A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF CHECKERED BEETLE FROM HONDURAS WITH ADDITIONS TO THE HONDURAN FAUNA (COLEOPTERA: CLERIDAE)

JACQUES RIFKIND
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ABSTRACT. Barrotillus kropotkini, a new genus and species of Honduran tilline, is described and illustrated; a key and a comparative table of characters are provided to facilitate discrimination of the new taxon from other members of its tribe in Honduras. New records for clerids in Honduras are presented.

RESUMEN. Se describe e ilustra Barrotillus kropotkini, un género y especie nuevos de Tillini hondureña; se proveen una clave y una tabla comparativa de sus características para facilitar la diferenciación de la nueva entidad taxonómica con respecto a los otros miembros de su tribu en Honduras. Se presentan nuevos registros referentes a los clerídes en Honduras.

INTRODUCTION

The clerid fauna of Honduras, the second largest Central American country, is almost unknown. Barr's (1975) checklist recorded only two Honduran clerid species: Cregya quadrismignata (Spinola 1844) and Lebasiella bisbinotata Gorham 1883. Later, Eksi (1976, 1977) published Honduran records of Perilypus orthopleuridus (Thomson 1860) and Colyphus cylindricus (Gorham 1878) in two papers revising their respective genera. Most recently, two new clerid species have been described from Honduras: the enopline Parapelomides beckeri Barr (1980-281) and the tilline Cymatoderella morula Rifkind (1993-282).

Honduras is topographically varied, comprising a diverse range of tropical, subtropical, and boreal plant communities (Monroe, 1968; Campbell and Lamar, 1989). It should therefore be expected to host a correspondingly varied array of clerid species, like its neighbor Guatemala. As in the case of Belize, discussed elsewhere (Rifkind, 1995), Honduras has suffered from neglect by coleopterists. Distributions for many clerid genera are given as "Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama" and it is clearly not a lack of suitable habitat that excludes Honduras from this north to south geographical sequence; these gaps in distribution are the result of little or no collecting in the intermediate countries. Selander and Vaurie (1962), compiling the known collecting localities for insect specimens included in the Biologia Centrali-Americana, were able to locate only six Honduran locations, as compared with 128 for Guatemala. They concluded that "on an area basis, the least-collected of the Central American countries is Honduras."

Recent collecting has produced new records for several clerid species in Honduras. The purpose of this paper is to make these records available and to describe a new genus and species also brought to light by that collecting.

In addition to the taxa listed below, I examined Honduran specimens of the genera Cymatodera Gray 1832, Colyphus Spinola 1841, Apheloecus Kirsch 1870, Phyllobaenus Dejean 1837, Phlogistoternus Wolcott 1944, Elliptotoma Spinola 1844, Epiphleps Spinola 1841, Ichneu Castelnaud 1836, Cregya LeConte 1861, and Pelonion Spinola 1844 that were not determinable to species or that represent undescribed species.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

In describing pronotal characteristics, I use the term "neck" to denote the broad area behind the basal constriction. This is done to avoid confusion with the area known as the "pronotal collar," which properly refers to the usually narrow constriction at the pronotal basal margin in clerids.

Specimens discussed below are deposited in the institutional and individual collections abbreviated as follows: EAPZ (Escuela Agricola Panamericana Zamorano, Tegucigalpa, Honduras); FSCA (Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, FL); LACM (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, CA); FWSC (Fred W. Skillman Jr., Deland, FL); JNRC (Jacques Rifkind, North Hollywood, CA); WFWC (William F. Barr, Moscow, ID); RFMC (Roy F. Morris, Lakeland, FL); and RHTC (Robert H. Turnbow Jr., Enterprise, AL).

Unless otherwise noted, the following account of Honduran localities for clerids represents new country records for the listed taxa. Numbers in parentheses indicate the

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number of specimens collected at a given location. Data presented in brackets are translated from the Spanish. Suprageneric classification follows Barr (1975).

SYSTEMATICS
Subfamily CLERINAE
Tribe Tillini

A key to the tribe Tillini in Honduras is provided to facilitate the identification of the new genus described below. The Tillini are characterized by having the first tarsomere distinctly visible from above, the fourth tarsomere approximately equal in size to the third, the prothorax not margined laterally, and the anterior coxal cavities separated internally and closed behind.

