WI Starte

# Florida Entomologist Official Organ of the Florida Entomological Society

VOL. VIII

AUTUMN NUMBER September, 1924 No. 2

# THE CHRYSOMELIDAE OF FLORIDA

By W. S. BLATCHLEY Dunedin, Florida

(Continued from page 7)

# XLII. Oedionychis Latreille.

Elongate-oval, glabrous species of medium size (4.5-7 mm.) and variable color, having the front coxal cavities open behind, elytral punctures confused, first joint of hind tarsus slender, last one globosely inflated. Adults occcur on flowers and foliage of various plants, especially Compositæ.

\*150 (15865). O. gibbitarsa (Say).—"Enterprise and Cedar Keys, common" (Sz.). St. Augustine (Ham.). Pablo Beach, Sept. 5 (Davis Coll.). Moore Haven, Mch. 22 (Bl. 1923), swept from vegetation in marshy ground. All Florida specimens that I have seen have the elytra a deep cobalt-blue in hue, not greenish as in the North.

\*151 (15867). O. thoracica (Fabr.).—Haulover, one specimen (Sz.). Crescent City (Sz. Ms.). L. Worth (Sl.). At hand from Gainesville and Dunedin, Nov.-Mch.; scarce about Dunedin, flying along the roads.

152 (15868). O. vians (Ill.).—"Common" (Sz.) St. Augustine (Ham.). No other State records.

\*153 (15869). O. concinna (Fabr.)—"Rare" (Sz.). Crescent City (Wic.). At hand from Ormond, Palmdale and Dunedin, Feb.-Apr.; occurs beneath boards and other cover along the margins of ponds, one being dug out of the muck (Bl. 1914).

\*154 (15873). O. fimbriata (Forst.).—Northern part of the State, south to Ft. Myers. Gainesville on oak, Apr. 18 (Wat.). At hand from Sarasota and Dunedin, Nov.-Apr.; taken on flowers of thistle and swept from tall grass along the sandy margins of ponds. All specimens seen are of the vittate variety formerly listed as circumcincta Cr.

\*155 (15875). O. petaurista (Fabr.).—"Tampa, very rare" (Sz.). Crescent City and Haw Creek (Sz. Ms.): St. Augustine (Ham.): Ft.

We recommend the goods advertised in The Florida Entomologist. Please mention Entomologist when you write our advertisers. Myers (Wic.). Gainesville, eating strawberry leaf, Feb.; on bitter-weed, *Helenium*, Aug. (Wat.). Varies much in size (5.5-8 mm.) and width of dark stripes.

\*156 (15877). O. miniata (Fabr.).—Northern part of State south to Ft. Myers. Frequent at Dunedin, Nov.-Apr., on dwarf huckleberry and

other low vegetation.

\*157. (15879). O. ulkei Horn, 1889, 188.—Type from "Florida." Haulover, Crescent City, Orange and Sumter Cos. (Sz. Ms.). Enterprise (Wic.). Dunedin, Feb. 24-Apr. 10; occurs on flowers of fetter-bush, Desmothamnus nitidus (Bartr.) and other Ericads in low damp woods (Bl. 1923).

158 (15883). O. indigoptera Lec., 1878, 416.—Type from Tampa. No other State record. "Occurs in Georgia and Florida" (Horn, 1889.)

\*159 (——). O. saltatra Blatch., 1923, 32.—Types from Dunedin and Sanford. Frequent about Dunedin in spring on low herbage in moist ground; at porch light, June 15.

\*160 (15887). O. sexmaculata (Ill.).—Enterprise, rare (Sz.). Gainesville, abundant on foliage of ash, Apr. 5 (Doz.). At hand from Sanford, Apr. 4. A common species in Indiana.

\*161 (15888). O. suturalis (Fabr.).—Throughout the State, south to Ft. Myers. At hand from six stations. Frequent about Dunedin, hibernating in Spanish moss and occurring in spring on flowers of the gallberry, *Ilex glabra* (L.), and other shrubs.

162 (15869). O. quercata (Fabr.).—St. Augustine (Ham.); probably refers to the next; thorax wholly pale.

