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Notes on Staphylinidae from Solomon Islands,  
with Description of a New Subgenus

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INTRODUCTION

A small collection of Staphylinidae from the Solomon Islands, collected by G. A. Kusche and sent for identification by E. C. Zimmerman of Bernice P. Bishop Museum, contains the three species discussed in this paper.

Examination of the series of *Oxytelus ocularis* Fauvel shows that the males of this species are extremely polymorphic, there being great variation in the shape and sculpture of the head and the shape of the pronotum. This variation was also noted in specimens from Australia, more than 100 having been examined.

I am indebted to Bishop Museum for the loan of the Solomon Islands material, to Dr. M. Cameron for the use of his collection, and to Mr. E. B. Britton of the British Museum (Natural History) for facilities for examining the Museum collections. Examined were specimens of *O. ocularis* Fauvel from Northern Australia and the Solomon Islands, *O. atriceps* Fauvel from the Celebes and New Guinea, *O. bubalus* Fauvel from Java, and *O. testaceus* Motschulsky from Singapore and New Guinea.

OXYTELINAE

***Oxytelus ocularis*** Fauvel, Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova 10: 198, 1877.

In large males (major forms), head is large (including eyes), about 1.5 times as broad as long and slightly wider than pronotum; head is produced on each side above antennal insertions into a short, bluntly pointed process, the clypeus being gently rounded. The eyes are large, moderately prominent and occupy more than half of sides of head, the post-ocular region being slightly more than 0.5 as long as curve of eyes. Mandibles are large and prominent. Clypeus is depressed, with scattered fine punctures interspersed with a few larger ones,

surface between punctures being lightly and sometimes indistinctly alutaceous; rest of head has scattered fine punctures interspersed with minute punctules and no ground sculpture. First antennal segment is long, widened and flattened apically and rather sharply narrowed about middle. The pronotum is more than 1.5 times as broad as long, the sides converging basally.

Small males (minor forms) have head and pronotum identical with those of females; head is much smaller than in the male major, being (including eyes) just over 1.5 times as broad as long and slightly narrower than pronotum, the front margin broadly rounded, there being no trace of processes above antennal insertions. Eyes are large and prominent, occupying whole of side of head. Mandibles are less prominent and first antennal segment less widened apically. Clypeus is scarcely depressed, almost impunctate and distinctly alutaceous; rest of head sculptured as in the male major, but with traces of alutacion in places. Pronotum is rather less than 1.5 times as broad as long, the sides not converging basally.

Guadalcanal, January to February 1921, 18 males and 11 females.

The specimens, which are darker in colour than representatives of this insect from Australia, were at first thought to be a different species. However, a close examination and dissection of the aedeagus failed to show any difference.

The male major and male minor forms are the extremes and are not sharply differentiated, there being all manner of intermediates. Both forms and an intermediate form are illustrated (fig. 1, *a, b, c*).

Other species of the genus were examined for polymorphism in the males and three—*O. atriceps* Fauvel, *O. bubalus* Fauvel, and *O. testaceus* Motschulsky—were found to show it.

*O. atriceps* is practically identical in form with *O. ocularis* Fauvel and shows exactly the same range of variation. It differs in the colour, the presence of longitudinal strigae on the head in all specimens—these being more noticeable in the smaller forms—and the longitudinally strigose ground-sculpture on the elytra. The elytra of *O. ocularis* are alutaceous.

*O. bubalus* has male major forms which are distinct from those of the two above-mentioned species by reason of their smaller eyes, broader neck, and the more prominent anterior angles of the pronotum (fig. 1, *d*). Male minor forms and females, however, are almost identical in shape with those of *O. atriceps* but may be distinguished by the rather more prominent anterior angles of the pronotum and the ground sculpture of the elytra, these being strigose anteriorly and distinctly alutaceous postero-externally. As might be expected, the proportion of male forms with the eyes occupying the whole of the side of the head appears to be smaller than in *O. atriceps* and *O. ocularis*.

*O. testaceus* is very distinct by reason of the coarser and closer puncturation of the head, pronotum, and elytra and the apparently complete absence of ground sculpture in these areas. Only a few males of this species have been examined, these being comparable with intermediate and male minor forms of *O. ocularis* and *O. atriceps*. No male has been seen which is comparable with the male major forms of these two species, though such specimens would be expected to occur.