1. Antenna with fewer than 11 antennomeres
   2
   — Antenna with 11 antennomeres
   3

2(1). Antenna of male with 8 or 10 antennomeres, antenna of female with 9 or 10 antennomeres; terminal antennomere elongate, flattened, and spatulate; elytra at most indistinctly fasciate. Monophylla Spinola 1841
   — Antenna of both sexes with 10 antennomeres; terminal antennomere not as above; elytra with eburneous markings
   Callophilus Wolcott 1911

3(1). Antennomere 11 of male double bean-like in shape (bifabaceoid); pronotum campanulate; elytra very finely punctate, with raised eburneous markings
   Barrotilius n. gen.
   — Not as above
   4

4(3). Eyes finely granulate; elytra uniformly black or bluish black with surface coarsely punctate; small sized and robust
   Cymatoderella Barr 1962
   — Eyes coarsely granulate; color not as above; size, shape, and sculpturing variable
   Cymatodes Gray 1832

Callotillus e. elegans
(Erichson 1847)


Barrotilius new genus
Figures 1–3

DESCRIPTION. Tillini; small sized; body elongate, subparallel, moderately convex.

Head. Eyes medium sized, rather prominent, moderately finely faceted, shallowly emarginate at antennal insertion; clypeolabral area somewhat narrowed and ventrally produced; labrum transverse; antenna (Figs. 1, 2) rather loosely composed (♂) or somewhat more compact (♀), comprised of 11 antennomeres as follows: 1 elongate, more than 2× as long as 2, expanded at middle; 2 subglobular; 3–4 subcylindrical, 3 slightly longer than 4; 5–10 broad, serrate, moderately flattened in cross section, 5 a little longer than 6, 7 slightly broader than 6 and 8, 9–10 subequal in length and breadth; 11 (♀) elongate, more than 3× the length of 10, moderately compressed, feebly sinuate margined on one side near middle, more deeply constricted on the other at basal ⅔, giving the antennomere an asymmetrical bifabaceoid (double bean-like) shape, apex slightly tapered and obtusely rounded, or 11 (♂) ovate-elongate, about 3× the length of 10, moderately compressed, sides not constricted, apex narrowly rounded; last maxillary palpomere elongate-conical, apex acute; last labial palpomere expanded, secundiform.

Pronotum (Fig. 3). Campanulate, approximately 1.4× as long as wide, moderately convex; sides weakly sinuate and subparallel to basal ⅔, then strongly, obliquely narrowed to basal neck; disk, posteriorly, sloping acutely to basal neck; basal neck elongate, convex behind, where it is divided at middle by a shallow antescutellar impression;
Table 1. Comparison of diagnostic characters of Barrotillus with those of similar genera of New World Tilline: Callo-
tillus Wolcott 1911, Cymatoderella Barr 1962, Onychotillus Chapin 1945, and Bogecia Barr 1978.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barrotillus n. gen.</th>
<th>Callotilius Wolcott</th>
<th>Cymatoderella Barr</th>
<th>Onychotillus Chapin</th>
<th>Bogecia Barr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 antennomeres</td>
<td>10 antennomeres</td>
<td>11 antennomeres</td>
<td>11 antennomeres</td>
<td>11 antennomeres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antennomere 11 of $\delta$ bifahaceoid</td>
<td>Antennomere 10 of $\delta$ ovate-elongate</td>
<td>Antennomere 11 of $\delta$ ovate-elongate; lateral margins slightly sinuate</td>
<td>Antennomere 11 of $\delta$ bifahaceoid (in some undescribed species)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Pronotum campanu-
late; neck deeply
constricted and
elongate | Pronotum scutiform;
neck moderately
narrowed and short | Pronotum expanded
laterally at middle | Pronotum expanded
laterally at middle | Pronotum expanded
laterally at middle |
| Pronotal disk with
posterior slope
acute to neck | Pronotal disk more or
less plane to collar | Pronotal disk with
posterior slope shallow and oblique to
 collar | Pronotal disk more or
less plane to collar | Pronotal disk more or
less plane to collar |
| Elytra finely punctate;
punctures not ar-
 ranged in distinct striae | Elytra finely punctate;
punctures not ar-
ranged in distinct striae | Elytra with deep,
coarse punctures ar-
ranged in striae | Elytra with deep,
coarse punctures ar-
ranged in striae | Elytra with deep,
coarse punctures ar-
ranged in striae |
| Small sized | Small sized | Small sized | Small sized | Medium to large sized |

sides of neck weakly, obliquely expanded to elytral base.

Scutellum. Moderate in size, rounded apically.

Elytra. Elongate (ratio of width to length 18:43), convex posteriorly; disk with subbasal area somewhat swollen on either side of suture but without tubercles, latitudinally depressed at middle, giving the elytra a shallow saddle shape in lateral view; sides subparallel from humeri to apical 3⁄4 (feebly sinuate at basal 3⁄4), then broadly, arcuately rounded to separately rounded apices.

