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FURTHER NOTES ON THE CERAMBYCIDAE OF VANCOUVER ISLAND (Coleoptera)

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The object of these notes is to bring together scattered records that have accumulated from time to time since the 1925-26 Museum Reports (Hardy 1926-1927).

It is by no means claimed that all the data have been examined, as the Coleoptera of Vancouver Island have possibly been investigated by students and collectors who are at present unknown to the writer. In that event, should this article result in bringing hitherto unknown collectors to light, this effort will have achieved a definite purpose.

At the best, aside from the southern and eastern coastal areas of the island, information on the Cerambycidae is very meagre. This cannot altogether be due to the absence of many species, but to the fact that comparatively little intensive research has been undertaken. It is true that the habits of the members of this family are often such as to make them exceedingly elusive in relation to our affairs, so that they may be unseen yet numerous. Hot sunshine coupled with the fallen trees or newly-cut wood at just the right stage of attraction, the synchronization of favourite plant blossoms, and time of appearance, or nocturnal habits of the species, are only some of the limiting factors.

To the ardent collector, however, all the above factors add a spicy attraction, for perseverance often brings unexpected rewards. By being perennially beetle-conscious, "windfalls" occasionally occur at most unexpected moments.

The following annotated list includes only those species that seem to be of special

interest either as new records, extensions of the known range, or from a biological viewpoint.

(1) *Eumichthus oedipus* LeC. New locality records: Colwood, two specimens in a collection formed during the years 1932-36, and presented to the Provincial Museum by Hedley Peake. This is the most westerly Vancouver Island record known. 10 Mile Point near Victoria, specimens taken by the writer on July 26 and August 9, 1935, as they were running over the trunk of a newly-felled Douglas fir, *Pseudotsuga taxifolia* (Lamb) Brit.

Most other specimens so far recorded were obtained on the flowers of the ocean spray, *Spiraea discolor* Pursh., during the month of June. It would appear that this beetle has a longer period of emergence than hitherto suspected.

(2) *Pidonina quadrata* Hopping. First described and recorded for Vancouver Island from Clayoquot by R. Hopping (1931). The Clayoquot specimen is designated as a paratype and was collected by G. J. Spencer. Two additional specimens were obtained by M. L. Prebble from the Great Central Lakes area on June 27 and 29, 1941.

This very distinctive little species closely resembles *P. scripta* LeC. one of our most abundant members of the genus, but of all the hundreds collected from the eastern and southern portion of the Island, none has so far been noted to include this species. It would seem therefore to favour the more humid regions of Vancouver Island.

(3) *Pachyta armata* LeC. New locality

record: Forbidden Plateau, on the flowers of *Heracleum lanatum*, August 1943, G. C. Carl. This constitutes a northern extension of its known Vancouver Island range, previous records being from Mount Arrowsmith (Hardy 1936).

(4) *Evodinus vancouveri* Csy. New locality records: Forbidden Plateau, July 11, 1930, J. D. Gregson. Great Central Lakes, May 17, 20, 22, 1941, M. L. Prebble and K. Graham. These constitute a northern extension of the known range on Vancouver Island. Contrary to expectations none of the specimens examined from the Island include the black form, which from specimens available appears to be of more frequent occurrence on the adjacent mainland of British Columbia.

(5) *Leptura propinqua* Bland. New locality record: Beaver Creek, Alberni, July 27, 1934, W. H. A. Preece. This extends its known range farther to the north, Duncan being the only other Vancouver Island locality record to my knowledge. In general it is a mountain species; I have records of its occurrence on Mount Cheam, Mount McLean, Garibaldi Park and the Olympics, on the mainland.

(6) *Anoploclera nigrella* (Say). First record known to the writer for Vancouver Island: Forbidden Plateau, July 11, 1930, J. D. Gregson. This is one of those captures that give a zest to the examination of hundreds of the common *A. dolorosa* with which it might be confused in the field. The species occurs throughout western Canada and the United States from British Columbia to Nova Scotia.