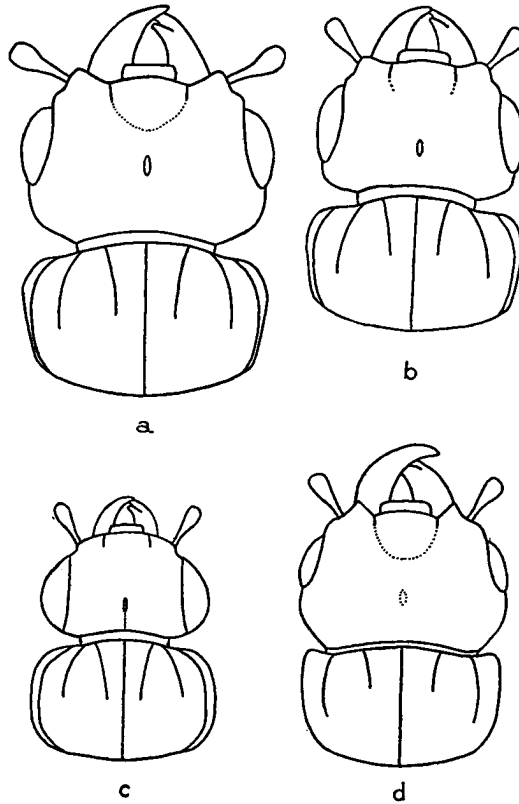


FIGURE 1.—a, *Oxytelus ocularis*, male major form; b, *O. ocularis*, intermediate male form; c, *O. ocularis*, male minor form; d, *O. bubalus*, male major form.

The females of *O. ocularis*, *O. atriceps* and *O. bubalus* vary greatly in size, small specimens being only three-fifths the size of large males.

Apart from the polymorphic males, the above-mentioned species show a resemblance to those of the subgenus *Oxytelus* sensu stricto

(= *Caccoporus* Thomson) which have the eyes occupying about half of the sides of the head in the males and the whole or very nearly the whole of the sides in the females. However, in *Oxytelus* sensu stricto the first antennal segment is not widened apically, being either parallel-sided or emarginate before the apex. A new subgenus is, therefore, proposed for *O. ocularis* and its allies and may be characterized as follows:

Subgenus **Paracaccoporus**, new subgenus

First antennal segment club-shaped, narrowed basally. Eyes in males occupying at least half, in females whole, of side of head; coarsely faceted. Males polymorphic. Dorsal surface of each elytron not bordered laterally by a distinct ridge.

Type: *Oxytelus ocularis* Fauvel.

KEY TO DESCRIBED SUBGENERA OF OXYTELUS

1. Sides of pronotum crenulate.....**Styloxys** des Gozis (= *Oxytelus* sensu stricto Thomson) (Type: *O. rugosus* Fabricius—original designation).  
Sides of pronotum not crenulate..... 2
2. First antennal segment not widened from base to apex, either parallel-sided or emarginate before apex..... 3  
First antennal segment widened from base to apex, more or less club-shaped ..... 5
3. Facets of eyes fine.....**Tanycraerus** Thomson  
(Type: *O. laqueatus* Marsham = *luteipennis* Erichson—monobasic.)  
Facets of eyes coarse..... 4
4. Dorsal surface of each elytron bordered laterally by a distinct ridge; eyes in both sexes occupying whole of sides of head.....  
.....**Epomotylus** Thomson. (Type: *O. sculptus* Gravenhorst—monobasic.)  
Elytra not ridged dorsally; eyes occupying about half of sides of head in males, whole or practically whole of sides of head in females.....  
.....**Oxytelus** sensu stricto (= *Caccoporus* Thomson) (Type: *O. piceus* Linnaeus—designated by Latreille, 1810).
5. Eyes in males occupying from slightly less than one-half to whole of sides of head, in females the whole of sides of head; males polymorphic .....**Paracaccoporus**,  
new subgenus (Type: *O. ocularis* Fauvel, designated above).  
Eyes not occupying the whole of sides of head in either sex..... 6
6. Head in males with two spines in front, species usually small..**Boettcherianus** Bernhauer (Type: *O. planaticollis* Bernhauer, designated here).  
Head in males without spines, size variable..... 7
7. Dorsal surface of each elytron bordered laterally by a distinct ridge.....  
**Emopotylus** Bernhauer (Type: *O. cuernavacanus* Bernhauer—monobasic).  
Elytra not ridged dorsally.....  
.....**Anotylus** Thomson (Type: *O. sculpturatus* Gravenhorst—monobasic).

The characters of *Boettcherianus* (Philippine Jour. Sci. 61: 82, 1936) and *Emopotylus* Bernhauer (Verh. Zool.-bot. Ges. Wien. 10: 359, 1910) have been taken from the original descriptions, no specimens of either of these subgenera having been seen.

PAEDERINAE

**Paederus fuscipes** Curtis, Ent. Brit. 3: 108, 1826.

Guadalcanal, Dec. 7, 1920, one male and one female.

A widely distributed, almost cosmopolitan species.

STAPHYLININAE

**Philonthus longicornis** Stephens, Illustr. Brit. Ent. 5: 237, 1832.

Guadalcanal, February 1921, one female.

A widely distributed, almost cosmopolitan species.