Prosternum. With coxal cavities closed behind.

Mesosternum. With anterior margin transverse and costate, bordered behind by another, slightly broader, transverse costa.

Metasternum. Strongly convex posteriorly.

Legs. Femora rather narrow; tibiae feebly expanded apically; tarsomere 4 moderately expanded laterally, approximately equal in size to 3; all tarsal claws bearing on each side a narrow, elongate tooth proximate to the primary claw and a short, triangular basal tooth.

Abdomen. Moderately convex, with 6 visible sternites.

TYPE SPECIES. Barrotillus kropotkini new species.

ETYMOLOGY. This interesting genus is named for William F. Barr, Emeritus Professor at the University of Idaho, in recognition of his lifelong contributions to the systematics of New World Cleridae.

DIAGNOSIS. Barrotillus is distinguished from other clerid genera on the basis of a unique combination of antennal composition (11 antennomeres), the shape of antennomere 11 in the male, the shape of the pronotum, and the sculpturing of the elytra. The new taxon’s small, shining, ant-like form and convex, elongate-necked campanulate pronotum recall Stenocylidus Spinola 1844, a genus confined to East Africa, Madagascar, and a few small Indian Ocean islands. Several other Old World tilline genera have the pronotum campanulate, including the Indo-Australian and Afro-Malagasy genus Cladiscus Chevatell 1843, the primarily Malagasy Pseudopellis Kuwert 1893, and the South African Eburneocladiscus Pic 1954. This last genus possesses, in addition, a raised eburneous elyral fascia. Barrotillus is distinct from these allopatic genera in antennal structure and from both Cladiscus and Eburneocladiscus (whose species are much larger), at least, in palpal morphology as well.

Table 1 is presented to facilitate the separation of Barrotillus from the other New World tilline genera that it most closely resembles. Among these, Callotilius Wolcott appears most similar to Barrotillus. Possible synapomorphies are: 1) small size; 2) raised eburneous elyral fascia; and 3) finely, non-strially punctate elytral surface. Barrotillus is distinct from Callotilius in having 11 antennomeres, in the shape of the terminal antennomere, in having the pronotal slope acute, and in the shape of the pronotum. It should be noted here that Mawdsley (in litt.) points out the possibility that the phylogenetic affinities of the new genus may lie with some Malagasy tillines rather than with the strictly New World Callotilius.

Barrotillus kropotkini new species

Figure 4

DESCRIPTION OF HOLOTYPE MALE. Color. Deep pitchy black except antennomere 1, ocular

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emargination, clypeus, labrum, mandibles, mentum, basal maxillary palps, sides of pronotum, dorsum of pronotal neck (with the exception of a black macula on the antescutellar impression), a small oblong marking laterally behind umbones, and most of the pro- and mesosternae brownish red; antennomeres 5–11 dull reddish brown; each elytron with a raised ivory subbasal macula and median fascia, arranged as in Figure 4; median fascia attaining lateral margin.

Head. Measured across eyes, wider than pronotum; surface shining, deeply, coarsely, and subconfluently punctate, sparsely clothed with long, erect dark setae; antennomeres 1–4 shining, sparsely punctate, sparsely setose, antennomeres 5–11 with surface microgranularly roughened, rather densely covered with minute grayish setae interspersed with a few longer setae.

Pronotum. Surface shining, sculpturing as on head, punctations becoming obsolete basally on pronotal slope, pronotal neck smooth above; vestiture moderately sparse, consisting mostly of long, erect, dark and pale, anteriorly directed setae interspersed with fewer shorter, reclinate setae. Scutellum thickly clothed with silvery setae.

Elytra. Surface shining, smooth, finely, sparsely punctate, punctures somewhat coarser basally where they form indistinct striae extending to basal 1/3; ivory postbasal maculae and midelytral fasciae glabrous and slightly swollen above elytral surface; vestiture sparsely, uniformly arranged, comprised of mostly suberect, dark and pale setae with a slightly denser concentration of longer, erect, dark setae at base.

Legs. Profemora finely, moderately densely punctate, meso- and metafemora shining, more coarsely
but sparsely punctate; tibiae transversely rugulose; all surfaces rather sparsely vested with pale, erect setae of varying lengths, setae more densely arranged on tibiae.

Metasternum. Surface shining, sparsely punctate laterally, transversely rugulose anteriorly, otherwise smooth.

