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TWO NEW SPECIES OF *ACMAEODERA* FROM  
SOUTHEASTERN TEXAS<sup>1</sup>  
(COLEOPTERA: BUPRESTIDAE)

JOSEF N. KNULL

*Department of Zoology and Entomology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio*

ABSTRACT

Two new buprestids from Texas, *Acmaeodera opuntiae* sp. n. and *A. starrae* sp. n. are described. These insects were collected in Starr County, Texas, in a rolling upland area with a semi-arid environment.

The following two new species of *Acmaeodera* were discovered while making collections of insects in Starr County in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. They were obtained in a rolling upland area which, because of its good drainage, provides a semiarid environment.

***Acmaeodera opuntiae* sp. n.**

figure 1

Male—Short, narrow; color dark brown with bronze luster, elytra a lighter brown with irregular mottled yellow markings.

Head convex, with large well-spaced, shallow umbilicate punctures, clothed with white pubescence; antennae extending beyond middle of pronotum when laid along side, serrate starting with fifth segment, segments five to nine inclusive, transverse.

Pronotum wider than long, wider than elytra at base, widest about middle; anterior margin

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sinuate, median lobe prominent, basal margin truncate; sides broadly rounded from apex to base; side margins not visible from above; disk convex, somewhat flattened in middle, a depression at middle of base and one on each side; surface with punctures separate in middle, much larger and becoming rugose on sides, a short white hair arising from each puncture.

Elytra at base slightly narrower than widest part of pronotum; sides constricted on basal third, then broadly rounded to apices, margin serrate on apical third; disk convex, umbone prominent, a median depression at base; surface with large oval striae punctures, interspaces slightly wider than punctures of striae near suture, narrower toward sides, minutely punctate, a stiff white hair arising from each puncture, second lateral interspace arising at umbone, widest and raised entire length.

Prosternal margin slightly retracted, truncate; abdomen beneath densely punctured, punctures separated by more than their own diameters, a short fine hair arising from each puncture, last sternite unmodified.

Length 4.2 mm.; width 1.5 mm.

Female.—Usually larger; antennal segments five to nine less transverse.

Type male and allotype collected in the flowers of giant opuntia (*Opuntia Lindheimeri*

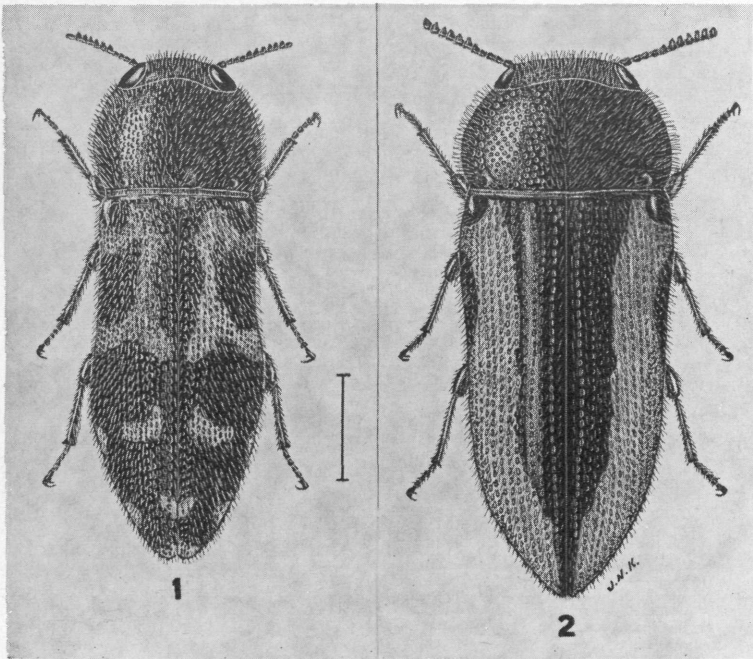


FIGURE 1. *Acmaeodera opuntiae* sp. n.

FIGURE 2. *Acmaeodera starrae* sp. n.

Line equals 1 mm.

Engelm.) 5 miles west of Sullivan City, Starr Co., Texas, March 30, 1963. Paratypes from same locality and collected under same ecological conditions as follows: March 28, 1950; March 20, 1952; April 2-13, 1961; March 30 to April 9, 1963; March 29 to April 9, 1964. All material collected by D. J. and J. N. Knull. Type, allotype and paratypes in collection of the author; paratypes in Ohio State University Collection.

Variations.—The only variations were in size which ranged from 3.4 to 5.5 mm. in length.

This species is closest to *A. neglecta* Fall (1899). It differs by being narrower and smaller in size, more rounded apically and hairs of elytra are wider. The author is indebted to P. J. Darlington, Jr. for information concerning the type of *neglecta*.

*Acmaeodera starrae* sp. n.

## figure 2

Male.—Short, rather broad; shining; color dark brown appearing black; each elytron with a wide irregular yellow stripe extending from just back of base to apex.

Head convex, a faint carina at middle on vertex, umbilicate punctures large and separated on front, smaller and becoming rugose toward vertex, clothed with white pubescence; antennae extending beyond middle of pronotum when laid along side, serrate from the fifth segment, segments five to ten inclusive transverse, wider than long.

Pronotum much wider than long, widest about middle; anterior margin sinuate, median lobe prominent; basal margin truncate; sides broadly rounded from apex to base, margins not visible from above; disk convex, a slight median depression at base and a deeper one each side; surface densely coarsely punctured, punctures separated by less than their own diameters, much coarser on sides; clothed with white pubescence.

Elytra at base narrower than widest part of pronotum; sides subparallel at base, constricted in basal third, then broadly rounded to apices, margin serrate from in front of middle; disk slightly flattened, umbone prominent, a broad basal depression; surface striately punctured, punctures larger toward sides, separated by less than their own diameters, punctures of interspaces plainly visible, a short white hair arising from each.

Prosternal margin slightly retracted, truncate; abdomen densely, finely punctate, a recumbent hair arising from each puncture, last sternite unmodified.

Length 5.2 mm.; width 1.7 mm.

Type male collected 5 miles west of Sullivan City, Starr Co., Texas, April 6, 1964. Paratypes from same area March 26, April 7, 9, 11, 1964. All specimens taken by D. J. and J. N. Knull. Holotype and paratypes in collection of author.

This species is near *A. neglecta* Fall. It differs from it and other small *Acmaeodera* found in that area by its black color and irregular yellow stripe on each elytron. The habits were different, in that all the specimens were taken from the ground where they had alighted. None were found in flowers.

Sizes vary from 4.8 to 6 mm.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Fall, H. C. 1899. Synopsis of the species of *Acmaeodera* of America, North of Mexico. Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc. 7: 1-37.
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