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A Review of the Diglotta of the world (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae)

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Abstract

Diglotta *is a small genus with only six known species. They are small halobiontic beetles, distributed on various parts of the world.*

Three species described as Diglotta *by M.* CAMERON*:* D. subtilissima, D. testacea *and* D. testaceipennis *are in the present paper transferred to* Bryothinusa *and a redescription of* D. maritima *is given.*

Their systematics, taxonomy, chorology and biology are discussed.

Résumé

Diglotta *est un petit genre représenté par six espèces. Ce sont des coléoptères halobiontes, distribués dans diverses parties du monde.*

Trois espèces décrites comme Diglotta *par M. CAMERON:* D. subtilissima, D. testacea *et* D. testaceipennis *sont transférées dans le genre* Bryothinusa *et une redescription de* Diglotta maritima *est donnée.*

Leurs statuts systématique, taxonomique, chorologique et biologique sont discutés.

Introduction

Taxonomical history

HALIDAY (1837) described the genus *Diglossa* based upon a single species *D. mersa*. The name *Diglossa* was pre-occupied in zoology (WAGLER, 1832) and CHAMPION changed it to *Diglotta* (1899). In 1854 FAIRMAIRE and LABOULBENE described a second species: *D. submarina* from the South of France.

MULSANT & REY described in 1870 *D. crassa* and *D. sinuaticollis* which are both synonyms with *D. submarina*. In 1871 HORN described *Phytosus littoralis* from New Jersey (U.S.A.), a species that was transferred to *Diglotta* by SEEVERS (1978). FAUVEL published in 1878 the description of *D. celebensis* from Celebes and in 1904 two species from the Red-Sea region: *D. caneroni* and *D. peyerimhoffi*. These three species were recently transferred to the genus *Bryothinusa* CASEY, 1904 by PACE (1987).

FENYES recognized *D. pacifica* in 1921 and MOORE & ORTH described *D.*

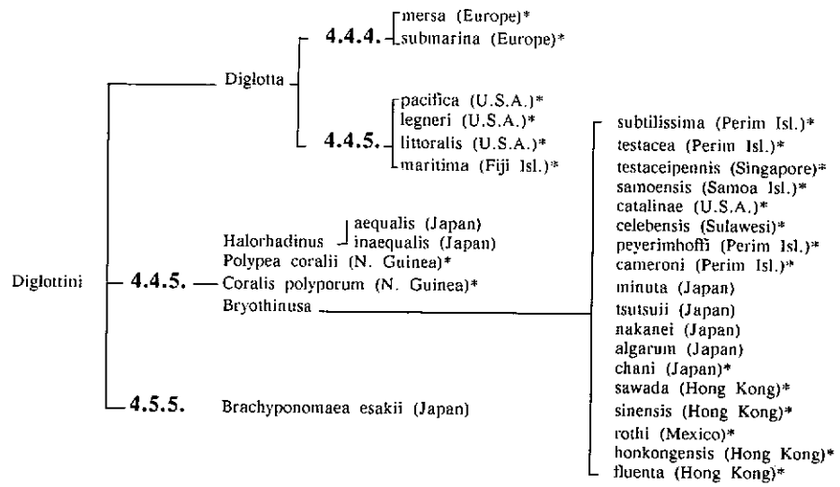
legneri in 1979, both Californian sea-shores species.

CAMERON described *D. subtilissima* and *D. testacea* in 1904 from the Island Perim (Red Sea) and in 1918 *D. testaceipennis* from Singapore. These three species are in the present paper transferred to *Bryothinusa*. Finally *Diglotta maritima* was described in 1927 from Levuka (Fiji Islands) by LEA.