Abdomen. Surface shining, sparsely, shallowly, and indistinctly punctulate, very sparsely covered with short, pale, mostly suberect setae; sternite 6 with hind angles arcuate, apex narrowly, rather deeply notched at middle.

Body length 3.50 mm.

TYPE SERIES. Holotype (LACM), HONDURAS, (Department) Francisco Morazán, Tegucigalpa, El Rincón, October 5, 1988, R. D. Cave, coll. Paratypes: 2 ♀, same data as holotype; 1 ♂ same data as holotype except October 15, 1993, F. W. Skillman Jr., coll. Paratypes in EAPZ, FSCA, and JNRC.

VARIATION. Aside from the dimorphic antennal characteristics delineated above under the generic description, the female differs from the male by having abdominal sternite 6 with the hind margin complete, rather than notched.

Specimens vary in the extent of brownish red integumental coloration; the female, for example, has the basal ½ of the elytra (except the maculae) and the thoracic sternites uniformly this color. Male specimens on hand range from 3.40-4.0 mm in length. The female paratype is 4.10 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY. This species is named in honor of Prince Peter Alekseyevich Kropotkin (1842-1921), Russian social critic, economist, geographer, theorist of the evolutionary basis of cooperation, revolutionist, and anarchist philosopher.

DISTRIBUTION. The type series was collected at a single locality (El Rincón) in the environs of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, at an elevation of 1650 m. According to Cave (pers. comm.), the habitat here is disturbed second growth forest, dominated by small leguminous trees (Mimosa spp.) with small broad-leaved trees and forbs intermixed. This area probably supported a mixed oak forest before it was altered by agriculture. El Rincón is situated in the Honduran interior highlands, a geologically ancient area that has been above sea level since before the Mesozoic (Monroe, 1968). It is possible that B. kropotkini is narrowly endemic to one or more of the ranges in the area; further systematic collecting is needed to resolve this question.

HABITS. One example was collected by beating a non-leguminous shrub or small tree (Skillman, pers. comm.). Barotillus kropotkini, with its shiny, elongate facies and pale midlyrual fascia, is most probably an ant mimic. The presence of a pale elytral fascia presumably imparts an impression of myrmecoid segmentation to the beetle, thus detering some visually hunting predators. Although many clerids exhibit this type of coloration, the elevation of the eburneous fascia onto a smooth ridge is less common; among the New World Tillini, for example, the only other apparent occurrence is in Calloplitus. This structure also appears in other families, however, as in the cerambicid genus Euderces LeConte 1850, which is often collected in association with ants.

Monophylla pallipes
Schaeffer 1908


Cymatodera depauperata grp.
Gorham 1882

(1) Departamento Francisco Morazán, San Antonio de Oriente, Uyuca, July 14, 1993, R. Cordero, coll.

Cymatodera guatemalensis
Schenkling 1900


Cymatodera prolixia
(Klug 1842)


Cymatodera sallei
Thomson 1860


Tribe Clerini

Priocera abdominalis
Blanchard 1844


Priocera salmandra
Schenkling 1906

Priocera stictica
Gorham 1882

Colyphus cylindricus
New department records. (1) Departamento Francisco Morazán, Parque Nacional La Tigra, June 1, 1993, W. Morjan, coll.; (1) same data as last except M. C. Thomas, coll.; (2) same data except 5800’, beating vegetation in cloud forest, F. W. Skillman Jr., coll.

Perilypus distinctus
(Chevrolat 1874)

Perilypus frontalis
(Gorham 1886)

Enoclerus (Coniferocerus) arachnodes
(Klug 1842)
(1) Departamento Francisco Morazán, 32 km E Tegucigalpa, El Zamorano, M. Intriaso, coll.

Enoclerus (E.) ablectus
Barr 1978

Enoclerus (E.) beatus
(Gorham 1882)

Enoclerus (E.) bicarinatus
(Gorham 1882)

Enoclerus (E.) fugitivus
Wolcott 1927

One of these specimens is an example of the black, and the other of the reddish "morph," both commonly seen in this species.

Enoclerus (E.) gibbus
Ekins 1976

Ekins described E. (E.) gibbus from a small series of all black Costa Rican and Panamanian specimens, remarking that these individuals ‘did not show any noteworthy chromatic . . . variation’ (1976:161). It is thus of interest that some of the Honduran examples of this species exhibit a largely brownish-red integument; only the head, antennomeres 4-11, midbasal tubercle, apical ½ of elytra, abdomen, and legs (in part) remain darkened or black. Structurally these specimens agree with the original description. The typical black form also occurs in Honduras.

