

series $\frac{64-71}{13}$. Dorsal (XV) XVI (10) 11, the last spine a little less than $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of head, the soft fin scaly at the base. Anal VI (8) 9. Pectoral nearly as long as the head. Caudal rounded. Caudal peduncle about $\frac{2}{3}$ as long as deep. Body with obscure dark cross-bars; a dark spot on the origin of the lateral line, another on the operculum, a third on the middle of the side, and a fourth on the upper part of the base of caudal; vertical fins with dark spots.

Colombia; Venezuela.

1-2. (123 and 168 mm.) Baranquilla, Colombia. Kay Thomson, E-g.

[To be continued.]

XXXVII.—*On new Species of Histeridae and Notices of others.*
By G. LEWIS, F.L.S.

[Plate X.]

THE object of this paper—the twenty-fifth of the series—is to make a few observations on the ‘Catalogue of the Histeridæ’ published last March, to describe a few species of interest, and to explain the contents of the Plate now published.

In the ‘Catalogue’ I did not include the “catalogue-names” of Dejean or Marseul. Marseul gave over fifty duplicate names to species in his Catalogue of 1862, because he considered that no two species of the same family should bear similar names; but this rule only obtains generally as regards genera. The names of Dejean and Marseul are entered in the Munich Catalogue. Some authors, again, have given varietal names to specimens, often unique, and therefore names of individuals, not of races; these names were treated as synonymic.

I think that Marseul did not always attach sufficient importance in his arrangement of the genera to the form of the mesosternum in the Histeridæ; he placed, for instance, *Luchycerarus* and *Phelister*, which have a projecting mesosternum, between *Platysoma* and *Omalodes*, in which the mesosternum is emarginate; but by associating the two former genera with *Probolosternus* and *Monoplius*, as I have done, the species seem to occupy a more natural position.

When we find an emargination in the mesosternum of a species of this family we see an insect with a different mode of life to those in which the mesosternum is acuminate or bisinuous, and we can understand the several advantages

attached to these structures. The mechanical action of the emarginate mesosternum is that a species, such as those of *Hololepta*, *Hister*, and *Paromalus*, can move the thorax easily sideways, as the rounded-off base of the prosternum works freely to and fro in the mesosternal incision; and the mechanical utility of a projecting mesosternum with a corresponding incision in the keel of the prosternum, such as that in *Trypanæus* and *Pachycærus*, is that by the close fitting of the segments the one in the other the column of the body is strengthened in forcing a way in a direct line through any obstructed passage they may seek to enter. *Trypanæus* especially finds obstacles in the holes of the *Platypi* and other wood-boring species on which they feed. Marseul, in his monograph, at first placed the "*Trypanæus*" after the "*Saprinæus*," but in 1862 he installed them after the "*Hololeptæus*," leaving the genus *Teretrius* in the "*Abrèvus*"; but I think *Teretrius* and its allies cannot be separated from the *Trypanæi*.

I have not overlooked the fact that the genus *Hister*, as now constituted with its 365 species, has sometimes a truncate mesosternum, sometimes a sinuous outline, and sometimes it is markedly emarginate. Thomson founded the genus *Atholus*, of which *Hister corvinus*, Germ., is the type, but he associated with it other very different species, such as *H. bimaculatus*, L., and these, I think, cannot be set together. *Hister truncatisternus*, Lew., from Central America, *H. obtusisternus*, Sch., from East Africa, and others from widely distant places have truncate sterna, but are very dissimilar to *H. corvinus*. In the genus *Hister* the mesosternum varies in form; in other genera, as in *Omalodes*, it is similar in all the species.

Hister orientalis, Payk. (Mon. p. 17, pl. xiii. fig. 7, 1811), a common species in India and Ceylon, was omitted by an oversight in my Catalogue.

List of Species, arranged generically.

<i>Hololepta obtusipes</i> , Mars.	<i>Eblisia tenuipes</i> , sp. n.
<i>Pygocælis</i> sp.	<i>Mucrolister striatisternus</i> , sp. n.
<i>Teretriosoma sexuale</i> , Schaeffer.	<i>Hister dauphini</i> , sp. n.
<i>Plesius hamatus</i> , sp. n.	<i>Coryphæus violaceus</i> , sp. n.
— <i>asperimargo</i> , sp. n.	<i>Notodoma saturum</i> , Lew.
— <i>striatipectus</i> , sp. n.	<i>Lissosternus gracilipes</i> , sp. n.
<i>Platysoma rince</i> , sp. n.	<i>Saprinus sinaiticus</i> , Crotch.
<i>Cylistosoma epilissum</i> , sp. n.	<i>Abrævus fakir</i> , sp. n.