\*162a (—). O. quercata obsidiana (Fabr.).—"Baldwin and Enterprise, common," (Sz.). Sanford, Mch. 30-Apr. 5 (Bl. 1923). This variety has the thorax piceous with explanate side margins pale. Leng places it as a synonym of quercata.

\*163 (15890). O. scalaris Melsh.—Northern part of the State, south to L. Okeechobee. At hand from Sanford, Utopia and Istokpoga, Mch.-Apr.; occurs on low Ericads near margins of lakes.

#### XLIII. Disonycha Chevrolat.

Oblong or oval medium sized (4-7 mm.) beetles of varied hue, having the front coxal cavities open behind; thorax without a transverse basal impression; hind tibiae not grooved; first joint of hind tarsi short and rather broad, tarsal joints not inflated. The adults feed upon herbs of various kinds and feign death when disturbed.

164 (15895). D. pennsylvanica (Ill.).—"Common" (Sz.). Miami, Moore Haven and Orlando (Kn.). The only records of the typical form for the State. Perhaps apply to var. parva.

\*164a (15895c). D. pennsylvanica conjugata (Fabr.).—Northern part of the State, south to Moore Haven and Ft. Myers. At hand from six stations and reported from many others. Common, where found, on various species of smart-weed, *Polygonum*; also beneath decaying stems of pickerel-weed on old pond sites.

\*164b (----). D. pennsylvanica parva Blatch, 1921, 16.—Types from

Indiana and Sanford, Fla. At hand from Sanford, Pahoka, Palmdale and Dunedin, Mch.-Apr., from the muck and grass roots about the margins of cypress swamps. But little more than half the size of typical *pennsylvanica*, and probably a distinct species.

165 (15896). D. quinquevittata (Say.).—Schwarz in his Florida list records D. punctigera Lec. as "not rare." That name is made a synonym of quinquevittata by Horn (1889, 314). No other mention from the State.

166 (—). D. fumata Lec.—According to Schæffer (1919) the D. crenicollis (Say.) of Horn (1889) is this species. Under the latter name it is mentioned by Schwarz (Ms.) as occurring at Jacksonville.

\*167 (15898). D. caroliniana (Fabr.).—Enterprise and Capron (Sz. Ms.). Lakeland, May 8 (Davis Coll.). At hand from L. Wales, Palmdale and Dunedin. Swept in some numbers, Mch. 28, from the flowers of a tall St. Johnswort at Palmdale. Rare at Dunedin on fetter-bush.

\*168 (15901). D. glabrata (Fabr.).—Ormond, on oak (Bl. 1902); Dunedin Mch. 9, one specimen at each place. Gainesville, abundant on bull-thistle, Apr.; riddling the foliage of pig-weed, *Amaranthus*, May (Doz.). These the only State records.

169 (15902). D. abbreviata Melsh.—Recorded from numerous stations in the northern half of the State. Gainesville, sweeping low herbage Feb. 26 (Doz.); on golden-rod, Sept. (Wat.); these, in part at least, Oedionychis petaurista (Fabr.). Schæffer (Ms.) doubts the occurrence of the true abbreviata in Florida, but a specimen taken at Lake City, Apr. 18, is in the Gainesville collection.

\*170 (15902a). D. leptolineata Blatch., 1917, 143.—Types from Dunedin; also taken at Lakeland and Istokpoga. Frequent on ferns in dense hammocks and cypress marshes; also hibernating beneath cover along the borders of ponds. Described as a variety of abbreviata but evidently a distinct species.

171 (15906). D. triangularis (Say).—Gainesville, Apr. 15; sweeping low foliage along a moist hammock edge, and hibernating under old logs (Doz.). The only State record.

172 (——). D. albida Blatch., 1924, 169.—Type in Davis collection; taken by him on Big Pine Key, Sept. 18.

173 (15907). D. xanthomelæna (Dalm.).—"Florida" (Horn, 1889). St. Augustine (Ham.) as collaris (Ill.), a synonym.

