

# A NEW SPECIES AND NEW GENUS OF GALERUCINAE (CHRYSOMELIDAE: COLEOPTERA)

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Schaeffer in 1906, described *Cneorane* (?) *acaciae* from Brownsville, Texas. He stated at the time that it did "not agree exactly with description of *Cneorane* by Chapuis." He placed *acaciae* in *Cneorane* because he did not observe terminal spurs on the tibiae, this character separating *Cneorane* from related American genera. Specimens of *acaciae* in The Ohio State University collection do have definite, though small, spurs on all tibiae. With this character in mind it seems that Schaeffer's species fits the description of *Malacorhinus* Jacoby very well.

There are at present two North American species included in *Malacorhinus*. These two, *M. maculatus* (Lec.) and *M. nigrescens* Schffr. appear out of place in association with *acaciae* and Jacoby's species. They differ by lacking spurs on anterior tibiae and by possessing an incision in lateral margin of the elytra. The elytral incision also occurs in *Androlyperus* Crotch. *M. maculatus* was originally described in *Androlyperus* and is probably much more closely related to that genus than to *Malacorhinus*. However, *Androlyperus* is described as lacking tibial spurs while *maculatus* and *nigrescens* possess spurs on middle and hind tibiae.

Since *M. maculatus* and *M. nigrescens* do not fit any known genus I hereby propose the name *Malacamerus* to be used for a new genus to contain them. *Androlyperus maculatus* Leconte, 1883, is designated genotype.

Following is a key to North American genera which are closely related to *Malacorhinus*. This group may be defined as having appendiculate tarsal claws, anterior coxal cavities open, elytral epipleura well defined, first segment of hind tarsus not longer than second and third together, form not strongly convex, and not entirely metallic blue.