Hololepta obtusipes, Mars.

Marscul only knew the female of this species; the male has a carina on the mentum, but it has no thoracic fossettes. It occurs in Java, Sumatra, and in the Malay Peninsula.

PYGOCÆLIS, Lewis.

The first species of this genus came from Togoland, Kamerun, and German East Africa, and I have now a species from Madagascar. A genus extending over so wide an area is likely to contain very numerous species.

Teretriosoma sexuale, Schaeffer, Journ. N. York Ent. Soc. xii. p. 203 (1905).

This species differs from *T. conigerum*, Low., in the punctuation of the sternal plates, and it is more robust. The paper containing the description did not reach me in time for a reference to it in my Catalogue.

Plusius hamatus, sp. n.

Oblongo-ovalis, subdepressus, niger, nitidus; fronte stria interrupta; pronoto stria marginali antice juncta, laterali valida antice hamata; elytris striis 1 dorsali integra, 2-5 apicalibus, margine postico punctulata; propygidio in medio sparso punctato; pygidio dense punctato; prosterno bistriato; mesosterno antice profundo marginato.

L. 10½-11 mill.

This species is similar to *P. lævigatus*, Mars., but it is larger and broader; the frontal stria is distinctly interrupted and widens out on either side of the interruption into a shallow and rather rugose depression; the thorax is straighter along the sides than that of *lævigatus* and the lateral stria or sulcus reaches as far again round the anterior angle; the elytral striæ, the outer humeral is complete and not widened out like that of *lævigatus*, the inner humeral is apical and evanescent near the middle, the first dorsal is complete and less crenulate, the other striæ are less defined but do not differ much from those of *lævigatus*, the apices are distinctly but rather narrowly punctulate; the propygidium is much less closely punctured in the middle; the prosternum has a few punctures on its lobe and the striæ are wider apart than those of *lævigatus*; the mesosternal margination is closely similar in both species.

This is the third species known with a deep marginal stria or furrow in the mesosternum.

Hab. Tongking (*A. Weiss*, 1901). Two examples in the Museum of Paris and one in my own collection.

Plusius asperimargo, sp. n.

Oblongus, subconvexus, niger, nitidus; fronte transversim punctata, stria obsoleta; pronoto lateribus conspicue rugoso-punctato; clytris striis dorsalibus, 1 integra, 2 striato-punctata; propygidio utrinque grosse, in medio minor, punctato; prosterno bistriato, lobo grosse et profunde punctato.

L. 11 mill.

This species differs from *P. Mouhoti*, Lew., in being more oblong and less convex, and the sculpture of the lateral thoracic margin is close and rugose, resembling that figured for *Platysoma frontale*, Payk., in Marseul's Mon. fig. 13 (1853), and the second dorsal stria and the inner humeral stria are more punctiform. The thoracic punctuation of *P. Mouhoti* is scattered and irregular. The general outline of *P. asperimargo* is similar to *Plusiodes caffer*, Er. It is the eleventh species of *Plusius* now known.

Hab. Burma.

Plusius striatipectus, sp. n.

P. cossyphi simillimis, sed prosterno bistriato et propygidio pygidioquo multo minus punctatis.

L. $9\frac{1}{2}$ - $10\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

This species is extremely similar to *P. cossyphus*, Mars., but the frontal striæ are less marked, the lateral thoracic stria is less deep, the first dorsal stria is represented by punctures at the base of the elytra, the apical margin of the elytra is less punctulate, the pygidia are finely and more moderately punctured, and the prosternum is bistrate.

The trivial name points to a very important character.

Hab. New Britain (*A. Willey*, 1895-97). Two examples.

Platysoma rimæ, sp. n.

Oblongum, depressum, nigrum, nitidum; fronto punctulata in medio impressa; pronoto lateribus punctato; clytris striis 1-3 integris, 4-5 brevissimis; mesosterno marginato; tibiis anticis 4-dentatis.