\*174 (15910). D. mellicollis (Say.).—Capron (Sz. Ms.). LaGrange (Davis Coll.). Bradentown, Oct. (Wat.). At hand from Sanford, Lakeland and Dunedin, Feb.-Apr.; scarce at porch light and beneath cover.

\*175 (15911). D. collata (Fabr.).—Common along the sea-coast, where it occurs beneath cover, between the roots of grass and on low vegetation close to the water. At hand from Key West and Dunedin. Recorded from many stations, but inland only from Enterprise (C. & L.).

# XLIV. Argopistes Motschulsky.

Small (3 mm.), hemispherical black and red species resembling *Exochomus* in general appearance; antennae gradually clavate, front coxal cavities open behind.

\*176 (15914). A. scyrtoides Lec., 1878, 416.—Types from "Florida." Jupiter, on oak; Miami (Sz. Ms.). At hand from Biscayne Bay, Mch. 18, taken by Mrs. Slosson. Mines the leaves of the Florida privet, Forestiera porulosa (Michx.) (Sz. Ms.).

#### XLV. Haltica Geoffroy.

Small oblong-oval, convex species (2-5 mm.), blue, dull yellow or bronzed in hue, having the front coxal cavities open behind; thorax with a transverse basal impression, this not limited at each end. The species are numerous and some of them are injurious to grape foliage and garden truck. The genus is a difficult one and there is much confusion of synonymy.

\*177 (15917). H. chalybea Ill.—Throughout the State, recorded from numerous stations. At hand from seven, including Cape Sable. Common about Dunedin, Nov.-Apr., on foliage of wax myrtle, wild grape, etc., hibernating in bunches of Spanish moss and beneath loose bark. Gainesville, on plum blossoms, Feb. 18, wild grape, Feb. 27 (Doz.); velvet beans (Wat.). Known in economic literature as the "grape-vine flea-beetle."

\*178 (15918). H. nana Cr.—"South Carolina to Florida" (Horn, 1889). Biscayne Bay (Sz. Ms.). Mt. Dora, Aug.; Gainesville, on *Eupatorium* (Wat.). At hand from Gainesville (Fattig) and Dunedin. Rare at Dunedin, Nov.-Apr., on foliage in sandy open woods. One of the smallest (2 mm.) members of the genus.

\*179 (15926). H. litigata Fall, 1910, 154.—Type from Enterprise. Throughout the State; recorded as H. ignita (Ill.) from numerous stations. At hand from nine localities, Nov.-Apr. Common on the water purslane, Ludwigia palustris Ell.; also beneath debris and decaying vegetation about the margins of ditches, ponds and lakes, and occasionally at porch light (Bl., 1923). Fall (loc. cit.) assumes that typical H. ignita is a "brilliant coppery-golden form of the Middle Atlantic States," whereas litigata is blue with protruding eyes and dull brown tibiae and tarsi.

\*180 (15927). H. schwarzi Blatch., 1914, 141.—Types from Utopia on L. Okeechobee. Taken also at Pahokee and Ft. Myers. Occurs on low vegetation along the edges of lakes and streams. Piceous, strongly bronzed. (4.2-4.5 mm.).

\*181 (15928). H. vaccinia Blatch., 1916, 95.—Types from Dunedin. At hand also from Caxambus and Ft. Myers. Common about Dunedin, Dec-Apr., on the flowers and foliage of dwarf huckleberry. Uniform dark coppery red. (3-3.2 mm.).

182 (15932). H. vicaria Horn, 1889, 222.—"Massachusetts to Florida westward to Colorado and Arizona" (Horn). No other record.

\*183 (15942). H. marevagans Horn, 1889, 226.—"Along the seacoast region from Florida to New Jersey" (Horn). Pablo Beach and New Smyrna. (Sz. Ms.). Gainesville on *Oenothera*, riddling the plant; also on *Jussieua* Apr.-Sept. (Doz.); maple, June, *Helenium* July, *Solidago* Oct. (Wat.). Scarce on Hog Island, opposite Dunedin, Feb. 5-Mch. 25, on the sea purslane, *Sesuvium maritimum* Walt. (Bl. 1917); also at porch light, July 5.

184 (15953). H. floridana Horn, 1889, 230.—Types from Biscayne Bay. No other record.