Craighead (1923) records that adults were taken in pupal cells on August 20, in Oregon. It is not clear whether this indicates a very late metamorphosis or nearly a year in this condition. It breeds in *Pinus*, *Picea*, and *Pseudotsuga*.

(7) *Anoploclera tibialis* (LeC.). New locality record: Forbidden Plateau, August 28, 1943, G. C. Carl. The only other known Vancouver Island locality record is Duncan, based on one specimen in the Hanham collection. It is a mountain species having a wide distribution from British Columbia to Newfoundland. Fall (1926)

records it from Skagway, Alaska. Specimens from the mainland of British Columbia are represented in the Provincial Museum from Mount McLean, Mount Cheam, Vernon and Garibaldi.

(8) *Anoploclera canadensis* (Oliv.) New locality records: Beaver Creek, Alberni, July 27, 1934, W. H. A. Preece; two males on flowers of carrot, *Daucus carota* L. Cowichan Lake, August 17, 1938, W. G. Mathers, one male. Mr. A. W. Hanham has taken it on the flowers of tansy, *Tanacetum vulgare* L.

All these examples are of the black, red-shouldered form, which seems to be the prevalent form here. I have records of but two of the black phase and none of the entirely red variety from the Island.

(9) *Anoploclera dehiscens* (LeC.). New locality record: Beaver Creek, Alberni, July 27, 1934, W. H. Preece. Two specimens on flowers of carrot, *Daucus carota* L. This is a northerly extension of the known Vancouver Island range of this decidedly scarce species. It is also very occasionally taken in flight in woodland glades.

(10) *Pyrotrichus vitticollis* LeC. This elusive cerambycid seems worthy of comment whenever it is noted on Vancouver Island, which to date has been on only four occasions, so far as I can ascertain. The first is listed by Harvey (1907) with "Victoria" as the only datum, and is probably the same specimen recorded by Hardy in 1927. The second record is from a specimen labelled "Duncan" in the collection of the late A. W. Hanham. The third, a male, was taken by W. Downes on June 10, 1929, in flight at mid-day about a maple tree. The fourth record consists of a number of specimens reared from larvae and pupae obtained by the writer from a dead maple, *Acer macrophyllum*, in January 1935.

The larvae and pupae were found in some numbers in a spot twelve feet from the ground and in the central decaying heartwood. The larvae were feeding in the adjoining solid wood, the pupal cells being constructed near the inside surface parallel to the grain of the wood. On

emergence the adults would have to travel some distance within the tree until a crack or knothole provided an opportunity for gaining access to the open air.

Pupae were fully developed by January 28; the adults emerged during the following April. It was observed that the adults, all females, evinced a decided aversion to daylight; as soon as exposed to its influence they burrowed into the friable rotten wood. In reconciling the behaviour of the two sexes as just stated, it would appear that the male seeks out the more retiring female. If further acquaintance with *vitticollis* should demonstrate a preponderance of females over males this could at least in part account for the apparent rarity of this species.

(11) *Molorchus longicollis* LeC. New locality record: Goldstream, May 30, 1928, W. Downes. This is the most western extension of its range so far noted. All other records are from the east coast of the Island, from Sidney to Duncan where it was observed from the end of April until early in June. Mr. Preece has taken this species in large numbers on a species of cultivated spirea while the late A. W. Hanham reported it on one occasion as "swarming" on the blossoms of the bay laurel.

(12) *Hybodera tuberculata* LeC. New locality record: Cowichan Lake, October 8-19, 1940, M. L. Prebble. This is a western extension of its reported range on the Island, previously being taken at east coast areas from Tod Inlet to Wellington.

This is one of those elusive species that may never be seen for years and then suddenly turns up in considerable numbers at unexpected places on or about its host tree, *Acer macrophyllum*.

The specimens above referred to comprise a nice series of 20 individuals. They vary in length from 9 to 15 mm. and in colour from unicolourous brown to the marked distinction of the two gray bands across the elytra so characteristic of the species. All were taken from their pupal cells in branches of the maple, *Acer macrophyllum*. They would overwinter in the adult stage, the natural period of emergence being April and May.

