

A SECOND FOSSIL CHRYSOMELID BEETLE FROM THE
AMBER OF CHIAPAS, MEXICO

BY

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THE FOLLOWING new species of *Crepidodera* is based on a single, excellently preserved specimen (U.C. Mus. Paleo. locality B-7053) in amber from Chiapas, Mexico. It belongs to the subfamily Alticinae of the coleopterous family Chrysomelidae. No closely related living species are known.

Genus *Crepidodera* Chevrolat (In Dejean), 1837

Type-species: *Chrysmela transversa* Marsham 1802, Europe.

Crepidodera antiqua Gressitt, new species

(Figs. 1 and 2)

Female (?): Testaceous brown with a somewhat goldish orange tinge; ventral surfaces of body slightly paler and less shiny.

Head: Considerably narrower than prothorax, fairly short, constricted behind eyes; occiput evenly convex, smooth, minutely punctured, projecting obtusely forward and grooved on anterior margin; vertex slightly swollen, with a short median ridge separated by a slight groove on each side from swelling above antennal insertion which is separated from occiput by two adjacent oblique parallel grooves on each side; frontoclypeus very short, much broader than long, ridged medially; labrum fairly large, subtruncate apically; eye vertically oval, subreniform, nearly straight anteriorly; gena about $\frac{1}{2}$ as deep as eye. Antenna: Three-fifths as long as body, fairly slender; segment 1 more than $3 \times$ as long as broad, subcylindrical, weakly thickened preapically; 2 about $\frac{1}{2}$ as long as 1, thickened preapically, slightly longer than broad; 3 much more slender, barely longer than 2; 4 slightly longer and stouter; 5 much larger $\frac{2}{3}$ as long as 1; 5-10 subequal, increasing very slightly in length and thickness, only weakly thickened apically; 11 about as long as 1, fairly slender.

Prothorax: $1.35 \times$ as broad as long, shorter at side than at middle, subparallel-sided, rounded-truncate (weakly convex) anteriorly; anterolateral angle obtusely rounded, swollen but hardly projecting at anterolateral pore; basal angle slightly obtuse; disc subevenly convex, rather weakly and irregularly punctured, with a fairly straight transverse groove parallel to basal margin, becoming slightly sinuate near lateral angle and then curving forward and weakening along lateral margin; basal area behind subbasal groove also punctured.

Scutellum: Slightly broader than long, somewhat rounded behind, flattish above. Elytron: Slightly less than $3 \times$ as long as broad, subparallel-sided, slightly widened just behind middle, obliquely narrowed apically; disc with about ten rows of moderate, subregular punctures, most of punctures slightly smaller than interspaces, becoming smaller posteriorly and less regular on sutural $\frac{1}{2}$ behind middle.

Ventral surfaces: Fairly smooth, with scattered weak punctures.

Legs: Fairly short; fore and mid femora weakly swollen, hind femur very strongly swollen, strongly arcuate externally, weakly convex beneath; tibiae fairly straight, only moderately thickened apically; hind tarsus fairly long, segment 1 not quite as long as remainder combined. Length 1.75 mm.; breadth 0.85 mm.

Holotype: Female, U.C. Mus. Paleo. No. 13523, loc. B-7053, Simojovel area, Chiapas, Mexico. Material purchased. According to J. Wyatt Durham it is probable that the amber is of late Oligocene to early Miocene age inasmuch as all known localities in this area where amber is mined are in rocks of this age.

C. antiqua differs from some undescribed Recent species from Mexico and Guatemala in being smaller, more slender, paler and with antennae more slender.

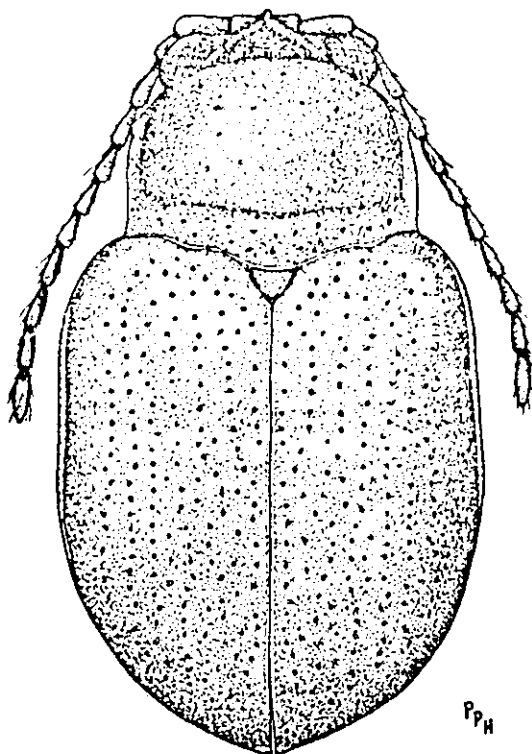


Fig. 1. *Crepidodera antiqua* Gressitt, new species, Holotype, U.C. Mus. Paleo. No. 13523. Dorsal view, $\times 40$.

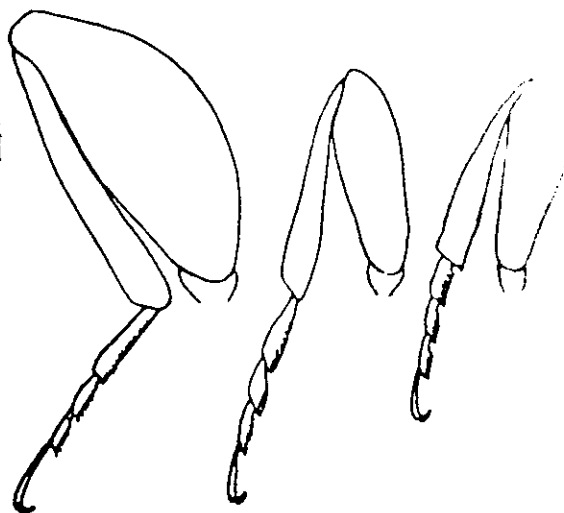


Fig. 2. *Crepidodera antiqua*. Undersides of legs of right side, at slightly higher magnification than $\times 40$.

It differs from *C. tibialis* Jacoby in being smaller, much paler, with elytra more heavily punctured. It differs from *C. flaveola* Jacoby in having a well-developed pronotal groove.

SUMMARY

A chrysomelid beetle of the genus *Crepidodera* (Alticinae) is described from the amber of late Oligocene to early Miocene age from near Simojovel, Chiapas, Mexico.