185 (15954). H. burgessi Cr., 1873, 71.—Types from Key West. No other record. The smallest Haltica (1.5-1.7 mm.) known.

\*186 (15955). H. rufa Ill.—Throughout the State. At hand from six localities, Jan.-Apr. Common at Dunedin, hibernating beneath cover along ponds and marshes, and in Spanish moss, and in spring on low herbage in moist localities.

In addition to the ten species of *Haltica* above mentioned Leng, in his Catalogue, includes *H. carinata* Germ. and *H. torquata* Lec. from Florida. His record for the first is probably based on the *H. exapta* Say, of the Schwarz list, a synonym of *H. carinata*, but Schwarz (Ms.) changes this to *ignita* Ill., which I have included above as *litigata* Fall. Of *H. torquata* Lec. I can find no Florida record, and as Horn makes it a synonym of *carinata*, I have not included it, especially as Fall (Ms.) says: "Almost surely does not occur in Florida."

#### XLVI. Lactica Erichson.

Small oblong-oval, shining species (3-4.5 mm.), pale yellow or with elytra blue. Closely allied to *Haltica* but having the basal impression of thorax limited each side by a longitudinal fold; elytra nearly smooth. Habits unknown.

187 (15960). L. tibialis (Oliv.).—St. Augustine (Ham.). Miami (Sz.Ms.). "North Carolina to Florida and Louisiana." Horn (1889).

188 (15961). L. iris (Oliv.).—The type of L. specularis Harold, a synonym, was from "Florida." No other State record.

#### XLVII. Diphaulaca Clark.

Very small oval glabrous convex species (2 mm.), differing from *Lactica* in the elytra having rows of coarse punctures; thorax reddish-yellow, elytra piceous-black.

189 (15964). D. bicolorata Horn.—Enterprise, Apr. 19 (C. & L.). Gainesville, on red buckeye, Aesculus pavia L., Mch. (Wat.).

#### XLVIII. Crepidodera Chevrolat.

Small oval, convex glabrous species (2-2.5 mm.) having the front coxal cavities closed behind; elytral punctures in rows; ante-basal groove of thorax limited each side; antennae half the length of body; color greenish-bronzed, brown or black.

\*190 (15968). C. helxines (Linn.).—"Tampa, rare" (Sz.). Jacksonville

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Horn, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., VIII, 1880, 151.

(Sz. Ms.). At hand from Sanford and Pahoka, Mch.-Apr., one specimen from each place. A very common species in Indiana but evidently scarce in Florida. Occurs on willow, elm and other foliage.

\*191 (15974). C. atriventris Melsh.—"Enterprise and Tampa, rare." (Sz.). At hand from Okeechobee City and Dunedin, Feb. 6-Mch. 27. In February beaten from Spanish moss; in March on ferns and other herbage in dense hammocks or along their edges.

#### XLIX. Epitrix Foudras.

Very small, oval, convex black or brownish species (1.5-2 mm.), close to *Crepidodera* but having the upper surface rather thickly clothed with short, erect grayish hairs.

192 (15981). E. lobata Cr.—"New Smyrna", rare (Sz.). Indian River (Sz. Ms.). No other State record.

\*193 (15982). E. cucumeris Harr.—Moore Haven, mouth of Hillsboro Canal and other points on L. Okeechobee, Mch. 20-24; swept from vegetation in gardens and said to do much damage to egg plant, cucumbers and other truck crops of that region (Bl. 1923). The only State record.

\*194 (15983). E. brevis Sz., 1878, 367.— Types from Ft. Capron and Enterprise. St. Augustine and L. Worth (Ham.). Frequent about Dunedin in March on ferns and other foliage in hammocks and low moist ground. Gainesville on *Eupatorium*, Oct.; on *Aesculus pavia*, Mch. (Wat.).

\*195 (15984). E. fasciata Blatch., 1918, 56.—Types from Dunedin. At hand also from Caxambus, Key West and Cape Sable. A submaritime species found in spring on low herbage along the margins of salt water largons.