Another record, Elk Lake, April 29, 1931, has been reported by Mr. Downes who took a good series in flight about four o'clock in the afternoon around a pile of maple cordwood.

(13) *Callidium hardyi* Van Dyke. Attention is drawn to this species in order to avoid any future uncertainty as to the correct type locality. This is Gordon Head, Vancouver Island, not Garden Head as it is spelled in the original description (Van Dyke 1928).

(14) *Callidium vancouverense* Van Dyke. New locality record: Cowichan Lake, May 19, 1941, M. L. Prebble. This is a westerly extension of its known Vancouver Island range. Previous records are from Duncan, Sidney and Victoria districts.

(15) *Phymatodes obscurus* LeC. New locality record: Lakehill, Saanich, July 16, 1941, W. H. A. Preece, two specimens, taken at "light." This is the second record of its occurrence on Vancouver Island. The first consisted of eleven specimens reared by the writer from *Quercus garryana* Dougl., on Mt. Tolmie, 1926. It is of interest to note that the only members of this species taken at large were night-flying.

(16) *Atimia dorsalis* LeC. New locality record: Colwood, 1932-1936, Hedley Peake. This is quite a rare species in collections. The larval stage is passed in trees belonging to the genera *Cupressus*, *Juniperus*, *Libocedrus* and *Thuja*.

(17) *Plectrura spinicauda* Mann. New locality record: Cowichan Lake, August 31, 1941 and August 3-20, 1940, M. L. Prebble.

This is perhaps the most intriguing of the Cerambycidae departing as it does from the general type to a very marked degree, resembling a spider more than anything else. It is wingless and therefore only to be found as it crouches in some crack of a tree. Many specimens in collections appear to have been dug out of their pupal cells during the latter part of July to October. With the one exception, August 3, 1940, all of these groups were taken at large, that is from the end of July to the 25th of August. I have records of others

taken from February to May inclusive. This is a further confirmation of previous observations that many if not all of the adults hibernate during the winter outside their pupal cells. (Hardy and Preece 1926, Leech 1938).

(18) *Monochamus maculosus latus* Csy. This is the British Columbia form hitherto going under the name of *maculosus* Haldeman of which it is the western representative. This matter is thoroughly dealt with in a recent study of the genus (Dillon 1941).

A series of eight specimens from Cowichan Lake constitute the first positive record available to me of its occurrence on Vancouver Island. They were collected by M. L. Prebble on August 3, 1940, ovipositing on the lodgepole pine, *Pinus contorta* Dougl.

Two specimens in the Provincial Museum from the A. W. Hanham collection bearing the date of September 9, 1899, and presumed to have been taken by G. W. Taylor of Nanaimo, might possibly be the first examples of this species from the Island and in part are recorded by Harvey (1907), but lack of more definite data would give precedence to those obtained by Prebble. Of the hundreds of specimens of this genus collected in the vicinity of Victoria not one of this species has so far been detected.

(19) *Monochamus obtusus* Csy. First record for Vancouver Island by the writer in 1935. A specimen in Prebble's collection

is from Lake Cowichan, August 3, 1940, which thus constitutes a northern extension of range on the Island.

There are also a couple of specimens in the Hanham collection that may have been taken by G. W. Taylor as they bear a label in his handwriting, September 14, 1899, with no indication of locality, but presumably in the vicinity of Nanaimo.

(20) *Saperda populnea* L. New locality record: Lost Lake, Saanich, May 22, 1944, G. A. Hardy. One specimen on leaf of *Salix sitchensis* Bong. Dull windy day, 4 p.m. This appears to be the second record for the Island; the first specimen was taken at Duncan by the writer on July 4, 1926.

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I should like to pay tribute to the late A. W. Hanham for the assiduousness and constancy with which he collected the Coleoptera of his district for a period of over 30 years. A study of his specimens, now in the Provincial Museum, gives a very good cross-section of the cerambycid fauna of the Duncan area and was an important factor in the preparation of earlier lists of the Vancouver Island species.

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