

Three New Leaf-Beetles Affecting Cacao in New Britain. (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)

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Three new species of eumolpine chrysomelid beetles are described from cacao in New Britain. The adult beetles feed primarily upon the new leaves.

Two lots of leaf-beetles found feeding upon the young leaves of cacao on the Gazelle Peninsula of New Britain were studied. The most abundant species in these shipments were *Deretrichia szentivani* Selman and three new species described in this article. Some additional species were represented by smaller series or unique specimens. These latter included at least one or two species of *Rhyparida* which must await more extensive material before they can be described.

SUBFAMILY EUMOLPINAE.

Rhyparida cacaona Gressitt, n. sp.

Colouration.

Pale testaceous to pitchy black; head dark chest-nut brown, paler on each side of occiput; palpi pale testaceous; antenna testaceous, duller on segments 6 to 11; prothorax pitchy black, slightly reddish pitchy along anterior margin; scutellum pale ochraceous, pitchy at side; elytron dark pitchy brown, pale ochraceous on most of basal $\frac{1}{4}$, somewhat testaceous near apical margin; ventral surfaces pitchy brown, largely testaceous on abdomen; legs translucent yellowish testaceous, pitchy brown at apices of femora and bases of tibiae, dorsum glabrous and shiny, a few hairs on labrum; antenna with but few sub-adpressed pale hairs and suberect hairs at apices of segments; ventral surfaces glabrous on thorax and with sparse hairs on abdomen; legs sparsely clothed with pale hairs, particularly on femora.

Structure.

Head nearly as broad as apex of prothorax; occiput raised, convex, with scattered distinct punctures; frontoclypeus not separated from occiput, slightly broader than long, flattish and distinctly punctured, deeply arcuate-emarginate, $\frac{3}{4}$ as wide as deep, 6 x as deep as gena.

Antenna not quite $\frac{3}{4}$ as long as body, moderately slender; segment 1 swollen in middle, 2.5 x as long as broad; 2 similar in shape, $\frac{2}{3}$

as long; 3-5 very slender, similar, each fully as long as 1; 6-10 stouter, thickened preapically, progressively slightly shorter; 11 about as long as 5.

Prothorax 1.7 x as broad as long, wider anteriorly than posteriorly; side obtuse, widest somewhat behind middle; disc subevenly convex, finely and subregularly punctured.

Scutellum subpentagonal, smooth, obtuse apically.

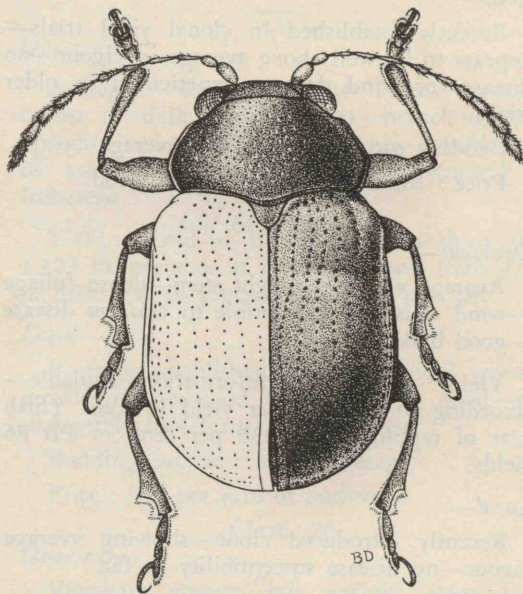


Figure 1.—*Rhyparida cacaona* n. sp., dorsal view of adult.

Elytron 2.5 x as long as broad, widest anterior to middle, narrowed to apex; disc swollen near base followed by a weak depression, surface with 11 rows of punctures just behind humerus and at middle; punctures mostly $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ as long as interspaces longitudinally, $\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ as wide as interspaces transversely.

Ventral surfaces nearly impunctate on thorax, sparsely punctured on abdomen.

