 4.2 mm.

The *type* is from "San Joaquin County, California," L. W. Saylor collection, and will be deposited on loan in the National Museum. In size and appearance this beetle much resembles a bicolored example of *S. anthracina*. The genitalia are probably more similar to those of *S. caliginosa* than to those of any other described species.

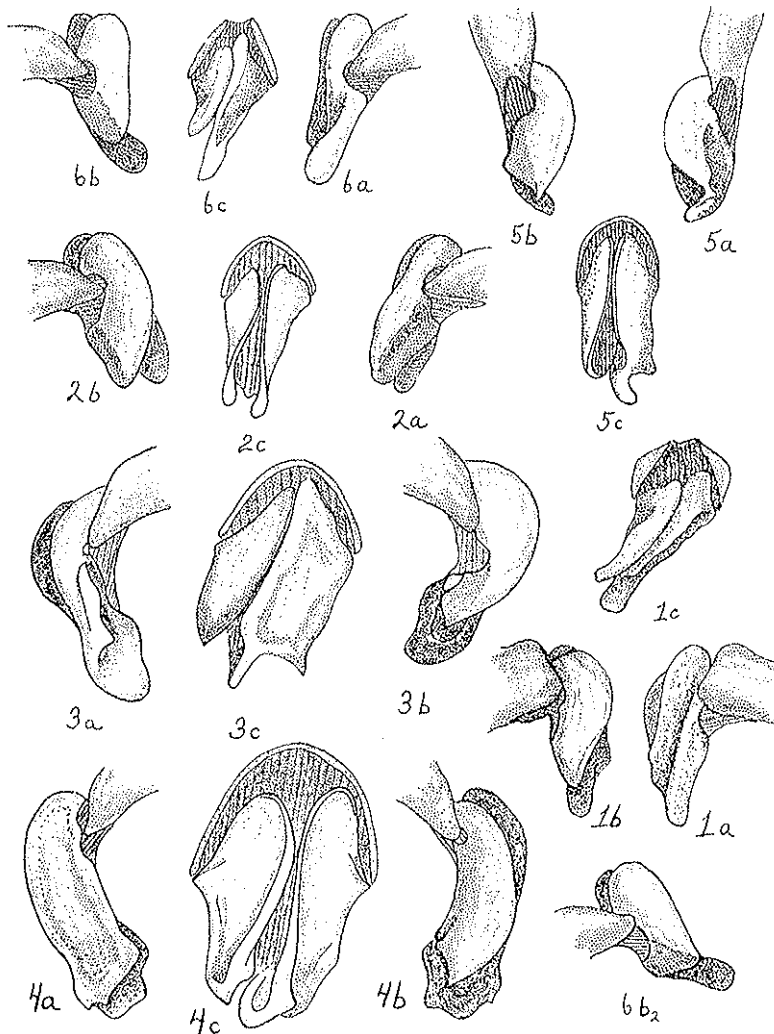
Serica oliver, new species.

Male.—Robust, piceous, densely pruinose above; glabrous except for a few dozen very fine, minute to short, scattered hairs on the sides and base of the elytra, and on the clypeus. Clypeus somewhat shiny, slightly convex at center, sparsely and entirely punctured, apex moderately reflexed, subtruncate, with no trace of lateral clypeal notches, front finely punctate, the punctures almost obscured by the pruinosity, vertex impunctate. Antenna testaceous, club one-fifth longer than the funicle. Thorax finely and densely punctate, sides arcuately rounded. Elytra very finely, and quite sparsely punctate. Length 8.4 mm. Width 4.5 mm.

The unique male *type*, collected by S. J. Oliver at "Pine Ridge, 35 miles N. E. of Fresno, California, elevation 5,000 feet," and presented by the collector to the author, will be deposited on loan in the National Museum Collection. The genitalia of *S. oliver* are most similar to those of *S. solita*.

Serica elmontea, new species.

Male.—Elongate, dull brunneo-rufous, the surface pruinose; entire dorsal surface except for the middle of the front and the clypeus, with short, erect and moderately dense hair. Clypeus distinctly tumid at center, coarsely and closely punctate, apex narrowly reflexed, with moderately deep, arcuate emargination, sides without any trace of notches; front finely and sparsely punctate, opaque on basal two-thirds. Antenna 9-segmented, testaceous, club ovate and shorter than funicle. Length 7.5 mm. Width 4.5 mm.



The *type* and 3 *paratypes*, all males, from "El Monte Oaks, San Diego Co., California, June 8, 1934, collected by Albert Watson" and 7 paratypes from Lake Arrowhead, Calif. (Paul Allen) VI-23-34, and 1 paratype from Bear Lake, California, collected in May. All specimens were given to the writer by the collector. The *type* will be deposited on loan in the United States National Museum, while the paratypes remain in the author's collection.

Serica watson, new species.

Male.—Robust, somewhat shining, elytra slightly pruinose; elytra, sides of thorax and clypeus, base of clypeus, and apex of thorax with sparse erect hairs. Clypeus tumid, densely and coarsely punctate, apex with moderately deep, and widely arcuate emargination, the margin slightly and gradually reflexed, no trace of lateral clypeal notches. Front sparsely and finely punctate, the entire front and vertex opaque. Antenna 9-segmented, testaceous, club ovate and not quite equal to the funicle in length. Length 8 mm. Width 4-5 mm.

The *type* and *paratype*, both males, are from "El Monte Oaks, San Diego County, California, collected by Albert Watson on June 8, 1934" and by him presented to the author. The *type* will be deposited on loan in the National Museum. The genitalia are most similar to those of *S. craighead* Saylor; but vary slightly within the species, as is shown in the drawings. Figure 6b is the typical form and 6b₂ the variation.

EXPLANATION OF FIGURES.

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| Figure 1. <i>Serica craighead</i> Saylor | Figure 4. <i>Serica oliver</i> Saylor |
| 2. <i>Serica cruzi</i> Saylor | 5. <i>Serica elmontea</i> Saylor |
| 3. <i>Serica joaquinella</i> Saylor | 6. <i>Serica watson</i> Saylor |
- a. Side view of male genitalia.
 b. Idem.
 c. En-face view of male genitalia.