L. $3\frac{1}{4}$ - $3\frac{3}{4}$ mill.

Oblong, depressed, black and shining; the head, surface finely punctulate, the transverse stria is somewhat obscure

but complete; the thorax, the lateral stria is feebly sinuous and hamate at the basal angle, anteriorly it continues behind the head, but is obscurely broken behind the eyes, laterally the thorax is distinctly punctulate; the elytra, the humeral striæ are wanting, dorsal 1-3 complete, 4-5 apical and very short and partly punctiform; the propygidium is impressed on either side and its punctures are irregular in size and placement; the pygidium is less distinctly impressed on each side, but the punctuation is more regular, there is no raised rim; the prosternum, keel is without striæ; the mesosternum is marginate and widely sinuous; the anterior tibiæ are 4-dentate.

This species, with *P. rimarium*, Er., and *P. novum*, Lew., belong to an Indian section of the genus in which the thorax is punctured laterally. *P. rimæ* is distinctly less broad than *P. rimarium*.

Hab. N.W. India (*E. P. Stebbing*). Many examples.

Cylistosoma epilissum, sp. n.

Cylindricum, parum elongatum, nigrum, nitidum; fronto excavata, stria lato interrupta; pronoto stria marginali integra; elytris striis brevissimis, suturali evanescenti; tibiis anticis 4-5-spinosis.
L. 3 mill.

Cylindrical, somewhat elongate, black and shining; the head, forehead, and clypeus are excavated and the lateral stria ceases at the edge of the excavation, the surface has a few fine punctures and a few large ones irregularly mingled together; the thorax, marginal stria is complete and somewhat carinate at the base, the surface is punctured like the head, and there is a fine antescutellar puncture a little distant from the edge; the scutellum is narrow, elongate, and triangular; the elytra, outer humeral stria is interrupted in the middle, inner very short, rather deep, and basal, the first dorsal is basal and nearly dimidiate, 2-3 are represented by two punctures at the base, the sutural stria is apical, very faint, and composed of fine points, which cease near the middle of the dorsum; the pygidia have fine and large scattered points; the prosternum is bistrate; the mesosternum is widely sinuous, not margined anteriorly, but laterally there is a well-marked stria; the metasternum is canaliculate; the tibiæ are all 4-5-spinose.

There are two species in the Museum of Paris similar to the above in structure and sculpture; one of them is coloured above like a species of *Lachycærus* and the other is somewhat metallic.

Hab. Imanombo, Madagascar (*Dr. J. Decorse*, 1901). In the Museum of Paris and my own collection. Six examples.

Ellisia tenuipes, sp. n.

Oblonga, parâbela, depressa, picea, nitida; fronto impressa, tenuiter punctulata; pronoto antico biimpresso; clytris striis 1-4 integris, 5 basi abbreviata, suturali nulla; pedibus brevibus.
L. 3½ mill.

Oblong, parallel, depressed, piceous and shining; the head is very finely punctulate, impressed in the middle, the lateral stria is well marked, but it does not reach the anterior angle of the head, the frontal stria is much less distinct and abbreviated on either side; the thorax is wider than long, the lateral stria is sinuous, shallow, and there are slight impressions and rugosities along its course, the stria is continued behind the head, where it is irregularly crenulate; the elytra, there are two fine epipleural striæ, but no humeral, the dorsal striæ 1-4 are complete, 5 is parallel to the suture, shortened before the base, where there is a small puncture; the propygidium is feebly impressed on either side and its punctures are shallow, not closely set, and some are oval; the pygidium is more evenly punctured, punctures are circular and on each side it is somewhat deeply impressed, with the outer rim raised; the prosternum has a fine marginal stria round its base, but the stria does not pass the coxæ; the mesosternum is emarginate behind the keel and has a fine marginal stria; the anterior tibiæ are 5-dentate, the tarsal groove is short and shallow, and not curved, corresponding in length to the tarsi, which are all somewhat short; the legs are rather long and slender.

I cannot compare this species with any other known. It is convenient at present to place it in the genus *Ellisia* on account of its tarsal grooves; but *Eblisia* and its members require revision.

Hab. Yunnan (*Donckier*). One example.

Macrolister striatisternus, sp. n.

Oblongo-oratus, convexiusculus, niger, nitidus; fronte lævi, stria integra antice subrecta; pronoto striis lateralibus integris, stria interna haud interrupta; clytris striis 1-3 integris, suturali basi abbreviata; propygidio pygidioque dense punctatis; prosterno inter coxas bistriato; mesosterno emarginato; tibiis anticis 3-dentatis.
L. 11 mill.

Ann. & Mag. N. Hist. Ser. 7. Vol. xvi.