Legs slightly stout; hind femur swollen; hind tibia quite broad just before preapical emargination; hind tarsus with segment 1 much longer than 2 or 3, as long as last. Length 3.2 mm; breadth 1.85.

Holotype ♀ (BISHOP 3730), Keravat, 10 metres alt., Gazelle Peninsula, New Britain, on young cacao leaves, 9th Sept., 1964, D. August collector; 2 paratypes (DASF, BISHOP), 1 same data, 1st Aug., 1964, I. Kalto collector.

Differs from *R. terminata* Jacoby in having prothorax longer and more convex anteriorly, and in having different colour patterns with pronotum and elytral apex not pale. Differs from *R. humeronotata* Jacoby in being slightly larger, in having prothorax shorter, humeral

spot more distinct and more quadrate, head less closely punctured and frontoclypeus not separated from vertex by a groove.

Rhyparida duni Gressitt, n. sp.

Colouration.

Dull yellowish testaceous, mandible pitchy; eye black; metasternum somewhat ochraceous. Dorsum glabrous; antennae with a few fine adpressed hairs and suberect hairs, mostly at ends of segments; abdomen with sparse suberect hairs; legs sparsely clothed with oblique hairs.

Structure.

Head slightly narrower than anterior end of prothorax; occiput subevenly convex, wider than frontoclypeus, feebly grooved beside eye; vertex horizontal; frontoclypeus flat, slightly wider than deep, narrowest just below middle, with apical margin produced on each side, deeply emarginate in middle; eye reniform, 2 x as deep as wide, 6 x as deep as gena.

Antenna slender, $\frac{3}{5}$ as long as body; segment 1 elliptical, nearly 3 x as long as broad; 2 thickened preapically, $\frac{3}{5}$ as long as 1; 3 slender, slightly thickened apically, as long as

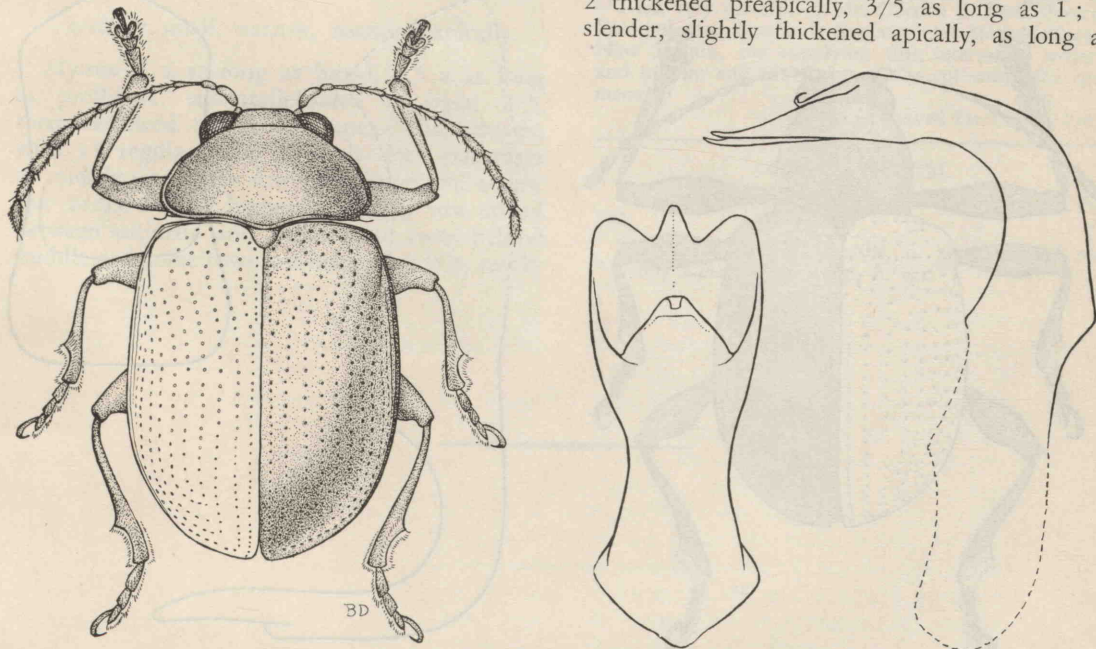


Figure 2.—*Rhyparida duni* n. sp. Left: dorsal view. Centre: side view of aedeagus. Right: posterior (dorsal terminal) view of aedeagus.