### KEY TO THE GENERA

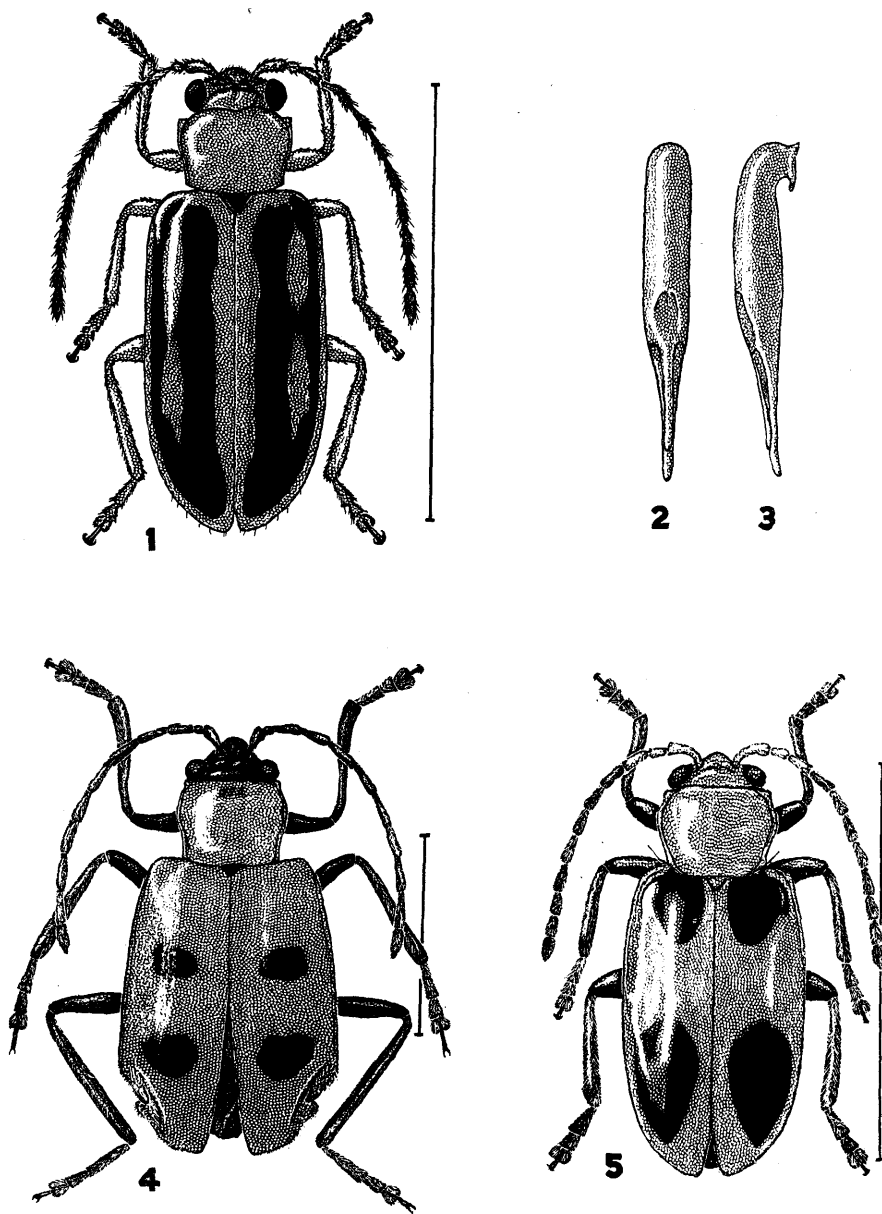
1. All tibiae lacking terminal spurs..... 2  
At least middle and hind tibiae with spurs..... 4
2. Anterior coxae separated by prosternum which is visible between..... 3  
Prosternum not visible between coxae, coxae contiguous..... *Cneorane* Baly
3. Pronotum black; male with lateral margin of elytra entire..... *Pseudoluperus* B. & H.  
Pronotum pale; male with lateral margin of elytra incised..... *Androlyperus* Crotch
4. Front tibiae without terminal spurs..... 5  
Front tibiae with spurs..... 6
5. Middle tibiae not notched; lateral margin of elytra incised in male; antennae with 11 segments..... *Malacamerus* n. gen.  
Middle tibiae deeply notched on inner side near apex; lateral margin of elytra entire in male; antennae with 10 or 11 segments..... (male) *Phyllecthrus* Lec.
6. Anterior coxae narrowly separated by prosternum; pronotum at base nearly as wide as elytra..... *Exora* Chev.  
Anterior coxae contiguous, prosternum not visible between them..... 7
7. Epipleura narrow, about as wide at base as middle of middle tibiae; pronotum usually with broad depression..... (female) *Phyllecthrus* Lec.  
Epipleura distinctly wider at base than middle of middle tibiae; surface of pronotum evenly convex..... *Malacorhinus* Jacoby

### *Malacorhinus* Jacoby

*Malacorhinus* Jacoby, 1887, Biologia Centrali Americana, Coleoptera 6(pt. 1):582.

Body elongate oval or oblong; palpi rather robust; antennae filiform, sometimes serrate in male, third segment distinctly longer than second; prothorax subquadrate, narrower at base than

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1. *Malacorhinus knullorum* n. sp., ♂.
2. *M. knullorum* n. sp., dorsal view of ♂ genitalia.
3. *M. knullorum* n. sp., lateral view of ♂ genitalia.
4. *Malacamerus maculatus* (Lec.) ♂.
5. *Malacorhinus acaciae* (Schffr.), ♂.

Line equals 4 mm. Drawings from specimens in The Ohio State University collection.

at apex; elytra generally widest at middle, often with a median lateral fovea; epipleura broad at base and extending below the middle; all tibiae with terminal spurs; first segment of posterior tarsi about as long as the following two together; claws appendiculate; anterior coxal cavities open; prosternum not visible between the coxae.

Jacoby designated his *Diabrotica foveipennis* as genotype and included eighteen other Central American species with it.