Oblong-oval, rather convex, black and shining; the head is smooth, with the frontal stria complete and nearly straight anteriorly and somewhat lightly impressed; the thorax is slightly ciliate on the lateral edges, the two lateral striæ are parallel to each other and well marked, the inner stria continues, and is rather fine, behind the head; the elytra, striæ, inner humeral apical and dimidiate, 1-3 complete and strong, with the edges feebly crenulate, 4 short, apical, and almost obsolete, sutural fine, shortened apically, and scarcely reaches the middle; the pygidia are densely punctured; the prosternum has two striæ between the coxæ, which widen out behind, but do not reach the base, and apparently join base anteriorly; the mesosternum is emarginate and the stria is complete and rather fine, and it does not follow the outline of the emargination; the anterior tibiæ are strongly 3-dentate.

In outline this species agrees with *M. intrepidus*, Lew., but the dense punctuation of the pygidia and the prosternal stria are good distinguishing characters.

Hab. Bilé, Angola.

Hister dauphini, sp. n.

Breviter ovatus, convexiusculus, niger, nitidus; stria frontali integra antica subrecta; pronoto stria laterali externa brevi, interna integra; elytris striis validis, 1-3 dorsalibus integris, humerali interna dimidiata, cæteris nullis; propygidio pygidioque parce punctatis; mesosterno emarginato, stria integra; tibiis anticis 3-dentatis.

L. 8 mill.

Shortly oval, somewhat convex, black and shining; the head impunctate and very feebly impressed on its vertex, stria complete and strong, almost straight in front; the thorax smooth, outer lateral stria is short and confined to the anterior angle, inner complete, somewhat deep and a little sinuous, continued and somewhat crenulate behind the head; the elytra, inner humeral stria strong, apical, and dimidiate, 1-3 dorsal similarly strong but complete, 4 is represented by an apical puncture, all the striæ have crenulate edges; the propygidium and pygidium are moderately punctured; the prosternum is smooth; the mesosternum is emarginate in the middle, with a rather fine marginal stria; the anterior tibiæ are strongly 3-dentate.

This species is considerably larger than *H. sikoræ*, Lew., also from Madagascar.

Hab. Diego Suarez, Madagascar.

Coryphæus violaceus, sp. n.

Oblongo-oratus, subconvexus, violaceus, nitidus, haud pilosus; pedibus antennisque brunneis; fronte in medio foveolata; pronoto lateribus conspicue rugoso-punctato ad angulos lævibus; clytris striis, humerali interna brevi arcuata, dorsalibus 1-3 integris; pygidio læviter punctulato; prosterno bistriato.
L. 6 mill.

Oblong-oval, somewhat convex, violet-blue, shining, not pilose; legs and antennæ obscurely brown, with the thighs slightly bluish; the head is foveolate on its vertex, with the frontal stria strong and complete and angulate at the eyes, surface finely punctulate except in the fovea and in two anterior impressions, where the points are large; the thorax, median area very finely punctulate, with a broad lateral band of "grater-like" punctures, the punctures continue narrowly behind the neck, but the anterior angles are free of points; the olytra, surface finely punctulate, striæ, inner humeral well-marked, short and bent, dorsal 1-3 complete and rather strong, 4 traceable throughout but punctiform on the posterior half, 5 obsolete, sutural wanting; the pygidia are very finely punctulate, with a few larger points in the middle of the base of the propygidium; the mesosternum is obscurely marginate; the prosternum, anterior lobe markedly sinuous on the anterior edge, bistrate, striæ meeting anteriorly.

Coryphæus Wallacei, Mars., the type of the genus, is from Dorci, N. New Guinea, and it is also recorded by Marseul from the Fly River; it has five dorsal striæ complete and the sutural stria is entire also, but not well marked at the base. I have a fourth species of this genus, but the specimen is not in good condition and the locality is not known to me.

Hab. Mount Kina Balu, N. Borneo.

Notodoma saturum, Lew. (Pl. X. fig. 9.)

This species is figured chiefly to show the metasternal arched stria. *N. bullatum*, Mars., has no such stria, and in *N. nigrum*, Lew., the only other dark-coloured species known, the metasternal stria is represented by punctures only. In Marseul's description of *N. globatum*, the type of the genus, this important character is not noticed, nor is it given in his figure of the species.

LISSOSTERNUS, gen. nov.

