

Third series of Notes on Systematics and Synonymy

by

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(30th Communication on Cleridae)*

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In the Amsterdam Museum is one ♂ specimen of *Brachycallimerus pallidus* Gorh. (Ann. Mus. Genova (2) XII, 1892, p. 727; *Callimerus*) from Noganoor, North Salem, India, which agrees completely with Gorham's description. The antennae are altogether yellow, the prothorax is as wide as long, the elytra are parallel-sided; they show no traces of scales, and their apical black portion is bordered in front by a straight line. — Length 8,6 millim.

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Brachycallimerus Gorhami nov. spec.

In the Amsterdam Museum is a specimen, collected by myself at Tandjong Merah, Sumatra's East Coast, elev. 22m, 18.XII.1917, of the variety of *Brachycallimerus pallidus* Gorh., described by him in Ann. Mus. Genova (2) XII, 1892, p. 727 from Borneo, but which certainly represents a distinct species. To Gorham's description I might add a few additional characters: The antennae are darkened towards their tips, the prothorax is a little longer than wide, the elytra are not exactly parallel-sided, but slightly rounded at the sides, and the hind tarsi are darkened. The general colour is indeed of a much lighter yellow than in *Br. pallidus* Gorh., rather straw-colour, but it does not give me the impression of being due to immaturity. Apical 1/4 of the elytra is clothed, not very thickly, with white scales; these scales are very conspicuous in the black apical 1/6 portion, to which they give a somewhat mouldy appearance. The outline of this black apical portion is different also: its front border is not straight, but has the form of a

*) For list of communications 1—9 see 10th Communication: Notizen über palaearktische Cleriden. — Tijdschr. v. Ent. LXXV, Suppl., 1932, p. 136-140.

For list of communications 10—19 see 20th Communication: Les *Callimerus* du groupe de *C. prasinatus* Lewis (by Corporaal and Pic). — Tijdschr. v. Ent. LXXXIII, 1940, p. 189-192. The successive communications are:

21. Notes on some Cleridae in the Hamburg Zoological Museum. — Tijdschr. v. Ent. LXXXIV, 1941, p. 359-361.
22. Cleridae collected by Dr. D. L. Uyttenboogaart in South Africa. — Ent. Ber. XI-243, 1942, p. 8-10.
23. Un nouveau genre et deux nouvelles espèces de Clérides, voisins du genre *Spinoza* Lewis; Note sur *Melanoclerus* Chapin. — Bull. Mus. Roy. d'Hist. Nat. de Belgique XVIII-9, 1942, p. 1-6.
24. Cleridae (Nr. 13) in Beiträge zur Fauna Perus (Hamburg) II-1, 1942, p. 135-147.
25. The genera *Eurymetopum* Blanch. and *Epiclides* Chevr. — Tijdschr. v. Ent. LXXXVIII (Feestbundel), 1945 (1947), p. 157-167.
26. Remarques sur quelques espèces paléarctiques du genre *Trichodes* (par Corporaal et Vári. — Miscell. Entom. XLIII, 1946, p. 77-86.
27. Nineteen notes on Systematics and Synonymy (Nrs. 1-19). — Ent. Ber. XII-281, 1948, p. 242-288.
28. (LVIII) Notes on some African Beetles of the genus *Trichodes*. — Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (11) XIV-117, 1947 (1948), p. 650-654.
29. Further notes on Systematics and Synonymy (Nrs. 20-29). — Ent. Ber. XII-284, 1948, p. 286-288.

broad letter V, the width of the black portion thus being at the suture about half of that at the sides. — Length 7,1 millim.

For this species I propose the name *Brachycallimerus Gorhami*, n. sp.; obviously it is very rare: in the successive four years I have repeatedly revisited the same locality, without being able to find a second specimen.

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Natalis Leai Blackb. 1899. — Blackburn himself, after having seen a specimen sent to him by Schenkling of *Opilo floccosus* Schklg. 1898, states (Trans. Roy. Soc. South Australia XXX, 1906, p. 323) that both species are distinct, but closely allied. Therefore, now that *O. floccosus* has been transferred by its author (Ent. Mitt. IV-7/9, 1915, p. 247) to *Metademiis*, I feel justified in placing *N. Leai* also in this genus.