Enoclerus (E.) hoegei
(Gorham 1882)

This species has been collected from as far north as Sinaloa, Mexico, south into El Salvador and now Honduras. Although it appears to be rather uniform across its range in terms of punctuation, sculpturing, and setation, it exhibits what seems to be a clinal variation in the shape of its distinctive red elytral marking. Honduran and Salvadoran specimens have this midelytral marking in the form of a broad fascia, somewhat obliquely narrowed toward the suture at the anterior margin, more or less transverse at the posterior margin, but never interrupted at the suture. The red marking in most Mexican specimens, on the other hand, is comparatively narrower (with the posterior margin placed more toward the middle of the elytra) and is interrupted.
before the suture. One specimen from Chiapas seems transitional between these forms, having the fascia narrow as in typical Mexican specimens, but not interrupted at the suture.

*Enocerus (E.) irregularis*
Barr 1978

New department record. (6) Departamento Copán, 19 km SW Santa Rosa de Copán, October 8, 1993, F. W. Skillman, coll. These specimens differ from those of the type series in having the integumental color of the head, pronotum, sternum, and forelegs reddish rather than brownish. The elytral base is also more uniformly darkened than in the type. In addition, Barr’s (1978a) original description of *E. (E.) irregularis* gives the metasternum as “finely, densely punctate.” The Copán specimens, however, have the metasternum more or less distinctly tuberculate, especially toward the midline. The reason for this discrepancy is apparently that the types are paper-point mounted with the contact point at, and thus obscuring, part of the metasternum. The presence of a tuberculate metasternum in *E. (E.) irregularis* provides another good character for distinguishing it from its congeners, particularly those, like *E. (E.) mexicanus* (Castelnau 1836) which are similarly patterned. This type of metasternal sculpturing is rare in *Enocerus*; I have previously seen it only in specimens of *E. (E.) longipes* (Schenkling 1907).

*Enocerus (E.) mexicanus*


*Enocerus (E.) nigromaculatus*
(Chevrolet 1843)

(3) Departamento Francisco Morazán, 32 km E Tegucigalpa, El Zamorano, June 2–July 7, 1990, [malaise trap under Inga sp. in coffee plantation], R. Cave, coll.; (1) Departamento Francisco Morazán, San Antonio de Oriente, San Juan del Rancho, July 8, 1992, [on Zea mays], R. Cordero, coll.

*Enocerus (E.) opifex*
(Gorgham 1882)


*Enocerus (E.) pilatei*
(Chevrolet 1874)


*Enocerus (E.) salvini*
(Gorgham 1876)


*Enocerus (E.) venator*
(Chevrolet 1843)

(1) Departamento Francisco Morazán, 30 km E Tegucigalpa, Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, May 10, 1984, Galvis, coll.

*Enocerus (E.) zebra*
(Chevrolet 1843)


*Caestron concinnum*
(Gorgham 1878)


*Caestron sp. near contractus*
(Gorgham 1882)

These records are given for a new species, which will be described elsewhere. (1) Departamento El

Subfamily PHYLOBAENINAE

Isohydnocera cryptocerina
(Gorham 1883)


Subfamily EPIPHLOEINAE

Phlogistosternus erythrocephalus
(Gorham 1882)


Epipholoeus setulosus
(Thomson 1860)


Ichnea histrica
Gorham 1883


Ichnea mexicana
Thomson 1860


Subfamily KORYNETINAE

Tribe Enopliini

Neorthopleura cyanipennis
(Chapin 1920)

(1) Departamento Francisco Morazán, 25.5 km SSW Talanga, June 3, 1993, R. Turnbow, coll.

Neorthopleura duplicata
Barr 1976


Neorthopleura purpurea
(Gorham 1883)


Platynoptera mexicana
Thomson 1860

(1) Departamento Francisco Morazán, 30 km SE Tegucigalpa, El Zamorano, April 1, 1981, no coll.

Pelonides humeralis
(Horn 1868)


Charissena vestita
(Chevrolet 1835)


Apoloapha apicicornis
(Chevrolet 1876)

(1) Departamento Francisco Morazán, 25.5 km SE Talanga, Finca Archaga, June 3, 1993, picking burn at night, F. W. Skillman Jr., coll.; (1) Departamento Copán, 19 km SW Santa Rosa de Copán, October 8, 1993, F. W. Skillman, coll.

Cregya lineolata
(Gorham 1883)


Rifkind: Honduran Cleridae
Peloton nigroclavatum
Chevalot 1874


Tribe Korynetini
Lebasiella pallipes
(Klug 1842)


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