Present status

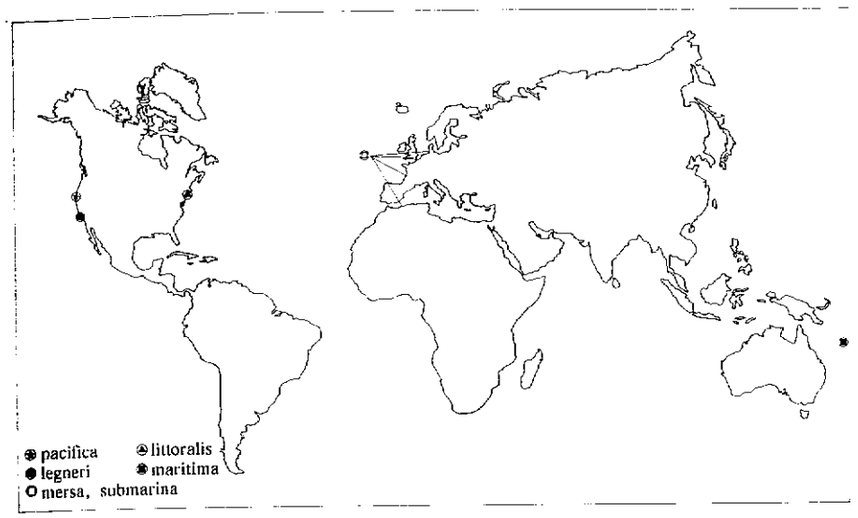
The relationships of *Diglotta* are still not clear. SEEVERS (l.c.) mentioned only *Diglotta* in the *Diglottini* tribe; KLIMASZEWSKI (1982) includes also *Polypea* and PACE (l.c.) listed in his key 6 genera: *Diglotta*, *Brachyponomaea*, *Halorhadinus*, *Bryothinusa*, *Polypea* and *Corallis*.

Table 1. Number of tarsi in the Diglottini tribe. Species marked with * have been seen by the author.



The number of tarsal segments is regarded as the most fundamental and standard character in the taxonomy of *Aleocharinae* and this is true for almost all forms but in the present genus it is inconstant. The separation of genera in PACE'S key is based upon the tarsal formula (Table 1), but no attention was paid to the fact that the Nearctic *Diglotta* species possess 4-4-5 tarsi (PACE stated a 4-4-4 tarsi), so there is still confution on this subject! At the moment there are 6 *Diglotta* species known from various parts of the world: two species from the European coasts, two species from the Pacific coast of North America, one from the Atlantic coast of North America and one from the Fiji-Islands (see map).

It is remarkable that two of the six known species (*D. littoralis* and *D. maritima*) are only known by the holotype. The very incomplete records may show a discontinuous distribution or (a more reasonable hypothesis) seashore entomology is neglected!



Ecology

All members of the genus are restricted to the seashores and are halobiontic (one species may be not but this remains to be demonstrated).

I have observed the two European species in different parts on the European coasts, and they both have typical habitats. *Diglotta mersa* is a species from sandy beaches, occuring in the intertidal zone and particularly in the supralitoral zone. LARSON (1936) described the biotopes of *D. mersa* from Skallingen (Denmark) and mentioned that the soil contains 16-20% H20 and 20-30% NaCl. They can be observed preponderant, between wrack-beds, but also running over the sand in very hot weather. As accompanying species we found mostly the staphylinids *Cafius xantholoma* (GRAVENHORST, 1806) (a predator of *D. mersa*), *Polychara punctatella* (MOTSCHULSKY, 1858) and the hydrophilid *Cercyon littoralis* (GYLLENHAL, 1808).

Diglotta submarina occurs mostly in salt and mud-marshes. LOHSE (1985) stated that the apterous form only lives at the seacoast, while the nominal form with well developed wings, occurs in inland saltless biotopes. However, I found several times mixed populations from these two forms in the same coastal mudflats (Photo 1). In these muddy clay habitats, particularly in estuaries, live besides *D. submarina* some halobiontic *Bledius*, *Heterocerus* and *Dyschirius* species.

The habitats of *D. littoralis* and *D. maritima* are of the same kind. *D. littoralis* was found on the seacoast in New Jersey (HORN l.c.) and *D. maritima* was discovered on the beach under a stone well below high tide (LEA l.c.). The two Pacific-coast species have also the same kind of biotope, both *D. legneri* and *D. pacifica* occuring on beaches in the intertidal zone. MOORE & ORTH (l.c.) mentioned finding the two Pacific species on beaches at night.

Key to the *Diglotta* species of the world.