Body ovate, convex; head retractile; mandibles large and incurved, acuminate at the tips; antennæ, scape dilated,
23*

joint 1 globose, 2-7 small and gradually becoming more transverse, club oval and somewhat elongate; thorax widest at the base, sulcate laterally; elytra feebly striate; propygidium rather wide and semicircular in outline; pygidium nearly circular; the prosternum, the keel is relatively wide and the base has an arched outline to receive the mesosternum, which is obtusely projected; the legs are long, with the tibiæ slightly dilated, tarsal grooves scarcely traceable.

Lissosternus gracilipes, sp. n. (Pl. X. fig. 10.)

Ovatus, convexus, rufo-brunneus; fronto antice sinuata; pronoto minute tuberculato, stria laterali valida impressa; elytris striis tenuissimis; prosterno vix lato, bistriato.

L. 1 mill.

Oval, convex, reddish brown, and shining; the head is sinuous anteriorly in outline; the thorax, anterior edge bisinuous, lateral stria well marked, with the outer edge clearly punctured, on the vertex there are a few minute tubercles, the four in front of the scutellum are set transversely; the elytra, the dorsal striae are very faint and shortened, except the sutural, which is more marked and complete; the propygidium is semicircular posteriorly, with small tubercles along the edge and some less defined on its surface; the prosternum is rather wide, the keel is smooth and polished, with two lateral striae, which widen out towards the base, the anterior lobe has shallow punctures; the mesosternum, along the anterior edge are a few punctures and on either side a very fine stria which terminate in a small excavation behind the acumination, laterally there are two very fine striae and there is no visible suture to it and the metasternum.

The figure of this species is an excellent drawing; the insect is probably formicicolous.

Hab. Bahia.

Crotch reported a species of *Saprinus* from Syria in the 'Ordnance Survey of Sinai,' published at Southampton in 1869, in these words:—

"*Saprinus sinaiticus*, sp. n. The only difference that I can discover, from description [between it and *S. figuratus*, Mars.], is in the punctuation of the thorax; in *figuratus* there are three separate defined smooth patches, here all three are united into one, showing only faint indentations to indicate its possible division."

At present it is best to consider *S. sinaiticus* a nondescript. The prosternal striae in *S. figuratus* are so peculiar that I

think Crotch would have found good specific characters in the sterna if his species was really distinct; but there is no evidence that Crotch examined the undersides of his specimens.

Abræus fakir, sp. n.

Circularis, convexus, niger, subnitidus, supra dense subrugose punctatus, setulis erectis seriatim; antennis pedibusque obscure rufo-brunneis; fronte punctata haud impressa; mesosterno postico crenulato, laterali marginato; metasterno in medio tenuissimo canaliculato.

L. $1\frac{1}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

Body nearly circular in outline, convex, black, densely and somewhat rugosely punctate, with erect setæ arranged in lines on the upper surface; the head is less coarsely punctured than the thorax and is not impressed on its vertex; the thorax, the basal transverse line is vaguely shown by the disposition of the punctures; the propygidium is setose, like the clytra, but the pygidium is without setæ and the punctuation is smaller and clearer; the prosternum is wide and nearly straight at the base; the mesosternum is crenulate along its basal edge, the crenulations are about twelve in number, it is marginate laterally, and the marginal stria continues half down the metasternum; the metasternum is very feebly canaliculate longitudinally in the middle; all the sterna have similar large punctures, which are somewhat densely set.

This species may be placed near *A. cohæres*, Lew., but it is smaller and has a crenulate edge to the base of the mesosternum. Paykull's Indian species *exilis* has a fine dorsal punctuation, but it is a species I have not seen.

Hab. Khandesh District, India (*T. R. Bell*, 1903). Many examples.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE X.

- Fig.* 1. *Hololepta Fæa*, Lew.
Fig. 2. *Lioderma intersectum*, Low.
Fig. 3. *Hister aino*, Lew.
Fig. 4. — *latistrius*, Lew.
Fig. 5. *Pachycærus sulcicollis*, Lew.
Fig. 6. Ditto. Side view of pygidin.
Fig. 7. *Pachycærus princeps*, Lew.
Fig. 8. *Chulcurgus brevipennis*, Lew.
Fig. 9. *Notodoma saturum*, Lew.
Fig. 10. *Lissosternus gracilipes*, sp. n.
Fig. 11. *Saprinus inversus*, Lew. } Outlines of the sulci in the pygidia of
Fig. 12. — *aterrimus*, Er. } the females.

Except for the new species the references will be found in the Catalogue published last March.