

## A EUROPEAN STAPHYLINID BEETLE FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, NEW TO NORTH AMERICA<sup>1</sup>

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In his book, "Faunal Connections between Europe and North America," Lindroth (1957) gives an account of the known animal species common to the two continents and explains in detail the ways of dispersion in both directions (see also Strauch, 1970). Many of these species were introduced from Europe to North America in the ballast of sailing vessels in the North Atlantic trade. The ballast was dumped at those localities where these ships loaded cargo for shipment to Europe.

While studying the Steninae of the world I have found two species of the genus *Stenus* Latr. which have been introduced from Europe to North America: *Stenus melanopus* (Marsh.) and *Stenus fulvicornis* Steph. *S. melanopus* is known only from one specimen taken at Seneca Lake, N.Y. by Dr. Lenczy in 1965, and now in the Budapest Museum (Puthz, 1966:146). *S. fulvicornis* was sent to me by Dr. Lazorko of Vancouver, B.C., who found it at Essondale, about 20 km E of Vancouver. Dr. Lazorko informs me (*in litt.*) that for some years he has regularly found this species at Essondale, although it is not common there. Specimens were found in autumn creeping on the walls of the Essondale hospital (23.X.62, 13.IX.66, 28.XII.67, 28.VIII.68), and others were captured by sifting debris near a creek or in a forest in springtime (12.IV.65, 6.V.65, 3.VI.66, II.V.68). A considerable number of

introduced European beetles occur near Essondale, nearly all of which seem to have been introduced in ballast.

Scudder (1958) shows that "Departure Bay, just north of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, was a centre for ballast dumping." He also points out, that "most of the European insects introduced into the Pacific Northwest have been late arrivals compared with eastern Canada." The recent findings of *Stenus fulvicornis* Steph. agree with this statement. It is highly improbable that this species has been overlooked by collectors in the last century or in the first decades of the present century. *S. fulvicornis* must be a late introduction with ballast from southwestern England, where it lives in places from which ballast was often taken (Lindroth, 1957:187).

Identification of *S. fulvicornis* is easy because it is totally different from the other nearctic *Stenus* which have the abdomen immargined and the tarsi bilobed ("*Hypostenus*"). The species is characterized by the following characters: 10th tergite equally rounded, with no median tip or apical anchor, head narrower than elytra (the species is macropterous), legs reddish-yellow, interstices of elytral punctation lacking reticulation, aedeagus (Wusthoff, 1934, fig. 67) with the median lobe triangularly narrowed into an acute apex, distinctly shorter than the parameres. Length: 3.3 to 3.8 mm. In the palearctic region *S. fulvicornis* is known from Europe s.l. including the Mediterranean.

<sup>1</sup>124th contribution to the knowledge of Steninae.

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