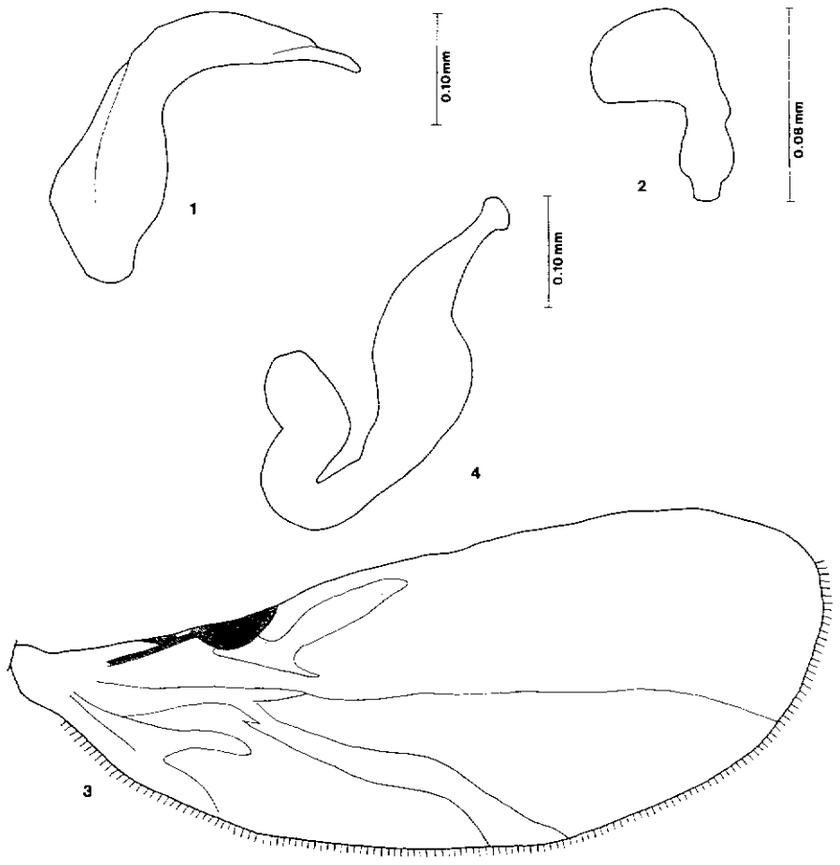
1) All tarsi four-segmented; elytra as long or longer than pronotum 2
-Pro- and meso-tarsi four-segmented, metatarsi five-segmented; elytra shorter than pronotum 3
2) Pronotum somewhat broader than long; tergite 3 with a weak impression; elytral pubescence almost obliquely directed upwards . . . . . 1) *mersa*
+) posterior angles of pronotum running outside; posterior angles of elytra running inside . . . . . 1a) *mersa subsinuata*
-Pronotum not broader than long; tergite 3 with a strong impression; elytral pubescence directed backwards, hindwings well developed . . 2) *submarina*
+) elytrae humerus obtuse; elytra shorter than in nominal form; apterous . . . . . 2a) *submarina microptera*
3) Antennae short; smaller than 2mm 4
- Antennae elongate; brownish; larger: 2.6mm . . . . . 3) *legneri*
- Antennae elongate; pale yellow; 1.9mm . . . . . 4) *maritima*
4) Head a little broader than long, punctation finely asperate; colour light testaceous; 1.8mm . . . . . 5) *littoralis*
- Head one-third broader than long, punctation coarser and denser; colour brownish; 1.5mm . . . . . 6) *pacifica*

Diagnosis

Diglotta CHAMPION, 1887

Type species: *Diglossa mersa* HALIDAY, 1837
Mouthparts beak-like, mandibles long, straight with slightly incurved apices;

long galea and lacinia (the latter with rows of teeth); labial palpi long, filiform 3-segmented; maxillary palpi extremely elongate, 4-segmented; ligula entire, narrow; head large, rounded behind the eyes; pronotum broadest subapically, sides bisinuate to somewhat narrower base; elytra variable in length: considerably shorter or longer than pronotum; abdomen parallel, a little broader at apex than at base; pleura strongly margined; mesosternal region short; frontal suture present; legs robust, tibiae with spines on the outer margin near apex; tarsi 4-4-4 or 4-4-5 segmented, plantar area of segments at times prolonged or with long hook-tipped setae, claws robust, sickleshaped; pubescence over the whole surface rather long and very dense (a good character for many marine staphylinids); male and female genitalia both have a typical shape (Figs 1, 2 & 5).