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The genus *Opilo* Latr. 1802. — Nearly 40 years ago, Gahan (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) V, 1910, p. 66) came to the conclusion, that the name *Opilo* could not stand and would have to give way to *Notoxus* Fabricius 1775. Fabricius used the latter name for what Linné called *Attelabus mollis*. I have recently had some correspondence on this matter with Mr. W. D. Hincks, as a result of which I agree that the name *Notoxus* was used earlier, in an entirely different sense, by Geoffroy (Hist. abrégée etc. 1762, p. 356) for a genus of Anthicidae, the type being the well-known *Notoxus (Attelabus) monoceros* L. Geoffroy's work, though not binominal, was binary, and therefore falls under Opinion 35 of the Code. As his figure (pl. IV, f. 8 C. D.) is excellent and very clearly represents the Anthicid above mentioned, his name is valid under Opinion 46. It will be seen, therefore, that *Notoxus* cannot be used for the Clerid genus, for which Latreille's *Opilo* 1802 must be retained.

Apart of this, it must be admitted that, though already many of the species previously listed under this heading, have been transferred to more suitable genera, still a considerable number of species remain in it, of which the types are lost, or at least are untraceable or inaccessible, but which in the long run will have to be removed from it.

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Thanasimodes desertorum Lesne. — Lesne, in his description of *Opilo desertorum* (Bull. Mus. Paris 1905, no. 6 (1906), p. 388) does not mention whether the frontal coxal cavities are closed behind or not, but he pronounces his species to be closely allied to *Opilo dorsalis* Luc. I therefore do not hesitate to transfer it to *Thanasimodes* Murr. We possess a ♂ specimen, collected by Rothschild and Hartert, IV-1909, in the Algerian Sahara, between Touggourt and El Oued, which agrees very well with Lesne's description and figure. Only the head is altogether black. It is a *Thanasimodes* all right.

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Opilo insignis Escalera (Trab. Mus. Nac. Cienc. Nat. Madrid, ser. zool. XI, 1914, p. 249), of which we possess a specimen from Marrakesh, Marocco (compared by Théry to the type), also belongs to *Thanasimodes*.

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Clerus brevicollis Spin. — Owing to a series of inexactitudes in its description in Spinola, Essai monogr. Clérites I, 1844, p. 266, t. 25, f. 4, this insect has been for many years a riddle for students of European coleoptera. With great relief I can state that at last I have arrived at a plausible and satisfactory explanation. I have found in the old Sturm collection (now in the Munich Museum) a specimen, bearing a very old and characteristic label, in Sturm's handwriting: „Ofen. K. — C. brevicornis, Kunze." (Ofen = Budapest). This specimen is listed in „Catalog der Kaefer-Sammlung von Jacob Sturm", 1843, on p. 83, here with the addition "*formicarius* Gyll. var. b." There can be no doubt that Spinola refers to this specimen in his description, the more so as on p. V of his Avant-propos he names Sturm among those who had sent him all Cleridae he had wished to see, and in his description again refers to the Sturm collection. The difference in the names is not so astonishing, as Spinola often was rather inaccurate in citing names, so that in several cases even the names under the plates differ from those in his descriptions, where he cites them. So in this case he wrote Kuntze in stead of Kunze. Further it is highly probable that the name of the species to which in his description he repeatedly compares this specimen, should be read *formicarius* in stead of *mutillarius*, for the likeness to the equally well-know *mutillarius* is to a specialist very distant, almost absurd. Together with my friend P. van der Wiel, I have compared the specimen very carefully with a long series of *Thanasimus formicarius* L., and found in small individuals of the latter very similar antennal clubs, though perhaps not so extreme as in the Kunze-Sturm-Spinola specimen. It is just possible, that the compact conformation of the antennal club, on which Spinola insists so very strongly (and which induced Jacquelin du Val on p. 196 of his Gen. Col. Eur. III, 1861, without having seen the specimen, to erect the subgenus *Pseudoclerus*), be no more than a secondary male sexual character. If so, the males of *Th. formicarius* L. are apparently much rarer than the females, but this is a matter for further and profound investigation. Unfortunately, the Kunze-Sturm specimen has lost its abdomen, so that its sex cannot be determined with certainty. Anyhow, it is simply a small specimen (7 millim.) of *Thanasimus formicarius* L. The antennae are for the greater part reddish, so that this individual approaches my var. *ruficornis* 1932. There seems to be no reason to maintain Spinola's name even for a variety- or aberration-name.

Also Spinola's picture (t. 25, f. 5) is exceptionally bad, even misleading. The basal red portion of the elytra is rendered much too narrow, and the subbasal greyish (not white) transverse fascia much too broad (this is probably what has misled Reitter on p. 49 (15) of his Bestimmungs-Tabelle 1894). The then following black portion is too narrow, and the subapical greyish (not white) transverse fascia is of correct width, but of incorrect outline and should not be interrupted at the suture.

I find nowhere original data of individuals with broad subbasal fascia, which, according to Reitter, should occur in Alsatia.

(to be continued.)