#### KEY TO THE NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF MALACORHINUS JACOBY

1. Legs and ventral side black or dark brown; elytra each with basal and apical black spot (fig. 5)..... **acaciae** (Schffr.)
- Legs and ventral side yellowish-brown; elytra each with two black longitudinal stripes, more or less confluent (fig. 1)..... **knullorum** n. sp.

#### **Malacorhinus acaciae** (Schaeffer)

##### Figure 5

*Cneorane* (?) *acaciae* Schaeffer, 1906, Brooklyn Inst. Mus. Sci. Bull. 1:246.

Elongate oval, slightly depressed; shining, brownish-yellow, each elytron with basal and elongate apical spot black, these spots often confluent. Head shining, finely punctulate, transversely impressed between eyes, subcarinate between antennae; labrum feebly emarginate; antennae reaching beyond the middle of elytra, first segment stout, clavate, slightly curved, longer than third, third slightly longer than second, not as long as fourth, fourth to eleventh subequal. Pronotum wider than long, much narrower at base than elytra, widest at apical third; lateral margin feebly arcuate, front angles prominent but not acute, hind angles not prominent; surface shining, sparsely punctulate. Elytra elongate, widest at middle, sides feebly arcuate; brownish-yellow, each with a basal black spot and an elongate spot on apical third, these two may be confluent; surface very finely alutaceous, finely, irregularly punctulate, glabrous. Ventral surface sparsely punctate and pubescent; third segment of maxillary palpi shorter and stouter than second, fourth slightly longer than third, conical, acute at tip. Male elytra broadly impressed near side margin from umbone to a little below middle.

Length 4-5 mm., width 1.7-2.1 mm.

This species has been taken at Brownsville, Texas from May to July. The food plant is recorded as *Acacia flexicaulis*.

*M. acaciae* (Schffr.) seems to agree very closely in form to *M. foveipennis* Jac. which is the type species of the genus. It is very similar in appearance to *M. guatemalensis* Jacoby, differing from that species in size and the presence of median lateral fovea on the male.

#### **Malacorhinus knullorum** n. sp.

##### Figures 1, 2, 3

Elongate oval, sides of elytra nearly parallel; yellowish-brown; elytra each with two black stripes which may be coalescent. Head entirely pale, alutaceous, impunctate, a single hair just behind each eye; interocular distance half the width of head across the eyes; tubercles limited behind by a deep depression extending from posterior margin of eye arcuately across head; inter-antennal carina short, feebly convex. Antennae three quarters the length of body, basal three segments pale, rest black, second segment short, third nearly twice as long as second, nearly as long as fourth, fourth to eleventh subequal, fourth segment of male slightly angulate, of female straight. Pronotum half again as wide as long, much narrower than elytra at base, wider at apex than at base; sides nearly straight, anterior margin slightly emarginate, posterior margin arcuate; surface evenly convex, shining, finely, sparsely punctulate. Scutellum black, shining, impunctate. Each elytron three times as long as wide, humeri prominent; epipleura wide, concave at base, extending to apical angles; margins and suture broadly pale, a poorly defined median stripe also pale, the rest black; surface finely alutaceous, moderately shining; punctation moderate, close; glabrous. Palpi robust, fourth segment slightly longer than third, conical, acute at tip; under side entirely pale, pubescent with scattered, rather long hairs. Aedeagus with long narrow tip, recurved at base; orificial plate long, narrow, sides parallel.

Length 4-6 mm., width 2-3 mm.

Holotype: ♂ collected by D. J. and J. N. Knull at Oak Creek Canyon, Arizona (Coconino County), August 15, 1938. Allotype and four paratypes (1 ♂ and 3 ♀ ♀), same data. All these specimens are deposited in The Ohio State University collection. Also two paratypes (1 ♂ and 1 ♀) in the writer's collection, same data.

The two sexes are very similar in form and color. The female is usually larger and has fourth antennal segment normal. The pale median area on the elytra is more definite in female so each elytron has two black stripes. In male it usually consists of two small pale spots.