Figs 1-4. 1. Aedeagus Diglotta submarina; 2. Spermatheca Diglotta legneri; 3. Hindwing Diglotta submarina, nominant form; 4. Spermatheca Bryothinussa testacea.

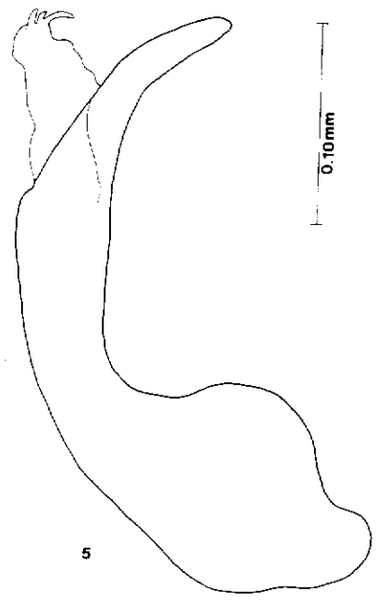


Fig. 5. Aedeagus and endophallus Diglotta pacifica.

Of the immature stages, only the larvae of *D. mersa* are described (HALIDAY, 1856, KEMNER, 1925).

1) *Diglotta mersa* (HALIDAY, 1837)
Diglossa mersa HALIDAY, 1837: 252
Diglotta mersa HAL.; CHAMPION, 1899: 265
Diglotta mersa forma *subsinuata* MULSANT & REY, 1873

Description

Black-brownish, dull, mouthparts and legs yellow-brown, 1.4-2mm.
Head large, a little broader than long and as broad as pronotum, punctation fine and dense, pubescence fine; antennae brownish with yellow base, segment 2 twice as long as segment 3, the latter spindle-shaped, segments 4 and 5 quadrate, segments 6-10 transverse. Pronotum somewhat broader than long; strongly narrowed backwards; finely and densely punctate; the yellow pubescence more clear and stronger than on head. Elytra about as long as pronotum; humerus rounded-off; punctation fine and dense; pubescence almost oblique upwards directed.
Abdomen blackish, strongly broadened backwards; tergite 3 with a weak impression; more shining than the fore-parts; pubescence scarce but long. Legs yellowish. Forma *subsinuata*: larger than the nominal form (over 2mm); pronotum more extended, margins before hind-angles running outside; hind-angles of elytra running inside.
Material examined: 139 ex. of the nominal form from Belgium, the Netherlands, France, West-Germany, Wales and Ireland (type ex.).
Forma subsimata: 1 ex. from France (Arcachon).

2) *Diglotta submarina* (FAIRMAIRE & LABOULBENE, 1854)
Diglossa submarina FAIRMAIRE & LABOULBENE, 1854: 468
Diglossa sinuaticollis MULSANT & REY, 1870: 176
Diglossa crassa MULSANT & REY, 1870: 180
Diglotta submarina forma *microptera* LOHSE, 1985: 180-181.

Description

Black, pronotum and elytra sometimes brownish, weakly shining, mouthparts and legs brown, 1.6-2.5mm.
Head large, as broad as pronotum; punctation dense and stronger than in *mersa*; the yellow pubescence fine and dense; antennae brownish, segment 3 twice as long as broad, segments 8-10 transverse. Pronotum longer than broad, much smaller than elytral humeri; punctation and pubescence as on head. Elytra 1/4 longer than pronotum; humeri distinct; the yellow pubescence dense; hindwings well developed (Fig. 3). Abdomen pitch black, somewhat parallel; tergite 3 with a strong impression; pubescence scarce but long. Legs brown, tarsi yellow.
Forma *microptera*: smaller than nominal form (size variable); elytra shorter, about as long as pronotum; humeri obtuse-angled; apterous.
Material examined: 53 ex. of the nominal form from Belgium, France, Denmark, Algeria.
Forma microptera: 27 ex. from Belgium and West-Germany.