1; 4 slender, slightly longer than 3; 5 similar to 4; 6 slightly stouter; 6-10 subequal; 11 barely longer than 10.

Prothorax nearly 2 x as broad as long, considerably narrower at apex than at base; side strongly convex, rounded-obtuse well behind middle; basal margin produced and somewhat truncate in central portion; disc strongly and subevenly convex, sparsely and minutely punctulate.

Scutellum smooth, broadly rounded apically.

Elytron nearly 3 x as long as broad, widest in central portion, narrowed apically; disc subevenly convex, very weakly depressed behind a weak basal swelling; surface with fairly regular puncture-rows, 9 just behind humerus, 11 just behind middle; punctures mostly $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ as large as interspaces longitudinally and $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$ as wide transversely.

Ventral surfaces in large part smooth and impunctate.

Legs shiny; femora moderately stout; hind tibia straight; slender, broadest preapically, with posterior emargination; hind tarsus slender, $\frac{3}{4}$ as long as tibia, with segment 1 distinctly

longer than 1 or 2, shorter than last. Length 4.15 mm; breadth 2.4.

Paratypes: Length 3.7-4.2 mm: breadth 1.8-2.2 Holotype ♂ (BISHOP 3731) Keravat, 10 m, Gazelle Peninsula, New Britain, Aug., 1964, I. Kalto; 5 paratopotypes (BISHOP, DASF, ANIC, BMNH), 11th Jan., 1964, G. S. Dun; June, 1964, Sept. 9, 1964, I. Kalto and D. August.

Differs from *R. nigrostriata* Bryant in having pronotum less distinctly microgranulose and in being smaller and subuniformly coloured. Differs from *tenuis* Lac. in being less slender and more uniformly coloured, with frontoclypeus having smaller punctures. Named in honour of Mr. Gordon S. Dun, Principal Entomologist, Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

Cleaporus theobromae Gressit, n. sp.

Colouration.

Shiny black with a slight bronzy purplish tinge; more greenish on front of head and sides of prothorax and elytron, more purplish on legs, metasternum and first abdominal segment. Body glabrous above, with rather sparse short oblique hairs.

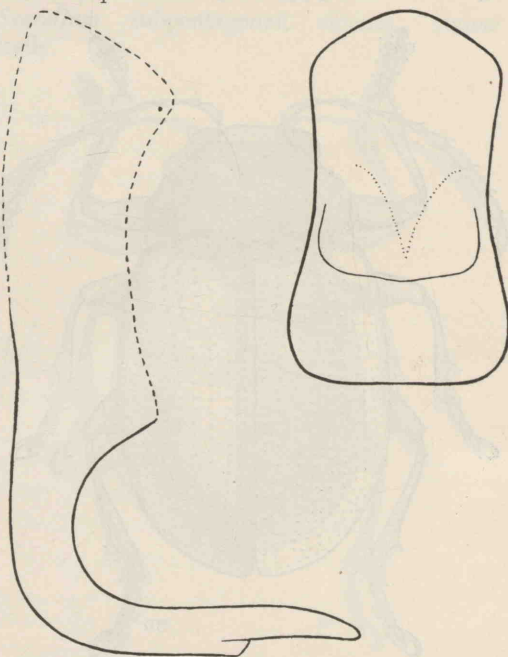
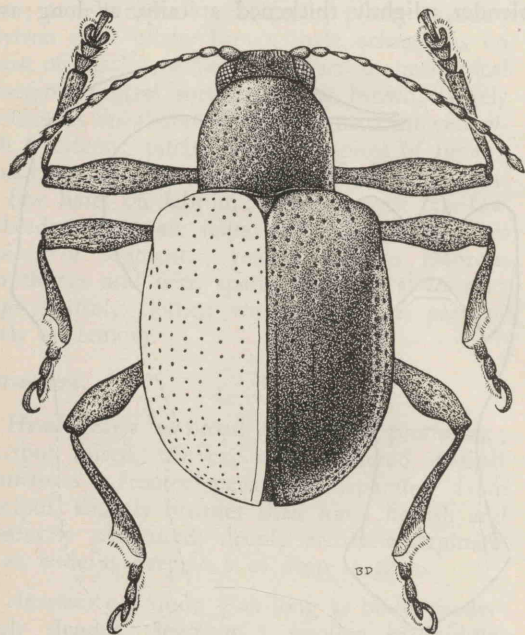


