



Ent 2620

Oxchamus bellamii, sp.n., a new Pamphagid grasshopper from the Canary Islands,

B.P. Uvarov

Ent. Monthly Mag., 3 (8) 1922

Ent. Monthly Mag. 1922 (18)

1922.]

139

**ORCHAMUS BELLAMII, sp. n., A NEW PAMPHAGID GRASSHOPPER
FROM THE CANARY ISLANDS.**

BY B. P. UVAROV, F.E.S.

♀. Antennae 10-jointed, with the base dilated and triangular in transverse section, longer than the head and pronotum together. Frontal ridge strongly prominent and very deeply furrowed between the antennae, suddenly lowered, feebly widened and shallowly impressed below them. Fastigium of the vertex distinctly sloping, longer than broad, with the **marginis** distinctly raised, sharp and granulose, continuous with the margins of the frontal ridge; its surface somewhat impressed, punctured; a linear longitudinal **carinula** runs from the occiput over the whole vertex, forming a narrow bifurcation at the apex of the fastigium. Eyes strongly prominent, obliquely placed, somewhat higher than the subocular distance; the distance between the eyes is more than the vertical diameter of an eye. Pronotum short, moderately compressed, rugulose; median keel tectiform, in profile obtusangularly arcuate, the highest point being just before the middle of the prozona, while the keel is very low in metazona and does not reach its hind margin; typical sulcus well expressed, but cutting the median keel not very deeply; prozoin about five times as long as the metazona; lateral lobes very uneven, with deep transverse sulci; their lower margin straight, the fore angle 90°, the hind one slightly more. Prosternal tubercle rotundate-quadrangular, low, with the fore margin scarcely raised, its surface rugulose, but not tuberculate. Elytra very short, extending scarcely beyond the middle of the mesonotum, and almost linear. Tympanum open, small. Hind femora very narrow, their externo-median area being less than twice as broad in its middle as the **supero-externa**; the upper carina low, densely granulose; both lower and upper carinae of the externo-median area **granuloso-denticulate**. Hind tibiae with 8-9 spines on each side. The whole underside, sides and legs clothed with dense grey hairs.

General coloration reddish-brown, with some parts creamy-white. Antennae brownish-grey, with large punctures and margins black. Face and cheeks creamy-white, with dense and coarse red-brown puncturation, which disappears in the upper part of the cheeks (*i. e.* in the lower margin of the eyes), which is smooth, creamy-white; occiput and vertex red-brown, with a creamy-white honeycombed net of carinulae, disappearing at the sides of the occiput; margins of the fastigium, as well as the median carina of the head and two short lateral occipital carinulae, black or blackish; the occiput margined with black behind. Pronotum reddish-brown; sides of the lateral keel creamy-white, with dense and coarse red-brown punctures; lower half of the lateral lobes also creamy-white, with scattered coarse blackish punctures; the crest of the median keel and series of small round spots along all the margins, as well as some indefinite spots in the upper part of the lateral lobes, black. Mesopleura and metapleura with dirty-white honeycombed sculpture. Mesonotum, metanotum and abdomen from above red-brown; mesonotum indistinctly rugulose, with the fore lower angles smooth; metanotum and abdomen rugulose throughout, with a low granulose median keel, which is blackish up to the end of the first tergite; both mesonotum and metanotum with a few small blackish marginal spots. Fore and middle legs creamy-white.

with brownish and blackish puncturation. Hind femora reddish-brown; the external median area creamy-white, almost smooth, with deep blackish punctures scattered along the middle, and with black granulated marginal carinae; the knees blackened laterally. Hind tibiae blackish on the underside, and creamy-white, punctured with reddish-brown on the rest of their surface; their spines black-tipped. The underside paler and redder than the upperside.

Length of body (somewhat extended) 72 mm.; pronotum 8.5 mm.; elytra 1.5 mm.; hind femora 23 mm.

Two females (type and paratype) from Hermigua, Gomera, Canary Islands, captured 21.ii.1922 by Mr. C. E. Bellamy, to whom the species is dedicated. Both are in the British Museum collection.

I have included this striking insect in the genus *Orchamus*, though it does not agree very closely with all the generic characters; thus, the presence of a median carinula on the vertex and occiput, the extreme reduction of the elytra, and the peculiar shape of the hind femora, may be considered as characters of generic value. I, however, refrain from describing a new genus until the male of the present species is known.