3) *Diglotta maritima* LEA, 1927
Diglotta maritima LEA, 1927: 277-278

Redescription of holotype

Pale yellow; head and pronotum more reddish; tergite 4 pale brown; small, elongate: 1.9mm.
Head reddish, dull with a clear reticulation; hind-angles rounded off; eyes moderately large, tempora twice as long; mouthparts, palpi and antennae pale-yellow; antennae elongate (length: 0.81 mm), segments 1 and 2 equal each about twice as long as segments 3-10, end segment oval and twice as long as segment 10; pubescence yellow-white, fine and dense.
The base and the left side of the head was crushed at the time of capture, so that the head has a deformed appearance.
Pronotum yellow-red; paler than head but darker than elytra (ratio l. & w.: 0.33 x 0.35 mm); narrowed backwards; the median depression on the pronotum is not accidental like Lea states, but a good character; clearely alutaceous but not so dense as on the head; rather shining and an equal pubescence like on the head.
Elytra paleyellow, distinctly transverse; shorter than pronotum (length: 0.22 mm); pubescence and reticulation as on the pronotum.
Abdomen more shining than fore-parts, yellow; tergite 4 and base of tergite 3 pale brown; reticulation distinct and more widespread than on foreparts; broadest

at the base of tergite 4; the yellow pubescence not so dense but longer than on pronotum.

Legs entirely yellow.

Remark : the holotype (the only known specimen) is, besides the damaged head, missing the left pro- and mesolegs.

Material examined: holotype (nr. 16476): Levuka, Fiji Islands (leg. A.M. LEA); coll. South Australian Museum, Adelaide.

4) *Diglotta littoralis* (HORN, 1871)
Phytosus littoralis: HORN, 1871: 331
Diglotta littoralis (HORN): SEEVERS, 1978: 178.

Description holotype (after SEEVERS)

Head a little broader than long; postclypeus with small smooth median eminence that seems to be connected to relatively strong median labial carina; head reticulate, and with moderately dense, fine asperate punctation; head pubescence directed caudad; antennae short, segments one and two moderately long, three slightly longer than broad, 4-10 short, transverse, incrassate (tenth segment three-fifths broader than fourth); segment 11 rounded at apex and only a little more than three-fourths as long as 9 and 10 combined; pronotum one-seventh broader than long, its base hardly two-fifths maximum width: sides strongly bisinuate. Elytra small, about two-thirds as long as pronotum.

Apterous; coloration light testaceous, abdomen darker. Length: 1.8mm.

Material examined: holotype (nr. 3151); New Jersey, U.S.A. (leg. A.S. VERRILL). coll. Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

5) *Diglotta legneri* MOORE & ORTH, 1979
Diglotta legneri MOORE & ORTH, 1979: 339

Description

Largely piceous, mouthparts yellow-brown, legs yellow, the whole surface with a dense pubescence, apterous, 2.6mm.

Head reddish, large globose; as wide as pronotum; sparsely punctured and reticulate; tempora twice as long as the eyes; the yellow pubescence fine; antennal segments 1 and 2 elongate (2 about 1/5 shorter than 1), segment 3 twice as long as wide, 4-6 distinctly longer than wide, 7 as long as wide, 8-10 broader than long and distinctly broader than the preceding, segment 11 as long as 9-10 together. Pronotum at the apex as broad as the head, sides rapidly narrowed to base which is less than half as wide as apex; the base of pronotum possesses a hardly visible, very small furrow; punctation and ground sculpture similar to that of head; the yellow pubescence much longer, denser and stronger than on head. Elytra narrow at the base, rapidly expanded behind; less than 1/2 as long as pronotum; each elytron somewhat wider than long; sculpture and pubescence similar to that of pronotum. Abdomen brown-blackish, gradually wider to fourth segment; sparsely and finely punctured; the pubescence yellow, dense. Spermatheca as in fig. 2.

Material examined: paratypes (nr. 16496) San Diego Coast, La Jolla (California) 7 & 21.X.1953 (leg. I. MOORE), Vent. coast, Rincon beach (California) 10.X.1955 (leg. I. MOORE) (coll. Biosystematics Research Centre, Ottawa, Ontario).

6) *Diglotta pacifica* FENYES, 1921
Diglotta pacifica FENYES, 1921: 17

Description

Subopaque; foreparts brownish, hindparts yellowish; antennae and legs yellow; apterous; 1.5 mm.

