

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

Notes on the Genus *Centronopus* Solier (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae)

The New World genus *Centronopus* Solier was reviewed by Spilman (1962) who recorded ten species, one of which he described as new. Two species occur in the United States, *C. calcaratus* (Fabricius), which is common in the east to just west of the Mississippi River, and *C. opacus* LeConte, which until recently, was considered rare. The latter species was documented from Oklahoma and Arkansas by Steiner (1983) and large numbers from Latimer County, Oklahoma were reported by Triplehorn and Stephan (1994). Spilman had seen only seven specimens when he wrote his review.

The following four species are noteworthy since few have been seen since the original descriptions. Most of them were collected in the 1990s and were among specimens sent to the senior author for identification. It seems incredible that such colorful and conspicuous beetles could have eluded collectors for more than a century.

***Centronopus batesi* (Champion), 1885:101.** This species was described as *Pyres batesi* based on a single male from Bogota, Colombia in the Bates collection. Champion also described the genus *Pyres* that he felt was distinct from *Centronopus* (Solier, 1848). Spilman (1962) presented a complete synopsis of the convoluted history of the genera *Centronopus*, *Scotobates*, and *Pyres*, and a convincing argument for use of the generic name *Centronopus* with the other two generic names in synonymy.

Spilman included *C. batesi* in his key (*loc. cit.*, p. 9), but in a footnote stated that he had seen no specimens and used the description for its placement in the key. Three specimens of this species were recently sent to CAT. All are from Panama Province, Panama, collected by J. Wappes, J. Huether, and R. Morris. A pair is labeled as follows: K8-13 El Llano Carti Rd., 21–24 May 1996; a single male is labeled: Cerro Jefe, 2,200', 11–12 May 1996. JEW's recollection is that they came to lights.

The three examples are similar in size and coloration with the usual sexual dimorphism characteristic of other species of the genus (male with thickened and reflexed epistomal margin and protibia with a sharp spine on the ventral surface, both of which are lacking in the female). Since Spilman illustrated the aedeagus of six species of *Centronopus*, a male of *C. batesi* was dissected for comparison by CAT and found to be inseparable from that of *C. beardsleyi*. The species is a brilliant, dark metallic blue and very shiny. Measurements: Length 11.2–12.6 mm; width 4.8–5.2 mm. The specimens are deposited in OSUC and FSCA.

***Centronopus beardsleyi* Spilman, 1962:11.** This species was described from six specimens originating from under bark of a log from Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico and intercepted at Laredo, Texas., 4 May 1937. We have seen a single female labeled: Mexico, Jalisco, vic. Estacion de Biologia Chamela, UNAM, 9–14-VII-93, Morris, Huether, Wappes, black light. The head, thorax, scutellum and abdominal sterna are black and the elytra are orange with gray rectangular or square areas around stria punctures. This species was not reported by Doyen (1988) in his treatment of the Tenebrionidae of the Chamela Biological Station. We believe this to be the first record since the species was described.

***Centronopus speciosus* (Pascoe), 1883:439.** Spilman (*loc. cit.*, p. 15) reported Champion's literature citation for this species from Chontales, Nicaragua, and that he had seen specimens from Cartago, Costa Rica. We have seen four additional Costa Rican specimens: a male labeled: Costa Rica, Alajuela], 20 km s. Upala, 26 March–12 April 1991, F. D. Parker, a pair in the collection of Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, Costa Rica, sent by Angel Solis to WES for identification, labeled: Amubri, 70 m. Talamanca Prov., Limon, Costa Rica, 12 a 30 Set 1992, G. Gallardo, L-S 385500, 578050, and one female (USNM) is labeled: COSTA RICA, Cartago Prov., Pejibaye, 24 March 1987, W. E. Steiner, J. M. Hill, S. E. Frye collectors. According to field notes by WES, the beetle was found at night on a rotten stump on a cut-over forest slope.

This species usually is a brilliant, shiny purple and was figured by Champion (1885, Tab. 5, Fig. 10) under the name *Pyres metallicus*. The pair from Amubri mentioned above are brilliant metallic blue, but all of the others we have seen are purplish as in Champion's illustration. The aedeagi are identical.

***Centronopus bimaculatus* Champion, 1892:521, Tab. 23, Fig. 1.** This species was described from seven specimens from Yucatan and Vera Cruz, Mexico. Spilman did not see this species. There is a single female specimen in The Ohio State University collection labeled: Belize: Orange

Walk District, Rio Bravo Conserv. Area, East Gate, vic. Rancho Dolores, 13-IX-96, P. Kovarik, under oak bark. This species differs from other members of the genus in having all tibiae of the male with a triangular tooth (instead of only the anterior pair).

***Centronopus nigrofasciatus* (Gebien), 1928:182, Fig. 24.** Represented by 12 specimens, including a cotype in USNM, from Limon District, Costa Rica. They are from the "Hamburg Farm" collected by F. Nevermann and are undoubtedly those mentioned by Spilman, who characterized the species as "black to brownish-black, elytra bicolored, for the most part yellowish, each elytron with wide black border basally, narrow black border laterally and medially, and a wide black fascia at half length extending from medial border and almost touching lateral border."

Remarks on Other Species. *Centronopus nigrosignatus* (Pic) from Brazil remains unknown to us. From the description, it appears to be close to *C. nigrofasciatus*, differing in having black markings anteriorly, medially, and posteriorly instead of anteriorly and medially.

Both *C. suppressus* (Say) and *C. grandicollis* Champion are well represented in collections. The former is known from Distrito Federal, Morelos, Hidalgo, Puebla, Veracruz, San Luis Potosi, and Mexico; the latter from Distrito Federal, Hidalgo, Mexico, Morelos, Durango, and Tamaulipas.

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