The genus *Orchamus* includes five species, and is restricted in its distribution to the East of the Mediterranean—to Syria, Palestine, Crete, and Cyprus, and that also speaks in favour of the new species being generically distinct from the Eastern forms; but there is no doubt that it is much more closely related to them than to any genus of *Pamphaginae* of N.W. Africa and Spain.

It is very interesting to note that examples of the same kind are known in the affinities of Canarian flora. Thus, J. Pitard and L. Prout* pointed out that the following endemic Canarian plants have Eastern affinities: *Ranunculus cortusaefolius* Willd. to *R. creticus* L. from Crete, and *Parolina ornata* W. to *Diccratella floccosa* Boiss. from Persia and to *D. canescens* from Sokotra; and that some of the Canarian *Convolvuli* are nearly allied to species of Asia Minor, Persia and Sokotra.

The fact that two odd specimens of Orthoptera, picked up by Mr. Bellamy quite accidentally, proved to belong to a new and extremely interesting species, indicates that our knowledge of the Orthopterous fauna of the Canarian Islands is very unsatisfactory; indeed, the latest list of Canarian Orthoptera, by H. Krauss †, includes 11 species only, while more than 200 are known from Morocco, the fauna of which is scarcely richer than the Canarian one. A thorough investigation of the latter is, therefore, badly wanted, the more so,

* "Les îles Canaries. Flore de l'Archipel." Paris, 1908.

† "Systematisches Verzeichnis der canarischen Dermapteren und Orthopteren mit Diagnosen der Gattungen und Arten." Zool. Anzeiger, xv. 1892, pp. 163-171.

as it should give many important clues to the past history of the Mediterranean fauna. In fact, Mr. Bellamy's discovery is highly important in this respect, since it speaks most decidedly against the generally adopted theory of the volcanic origin of the Canaries, and in favour of their (or, at least, of some of them, like Gomera) being remnants of a sunken continent, as the possibility of a recent introduction in the islands of such a sluggish insect as a member of the *Pamphaginae* is quite out of the question.

May 1922.

The Life-History of the Pelobius tardus Herbst, by F. Balfour-Browne, M.A.—The attention of Coleopterists is called to Mr. Balfour-Browne's valuable paper on this well-known water-beetle (*P. Z. S.* 1922, part i, pp. 79-97, pls. i-iii, April 1922). He divides the subject under five headings: 1. The family Pelobiidae; 2. Britannic distribution of *P. tardus* (with a typo-map); 3. The Imago (habitat and habits, longevity in artificial environment, stridulation, sexual differences); 4. The Life-history (oviposition, incubation, vital staining of embryo, the larva, food of the larva, stomodaeum of the larva, habits of the full-grown larva); 5. The Life-cycle. On plate i the variation of the larva is shown (figs. 1-6), also the egg (figs. 7-10), and on plate iii (fig. 6) an elytron showing the stridulatory-file upon which the apex of the abdomen rubs, this being present on each of them in both sexes. The paper is too lengthy to quote in detail, and must be consulted for further particulars.—EDS.

Rhinocola eucalypti Mask. in England.—In 1916, Mr. H. Britten, while at the Hope Museum, Oxford, reared this species of *Psyllidae* through all its stages from material which he found on a *Eucalyptus* at Headington Hill House. Recently I have received examples of the same species from Dr. Hugh Scott. They were found by a nurseryman at Felixstowe, Suffolk, who says: "We have some [*Eucalyptus*] planted out in a border, some 20 feet high, and this fly was first noticed by the down or woolly substance falling on the plants underneath. It lives outdoors during the summer on plants used for bedding purposes. We keep it under by fumigation." The host-plant is *Eucalyptus globulus* (Blue Gum), the species upon which Maskell originally found the *Psyllid* in New Zealand, and this is the only recorded food-plant for it. *Rhinocola eucalypti* has been recorded from New Zealand, Australia, and S. Africa. Maskell's description and figures (*Trans. New Zeal. Inst.* vol. xxii, 1890, p. 160) make the species readily recognizable. The wing venation of many of the specimens I have seen is abnormal in that the median is unbranched.—F. LAING, Natural History Museum: May 14th, 1921.

Variation in the genus Psithyrus Lep. in the neighbourhood of Leeds.—In Dr. R. C. L. Perkins' clear summary of the principal variations known to occur in Britain (*Ent. Mo. Mag.* April 1921, p. 82) he opens with the remark that the many variations have been insufficiently studied and "their distribution especially is very imperfectly known." This fact is my excuse for offering the following list of varieties which fell to my net in 1920 and 1921 in the northern outskirts of Leeds, chiefly in the suburb of Roundhay. All six British species