

and there as broad as the elytra; the dorsum with comparatively large reticulate punctures which are partly concealed by the dense erect peg-like scales, and on the narrow edges of the punctures are very small scattered inconspicuous shiny granules. *Elytra* subovate, very slightly rounded laterally, widest before the middle, the basal margin truncate and a little wider than the base of the prothorax; the dorsum rather strongly convex longitudinally, the shallow striae with comparatively large punctures, the intervals about as wide as the striae and bearing a row of small separated shiny granules; the general scaling small, noncontiguous, recumbent, but intervals 3 and 5 with a discontinuous row of rather dense erect scales. *Legs* coarsely punctate, the femora with recumbent, the tibiae with erect scales, the hind femora not quite reaching the apex of the elytra, the tibiae not carinate dorsally. *Venter* with ventrite 2 a little longer in the female than in the male.

Length 3.5 to 4.5 mm.

New Guinea: Kapumalik Plantation, Bena River, 4,800 feet, Eastern Highlands, 1 male

(type), i. 1956 (J. H. Barrett); Goroka, Eastern Highlands, 1 female xii. 1954 (R. S. Carne); Goroka, 5,400 feet, 6 males, 4 females, bred from pupae in *Coffea arabica* x. 1957 (J. H. Barrett); Aiyura, Eastern Highlands, 1 female, bred from larva in coffee stem, x. 1956 (A. J. Schindler), 1 female, x 1956 (R. S. Carne); *Dutch New Guinea*: Res. Hollandia, Kota Nica, 1 male, 1 female bred from sweet potato, iv. 1958 (R. J. Simon Thomas).

This species is closely allied to *M. squalidus* Mshl. (1914), from the Setakwa River, Dutch New Guinea, which is rather larger and differs in having the prothorax constricted at the base, so that the sides are there parallel for a short distance; the elytrae are more steeply declivous behind, the granules are larger and much more conspicuous, and the basal margin is strongly denticulate.

Dr. J. J. H. Szent-Ivany, when forwarding the specimens, stated that this weevil was the worst pest of *Coffea arabica* in the Territory, the larvae extensively girdling the stems of many trees.

Book Review—HANUNOO AGRICULTURE IN THE PHILIPPINES

(By HAROLD C. CONKLIN, Forestry Development Paper No. 12. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Rome 1957.)

IN this paper, the author has presented a most informative rural sociological study of a small subsistence farming community in the uplands of the island of Mindoro in the Philippines. Dr. Conklin reveals an intimate knowledge of the traditional form of shifting ("Swidden") agriculture practised by these people in which the three starch-staples—grains (chiefly rice), bananas and root crops—constituting the bulk of the Hanunoo diet are produced.

The reader is told of social sanctions and religious taboos and rituals influencing or dictating various phases of the pattern of "swidden" agriculture. To the more casual observer, such factors are not so apparent and are not so readily available.

This study emphasizes that the primitive shifting cultivator is a man geared to traditional methods of farming. Rather than seek to modify or introduce improved farming techniques, he follows a pattern of repeated croppings interspersed by longer periods of bush fallowing. However, as the author clearly shows, there are

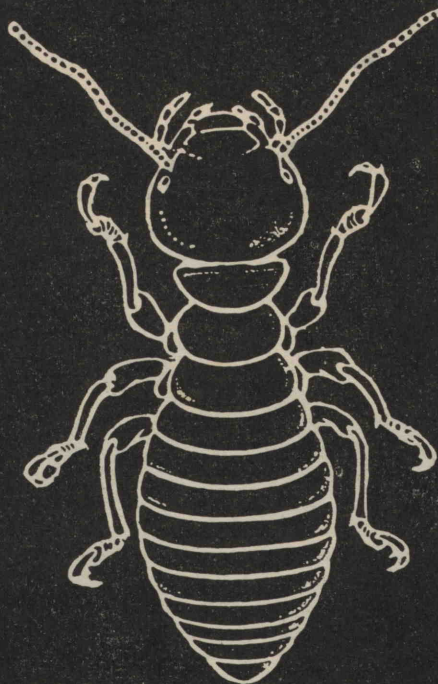
integral variables of custom and sanction which exert a determining role in this regular cycle of site selection, cutting, burning, cropping and fallowing.

Although it is more usual for shifting agriculture not to be practised in grassland, edaphic-biotic complexes may sometimes result in the cultivated lands reverting to tropical savannah rather than secondary forest. This is a common phenomenon in certain areas of New Guinea, particularly in the highland regions. A feature in which shifting cultivation in New Guinea differs from the Hanunoo "swidden" agriculture is that the starch staples in New Guinea are variously root crops, bananas and sago.

It is some years since the publication of K. J. Pelzer's study "Pioneer Settlement in the Asiatic Tropics", concerning studies in land utilization and agricultural colonization in South-East Asia. To the student of rural sociology, "Hanunoo Agriculture in the Philippines" can be strongly recommended as a most intensive and revealing study of one form of traditional shifting agriculture in the Asiatic tropics.

—J. W. B.

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