

A GENUS OF ANOBIIDAE UNRECORDED FROM THE UNITED STATES (COLEOPTERA)

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During a recent study of the Anobiidae of Ohio, I discovered four similar specimens in material borrowed from the United States National Museum which could not be placed in any genus known to be indigenous to the United States. Since the localities of collection are coastal, or nearly so, the possibility immediately arose that they represented a foreign genus and had been introduced into the United States. The specimens were identified as belonging to the European genus *Mesocoelopus*, and, at the suggestion of J. N. Knull, one was sent to the British Museum of Natural History. The generic determination was confirmed by E. B. Britton, Principle Scientific Officer, who further found that the material agreed exactly with a specimen of *M. collaris* Muls. & Rey (determined by Maurice Pic) in the collection.

The genus *Mesocoelopus* is nearly world-wide in distribution and until 1956 consisted of 25 known species. It is known from Europe, Africa, Madagascar, Sumatra, Java, Cuba, Costa Rica, and Guadeloupe, but has not, until now, been recorded from the American continent. For the benefit of American workers a description of the genus and species as derived from the four specimens follows.

MESOCOELOPUS DuVal

Mesocoelopus DuVal, 1860, p. 143.

Elongate oval; pubescence short, recumbent, moderate in density; punctures very fine, dense.

Head rather large, front evenly convex, moderately impressed beneath for antennae; eyes rather small (separated by about two times vertical diameter); antennae 11 segmented, serrate, last three segments not elongate; maxillary palpi elongate, somewhat triangular, inner angle curved; labial palpi broadly triangular, inner angle acute.

Pronotum nearly evenly convex but humped posteriorly at middle; scutellum pointed posteriorly, nearly triangular; elytra lacking striae, punctures somewhat larger than on rest of body.

Beneath: front coxae depressed, contiguous, concealed in repose; mesosternum nearly vertical posteriorly, broadly impressed in middle; middle coxae widely separated; anterior median edge of metasternum produced into a short, broad, ventrally directed hook-like process; metasternum nearly evenly convex from side to side; metepisterna narrowly exposed anteriorly, rather broadly so posteriorly; hind coxal plates somewhat wider laterally; first abdominal segment excavated for hind legs, visible at middle between coxae; segment 2 long, about equal to fifth, segments 3 and 4 rather short, equal; front tibiae normal, not concave or grooved on outer margin; first segment of tarsi equal to three following.

The genus *Mesocoelopus* belongs to the subfamily Dorcatominae and is most closely related to *Calorama* and *Cryptorama*; it appears nearly intermediate between the two in body form and other characters. It can be distinguished from both genera by antennal characters. The antennae of *Mesocoelopus* are 11 segmented, serrate, and the last three segments are not enlarged; those of *Calorama* and *Cryptorama* are not serrate and the last three segments are greatly enlarged. These organs are 10 segmented in *Calorama* and 11 segmented in *Cryptorama*.

Fall (1905) states that the metasternal hook-like process is an absolutely unique structure of *Calorama*; with the discovery of *Mesocoelopus* this is no longer true.

Mesocoelopus collaris Muls. & Rey

Mesocoelopus collaris Mulsant & Rey, 1864, p. 324.

Elongate oval, about 1.76 times longer than wide; light reddish brown to reddish brown above with rather darker areas evident, antennae (except first segment), front legs, and tarsi yellow to reddish yellow; body moderately shining; pubescence short, recumbent, moderate in density, yellowish, nearly uniform throughout; punctures very fine, dense, nearly uniform throughout.

Eyes rather small, separated by about two times vertical diameter; antennae a little longer than pronotum, segment 2 faintly triangular, longer than wide, 3 triangular, slightly longer than wide, 4 and 5 nearly pyramid-shaped, 4 as wide as long, 5 a little wider than long, 6 triangular, a little wider than long, 7 to 10 each slightly larger than 6, strongly triangular, about as wide as long, segment 11 one-half longer than 10, elongate oval, somewhat pointed; maxillary palpi elongate, nearly two times longer than wide, outer angle rather acute, inner angle rather broadly rounded; labial palpi broadly triangular, as wide as long, outer angle nearly a right angle, inner angle distinctly acute.

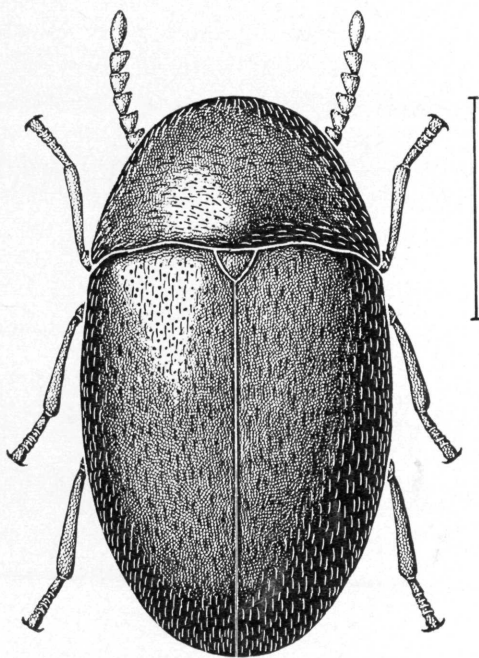


FIGURE 1. *Mesocoelopus collaris* Muls. & Rey (line equals 1 mm)

Pronotum humped posteriorly at middle, most obvious in lateral view, surface of elevation finely, rather densely granulate, basal margin sinuate; elytra as wide as pronotum, nearly evenly convex in lateral view, lateral margin finely serrate, most clearly so on posterior half.

Abdominal sutures broadly sinuate.

Length: 2.1 to 2.7 mm; width: 1.2 to 1.5 mm.

Redescribed from four specimens of unknown sex. One collected from Coatesville, Pa., May 28, 1948, by S. W. Bromley, labeled "with bored English ivy;" two from Roanoke, Va., June 19, 1933, E. M. Funkhouser, from same host; a fourth labeled Washington, D. C., collector Chittenden. Three specimens deposited in the United States National Museum and one in The Ohio State University collection.

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