Head large, broader than pronotum; brown-red; eyes smaller than tempora, the latter strongly rounded off; moderately, somewhat coarsely punctate; palpi pale yellow; antennae dark yellow, segments 4-5 subquadrate, segments 6-10 somewhat transverse; pronotum about as long as broad, strongly narrowed backwards; punctation fine and denser than on head, the yellow pubescence dense, longer than on head; elytra short, about half as long as pronotum; the yellow pubescence dense and longer than on pronotum; abdomen elongate oviform, yellow-red, tergite 4 more brownish; punctation as on head; pubescence yellow, long and particularly dense on pleura and terminalia; legs yellow. Aedeagus as in fig. 5.

Material examined: Baja California: Estero Beach, 1ex. (12.IV.1959) (leg. I. MOORE); La Mission, San Miguel 3ex. (27.VI.1959) (leg. I. MOORE) (coll. Biosystematics Research Centre, Ottawa, Ontario). California, San L.O.Co, Estero Bay (II.1974), 45 ex.; California, Playa del Rey (1.XI.1924), 11 ex. (coll. Dept. of Entomology, University of California, Riverside). Oregon, Lane Co. 3 mi. N. Florence, Harbor Vista Co P.K. 1.VII.1968 (leg. L. HERMAN), Oregon, Winchester Bay, Douglas Co. 29.VII.1969 (leg. L. HERMAN) (coll. American Museum of Natural History, New York).

Reassignment of CAMERON's *Diglotta* species

These two genera can be separated by means of the following character:
- outer lobe of maxilla without pubescence on inner side: *Bryothinusa*;
- outer lobe of maxilla with lon pubescence on inner side: *Diglotta*.

1) *Bryothinusa testacea* (CAMERON, 1904) comb.nov.
Diglossa testacea CAMERON, 1904: 157
Diglotta testacea CAM., BERNHAUER & SCHEERPELTZ, 1926: 509

Redescription of syntype

Elongate, parallel, yellow-testaceous, tergite 5 brown-blackish, 2-2.20mm.

Head large, as broad as pronotum (in ♂) or almost as broad (in ♀), (ratio l. & w.: 0.35 x 0.42 mm); eyes large, somewhat shorter than tempora (♂) or as long as tempora (♀); vertex weakly impressed in ♂ (not in ♀); finely alutaceous; pubescence dense and short; antennae slender (length: 1 mm); in ♂: segments 1-2 elongate, equal in length, segments 3-10 longer than broad; in ♀: segments 4-7 as broad as long, segments 8-10 transverse, segment 11 twice as long as segment 10.

Pronotum trapezoidal, a little broader than long (ratio l. & w.: in ♂: 0.37 x 0.44 mm; in ♀: 0.33 x 0.41 mm) with a longitudinal oval impression in midline

(♂) or a hardly visible fine impressed line on disc (♀); pubescence and microsculpture in both sexes equal: fine and dense. Elytra pale yellow, as long and (at humeri) as broad as pronotum, square; more finely alutaceous than pronotum; pubescence very dense. Abdomen in ♂ parallel, not constricted at base; in ♀ somewhat constricted at base; more shining than foreparts; apical margin of tergite 4 and tergite 5 entirely brown-blackish: finely punctate; tergite 6 in ♂ with many minute teeth; pubescence not so dense but longer than on fore-parts. Legs yellow, tarsi testaceous.

Spermatheca as in fig. 4.

Material examined : syntypes ♂ and ♀ : Perim, Red Sea, february 1903 (in seaweed) (leg. & coll. M. CAMERON) (coll. British Museum of Natural History, London). The ♂ is here designated as lectotype.

Remark: the specimens described by CAMERON as ♂ are ♀, and ♀ are ♂!

2) *Bryothinusa subtilissima* (CAMERON, 1904) comb.nov.
Diglossa subtilissima CAMERON, 1904: 157
Diglotta subtilissima CAM., BERNHAUER & SCHEERPELTZ, 1926: 509

Redescription of syntype

Small, narrow, elongate, pale testaceous, abdomen constricted at base, tergite 3-4 black-brownish, 1.25mm.