This species looks a little out of place in *Malacorhinus*. It resembles in form some *Phyllecthrus*, however it has the characters of tibial spurs and contiguous coxae in common with the species Jacoby placed in *Malacorhinus*. It is more parallel, more depressed, and lacks the median lateral fovea of typical members of that genus.

**Malacamerus** n. gen.

*Malacorhinus* Jacoby, Horn, 1893, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. 20:120.

Form elongate oval or oblong; palpi rather stout, terminal segment conical, acute at tip; antennae slender, third segment longer than second, shorter than fourth; pronotum subquadrate, broader than long, widest at apical third, surface without depressions; elytra oval, broader in male, lateral margin in male with deep incision at apical angle surrounded by long pubescence, epipleura broad at base, extending to incisure or apical angle in female; anterior coxal cavities open; prosternum extending narrowly between coxae; tarsal claws appendiculate; anterior tibiae without terminal spurs, middle and hind tibiae with spurs; first segment of posterior tarsi as long as following two together.

Genotype *Androlyperus maculatus* Leconte. This name is selected because the two species form a group which was considered to be a part of *Malacorhinus*.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF MALACAMERUS N. GEN.

- 1. Elytra red, each with a black spot at basal third and one at apical third (fig. 4), **maculatus** (Lec.)
- Elytra black or brown with suture and margins reddish.....**nigrescens** (Schffr.)

**Malacamerus maculatus** (Lec.)

Figure 4

*Androlyperus maculatus* Leconte, 1883, Class. Coleop. N. Amer., p. 349; Leconte, 1884, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. 12:28. *Malacorhinus maculatus* (Lec.), Horn, 1893, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. 20:121. *Malacosoma cimex* Allard, 1889, Bull. Soc. Ent. Belg. T 33:68.

Color red; head, scutellum, antennae, legs, meso- and metasternum, last abdominal segment and two spots on each elytron black. Head smooth, shining; frontal tubercles flat, sharply delimited; clypeus with very strong, broad, median carina and a circular alutaceous depression on each side; front below eyes depressed and alutaceous. Pronotum shining, with scattered, very fine punctures; lateral margin sinuate, front angles prominent, swollen, hind angles obtuse; posterior margin evenly arcuate. Elytra impunctate, very finely alutaceous in male, smooth and shining in female; surface around incision of male strongly depressed and pubescent with long white hairs, margin strongly sinuate behind incision. Outer segments of antennae coarsely punctate; second segment small, one third the length of third, third and fifth subequal, fourth longer. Prosternum sparsely pubescent, meso- and metasternum more densely so, shining. Last ventral segment of male truncate, sinuate at apex, surface broadly foveate; of female evenly rounded, convex.

Length 7-9 mm., width 3.3-4.2 mm.

This species occurs in southern California. The types in the Leconte collection are from San Diego. A series in The Ohio State University collection was taken by D. J. and J. N. Knull in the Santa Rosa Mountains (Riverside Co.).

**Malacamerus nigrescens** (Schffr.)

*Malacorhinus nigrescens* Schaeffer, 1906, Brooklyn Inst. Mus. Sci. Bull. 1:246.

Color red; clypeal region, femora, disc of elytra, and metasternum black; tibiae, tarsi, and apices of antennal segments brownish. Head smooth, shining; a fine, transverse impression

between eyes; front not carinate. Second antennal segment small, third longer but not so long as fourth, fourth as long as first. Prothorax narrower at apex than at base, front angles prominent, swollen, hind angles distinct; surface shining, finely, irregularly punctate. Elytra black with reddish margins and suture, the black more intense at base and apex; depression surrounding elytral incision tuberculate. Last ventral segment of male with a narrow, deep median fovea.

Length 5 mm.

The type specimen in the Schaeffer collection was taken in Utah.

The author has not seen any specimens of this species. Schaeffer in his description suggests, because of the varying intensity of black on the elytra, that specimens may occur in which the elytra are red with black basal and elongate apical spots.

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