\*196 (15986). E. parvula (Fabr.).—Throughout the State. Listed by Schwarz as E. hirtipennis Melsh., a synonym. Frequent about Dunedin, Mch.-Apr., on ground cherry and other low vegetation in moist grounds. Known as the "tobacco flea-beetle" as it often riddles the leaves of that plant, thereby preventing their use for cigar wrappers.

# L. Orthaltica Crotch.

Small oblong, parallel glabrous species (2-2.5 mm.), brown or piceous in hue, having the ante-basal thoracic groove not limited each side, and antennae as long as or longer than body.

197 (15988). O. copalina (Fabr.).—"Occurs from Massachusetts to Florida, westward to Missouri and Iowa" (Horn, 1889). No definite State record. Occurs in Indiana on sumac and Hercules' club, *Aralia Spinosa* L.

#### LI. Mantura Stephens.

Small oblong-oval, convex species (2 mm.), brownish-bronzed in hue, the tips of elytra paler; thorax without transverse basal impression, but with a short deep longitudinal one each side of base; elytral punctures in rows.

\*198 (15993). M. floridana Crotch, 1873, 73.—Types from "Florida, Louisiana and Pennsylvania." At hand from Sanford and Dunedin, Mch.-Apr. Occurs in March by hundreds on a species of dock, Rumex, growing along the bay beach at Dunedin; also on other herbage in low moist grounds.

# LII. Chaetocnema Stephens.

Very small, oval, convex black or brownish glabrous species (1.8-3 mm.), having the thorax without basal impression, hind tibiae sinuate and toothed above near apex; elytral punctures in rows; first two ventral segments connate.

\*199 (16000). C. brunnescens Horn, 1889, 259.—Types from Key West, Punta Gorda and Miami (Sz. Ms.). A submaritime species, at hand from Key West, Cape Sable and Dunedin. Frequent near Dunedin, Nov.-Feb., on the foliage of button-wood and other low shrubs growing near tidewater lagoons.

200 (16001). C. denticulata (Ill.)—"Enterprise and Cedar Keys, rare" (Sz.). St. Augustine (Ham.).

\*201 (——). C. floridana Blatch., 1923, 33.—Types from Dunedin and Lakeland, Dec.-Mch.; taken by sweeping huckleberry and other low vegetation in open pine woods. This is the species I erroneously recorded (1919, 66) as C. cribrifrons Lec.

\*202 (16003). C. pinguis Lec., 1878, 417.—Types from Enterprise and New Smyrna. At hand from Lakeland, Istokpoga and Dunedin, Dec.-Mch. Occurs on low vegetation along the margins of lakes and beneath cover on the bay beach.

\*203 (16006). C. minuta Melsh.—"Florida" (Horn, 1889). Gainesville (Wat.), Scarce at Dunedin, Mch. 2-30, on herbage growing in low moist ground.

\*204 (16008). C. alutacea Cr., 1873, 74.—Types from "Florida." "Common on swampy meadows" (Sz.). St. Augustine (Ham.). Biscayne Bay and Haw Creek (Sz. Ms.). Dunedin, rare, Apr. 8, by sweeping along the margin of a dense hammock (Bl. 1923).

\*205 (—). C. robusta Blatch., 1923, 33.—Types from Hog Island, opposite Dunedin, where it occurs in some numbers on *Batis maritima* and other herbage growing in areas flooded at high tide. The largest (2.7-3 mm.) of the Florida species of the genus.

\*206 (16011). C. obesula Lec., 1878, 418.—Types from L. Ashley and Baldwin. Enterprise (Sz. Ms.). At hand from Pahoka, Moore Haven and Dunedin, Oct. 26-Mch. 27. In the truck lands about L. Okeechobee this is one of the three species of flea beetles which are said to do much damage to the crops, the others being Epitrix cucumeris and Chaetocnema quadricollis.

207 (16013). C. parcepunctata Cr.—"Common" (Sz.). The only State record.

\*208 (16014). C. pulicaria Melsh.—St. Augustine (Ham.). Gainesville, on corn (Doz.). Dunedin, scarce, Dec.-Mch., on low herbage along the margins of ponds.

(To be continued)