Head as broad as pronotum, not constricted behind eyes, the latter shorter than tempora, finely alutaceous; antennae entirely yellow, segments 1 and 2 elongate, segments 3-10 about as broad as long; pronotum almost as long as broad (ratio l. & w.: 0.22 x 0.24 mm), trapezoidal, at the base with a very small longitudinal furrow, sculpture and pubescence as on head; elytra shorter and smaller than pronotum; abdomen strongly constricted at base, yellow, tergite 2 pale testaceous, tergites 3 and 4 brownish with a black mark in the center, terminalia yellow, the yellow pubescence longer than on foreparts, over the whole surface fine and dense.

Legs yellow, tarsi yellow-red.

Remark: the examined specimen is probably an immature.

Material examined : syntype: Perim, Red Sea, february 1903 (in seaweed) (leg. & coll. M. CAMERON) (coll. British Museum of Natural History, London). The only examined specimen is here designated as lectotype.

3) *Bryothinusa testaceipennis* (CAMERON, 1918) comb.nov.
Diglotta testaceipennis CAMERON, 1918: 245-246.

Redescription of syntype.

Small, parallel sided; brown, mouthparts, antennae, elytra and legs yellow; 1.5mm. Head pale brown, large, as broad as long; impressed on the vertex; eyes moderately large, tempora somewhat longer; sculpture fine and dense with no punctation; the yellow pubescence dense and fine; palpi and antennae yellow, the latter very long (0.61mm); segments 1-2 elongate, equal, segment 3 the half of segment 2, segments 4-6 cylindrical, longer than broad, segments 7-9 equal, as long as broad, segment 10 longer than the preceding and longer than broad, segment 11 longer than 10, oval. Pronotum pale brown, slightly transverse (ratio l. & w.: 0.22 x 0.26 mm); somewhat broader than head; widest just behind anterior angles; somewhat narrowed anteriorly; disc lightly and broadly impressed along the middle; sculpture and pubescence as on head. Elytra as broad as pronotum, moderately long (0.24 mm), parallel sided, yellow; sculpture and pubescence as on pronotum.

Abdomen pale brown, hindparts of tergite 3 and tergite 4 somewhat darker, pygidium yellowish; sculpture as on foreparts; pubescence not so dense but longer than in foreparts. Legs yellow.

Material examined: syntype: Pasir Panjang, Singapore (leg. & coll. M. CAMERON) on beach under stone below high-water mark, between XI.1915 and XII. 1916 (coll. British Museum of Natural History, London). The only examined specimen is here designated as lectotype.

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Premières données sur trois familles de Lépidoptères de la région de Lamto (Côte d'Ivoire)

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Résumé

Les environs de la Station d'écologie de Lamto abritent de nombreuses espèces de Lépidoptères Notodontidae, Lymantriidae et Lasiocampidae. Les plantes hôtes des chenilles de certaines de ces espèces élevées à la Station sont inventoriées dans cette note.

Abstract

Numerous species of lepidoptera of three families: Notodontidae, Lymantriidae and Lasiocampidae have been recorded from the vicinity of the Lamto Ecology Station. A list of host plants for caterpillars of 60 of these species which have been reared at the Station is included in this note.

Introduction

Depuis 1967, des élevages systématiques de chenilles ont été effectués à la Station d'Ecologie de Lamto. Les adultes des groupes les plus spectaculaires ont été étudiés en priorité par suite du grand nombre de spécialistes. Les Lépidoptères nocturnes et de petites tailles ont été moins étudiés à cause du petit nombre de spécialistes travaillant sur ces groupes.

Les Notodontidae, Lymantriidae et Lasiocampidae obtenus en élevage à Lamto, mais aussi par des chasses nocturnes à la lampe, peuvent être publiés, car des déterminations m'ont été fournies par M. U. DALL'ASTA du Musée Royal de l'Afrique centrale de Tervuren[1]. Je le prie de trouver ici l'expression de ma profonde gratitude.

Ceci n'est qu'une première liste. L'étude de ces familles est incomplète: les exemplaires d'élevages déterminés vont de 1967 à 1980. De nombreux élevages ont été réalisés depuis cette dernière date.

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[1] La plupart des spécimens sont déposés dans ce Musée, un échantillon sera ultérieurement déposé à l'Université d'Abidjan.