Figure 3.—*Cleaporus theobromae* n. sp. Left: dorsal view. Centre: side view of aedeagus. Right: posterior (dorsal terminal) view of aedeagus.

Structure.

Head about as wide as anterior end of prothorax, vertical and smooth in front, with same plane extending from anterior margin of frontoclypeus to well above eyes (this area finely and sparsely punctured and obtusely set off above), deeply grooved above eyes; postocciput densely and longitudinally punctate-striate; eye rounded-oval, about 5 x as deep as gena; frontoclypeus deeply emarginate apically.

Antenna $\frac{3}{4}$ as long as body, fairly slender; segment 1 arched, 2.5 x as long as broad; 2 similar in shape, $\frac{3}{4}$ as long; 3 shorter, much more slender, 4 similar to 3; 5 slightly longer and more slender; 6 similar to 5; 7 longer than 2, thickened preapically; 8 as long as 7, slightly stouter; 8-10 sub-equal; 11 longer, elliptical, with a preapical constriction and ring of hairs.

Prothorax not quite as long as broad, arched anteriorly, with anterior margin concave above lateral line (and above seta and pleuron); sides weakly convex, subparallel-sided; disc convex, somewhat deeply and sub-strongly punctured, about 15 punctures in an approximate longitudinal row.

Scutellum small, narrow, rounded apically.

Elytron 3 x as long as broad, 2.5 x as long as prothorax, subparallel-sided in basal $\frac{2}{5}$, then narrowed to subacute apex; disc convex, with 11 regular rows of fairly deep punctures at middle: an extra row near scutellum, a new row added behind humerus, another row added between ultimate and penultimate rows behind middle and some rows lost behind middle, result-

ing in 11 rows on most parts; most of punctures slightly smaller than interspaces longitudinally and transversely, but some larger longitudinally.

Ventral surfaces with metasternum short and coarsely punctured, and abdomen in large part vaguely punctured.

Legs slender, hind femur pedunculate, slightly swollen in middle, with a fine short tooth on underside of swelling; hind tibia weakly arched, ridged, thickened apically; hind tarsus slender, segment 1 longer than 2 or 3, stouter than last, 3 deeply forked and subparallel-sided. Length 2.2 mm; breadth 1.05.

Holotype ♂ (BISHOP 3732), Lowlands Agricultural Experiment Station, Keravat, 10 m, Gazelle Peninsula, New Britain, on cacao, Aug., 1964, G. S. Dun; 2 paratopotypes (BISHOP, DASF), August, 1964.

Differs from *C. ribbei* Jacoby in being much smaller, narrower and less rugose. Differs from *metallicus* Bryant in having a deeper groove above eye, in being smaller and narrower, less metallic, with elytron more regularly punctured.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

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CORRIGENDUM.

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"Genus *Kurumeld* Gressitt, n. gen." should read, "Genus *Kurumela* Gressitt, n. gen."