

THREE NEW SPECIES OF *APHRICUS* WITH A NOTE ON *CTENICERA*

(COLEOPTERA: ELATERIDAE)

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In studying Elateridae the three following new forms were observed.

***Aphricus neomexicanus* n. sp.**

Male.—Narrow elongate; light brown throughout, ventral surface, legs and antennae lighter.

Head slightly depressed on front, supra-antennal margin of frons continuous above labrum, finely carinate; labrum connate with clypeus and in same plane; surface densely, finely punctate, densely pubescent; antennae extending beyond humeral angles of elytra when laid along side, ratio of lengths of segments 1 to 11, 2: 1: 1.5: 2: 2: 2: 2: 2: 1.9: 2.6.

Pronotum about as long as broad, widest in front of middle; anterior margin broadly rounded, median lobe broad; basal margin sinuate, median lobe emarginate; side margins broadly rounded in front, then converging to slightly divergent hind angles, carina extending along side from hind angle to beyond middle; disk convex; surface densely, minutely punctate, clothed with recumbent pubescence. Scutellum heart-shaped, depressed in middle.

Elytra near base wider than widest part of pronotum; sides subparallel near base, constricted about middle then broadly rounded posteriorly to suture; disk convex, striate, punctures of striae small, well separated, interspaces minutely punctate, densely clothed with short recumbent pubescence.

Beneath mesocoxae separated, meso- and metathoracic suture distinct between mesocoxae, which are enclosed by meso- and metasternum, prothoracic sternopleural sutures slightly arcuate. Abdomen beneath densely minutely punctate, recumbent pubescence dense. Legs slender; tarsal segments 1 to 4 decreasing in length, claws with a tooth near apex.

Length 5 mm.; width 1.4 mm.

♀—unknown.

Described from specimens collected at light in Filmore Canyon, Organ Mountains near Los Cruces, New Mexico, July 12, 1956 by H. and A. Howden.

♂ holotype and paratypes in collection of author. Paratypes in collection of H. F. Howden to whom I am indebted for the material. Also in collection of M. C. Lane and Canadian National Collection.

***Aphricus knowltoni* n. sp.**

Male.—Narrow, elongate; light brown throughout; antennae and mouth parts darker, abdomen beneath a much darker brown.

Head convex, front depressed; supra-antennal margin of frons continuous above labrum, finely carinate; labrum connate with clypeus and in same plane; surface densely finely punctate, clothed with recumbent light pubescence; antennae extending three segments beyond hind angles of pronotum, ratio of lengths of segments 1 to 11, 1.8: .8: 1.6: 1.8: 1.8: 1.9: 2: 2.1: 2.1: 2: 2.8.

Pronotum much wider than head, slightly longer than wide, widest about middle, wider at base than at apex; anterior margin sinuately rounded, median lobe broadly rounded; basal margin strongly sinuate; sides broadly rounded, hind angles produced, divergent, carinate externally; disk convex; surface densely minutely punctate, clothed with short recumbent pubescence. Scutellum heart-shaped, densely pubescent.

Elytra near base wider than widest part of pronotum; sides subparallel in front, broadly rounded posteriorly to suture; disk convex, striate, punctures of striae coarse and closely placed, punctures of interspaces minute; surface densely clothed with short recumbent pubescence intermixed with longer more upright hairs.

Beneath mesocoxae separated, meso- and meta-thoracic suture distinct between mesocoxae, which are enclosed by meso- and metasternum, prothoracic sternopleural sutures straight, slightly converging posteriorly. Abdomen beneath densely minutely punctate, clothed with fine pubescence. Legs slender; tarsal segments from 1 to 4 inclusive decreasing in length; claws not serrate.

Length 4.8 mm.; width 1.6 mm.

♀—unknown.

Holotype ♂ and paratypes labeled Washington, Utah, June 27, 1937, D. J. and J. N. Knull, collectors; one labeled Utah and one Cameron, Arizona, Aug. 19, 1950, D. J. and J. N. Knull, all in collection of author. Also St. George, Utah, July, H. F. Wickham; St. George, June 15 and July 29, E. W. Davis on *Chilopsis linearis* D. C. and *Hymenoclea salsola* T. & G., and Moab, Aug. 10, 1906 in collection of M. C. Lane to whom I am indebted for loan of material.

Variations. Color of dorsal surface is darker in one specimen, also the head and antennae vary to dark brown.

It can be separated from our other forms by its color.

I take pleasure in naming this species for G. F. Knowlton who has added a lot to our knowledge of the insect fauna of Utah.

***Aphricus texanus* n. sp.**

Male.—Narrow, elongate, dark brown; mouth parts lighter; body and legs densely pubescent.

Head convex; surface densely, finely punctate, glabrous on vertex, pubescence long; mandibles prominent; labrum connate with clypeus and in same plane; supra-antennal margin of frons continuous above labrum, finely carinate; antennae extending beyond middle of elytra when laid along side, ratio of lengths of segments 1 to 11, 2: 1: 2.2: 2.8: 2.8: 3: 3.2: 3.2: 3.4: 3.2.

Pronotum longer than wide, widest in front of middle; sides rounded in front, converging posteriorly, hind angles divergent with short fine carina on side near base; disk convex; surface densely punctured, punctures coarser than on head; dense pubescence long. Scutellum heart-shaped.

Elytra at base wider than widest part of pronotum; sides subparallel, broadly rounded apically to acutely rounded apices; disk with rows of coarse punctures, separated by less than their own diameters, punctures larger than those of pronotum, interspaces minutely punctate, sutural margin raised near apex, fifth interspace of elytron carinate near apex, long pubescence dense.

Beneath with metasternum truncate anteriorly, mesocoxae separated, meso- and meta-thoracic suture distinct between mesocoxae, which are enclosed by meso- and metasternum; prothoracic sternopleural sutures arcuate, slightly converging posteriorly. Abdomen beneath finely punctate, pubescence long. Legs slender, tarsal claws not toothed.

Length 5.1 mm.; width 1.4 mm.

♀—unknown.

Holotype ♂ collected at light 15 miles northeast of Rio Grande City, Texas, June 2, 1954, by H. F. Howden, in collection of author. I am indebted to Dr. Howden for the specimen.

This species is closest to *A. californicus* Lec. The shorter form, convex, coarsely punctured pronotum will separate it.

The following key will serve to separate males of genus *Aphricus*.

1. Sides of prothorax marginate from base to beyond middle. 2
- Sides of prothorax not marginate. 3
2. Second and third segments of antenna united not equal to length of fourth; tarsal claw without tooth. *tenuis* Fall
- Second and third segments of antenna united longer than fourth; tarsal claw with tooth. *neomexicanus* n. sp.
3. Pronotum and elytra not the same color. *luteipennis* Fall
- Pronotum and elytra same color. 4
4. Second and third antennal segments taken together longer than fifth. 5
- Second and third antennal segments taken together shorter than fifth. 6
5. Color light brown; fifth interspace of elytra not carinate near apex. *knowltoni* n. sp.
- Color dark brown; fifth interspace of elytra carinate near apex. *texanus* n. sp.
6. Fifth interspace of elytra carinate near apex. *californicus* Lec.
- Fifth interspace of elytra not carinate near apex. *lanei* Knull

Ctenicera acuta (Knull)

This species which was described as an *Aplastus* (1946) should be placed in *Ctenicera* as we know the genus today.

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