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A NEW MARINE BEETLE FROM THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)

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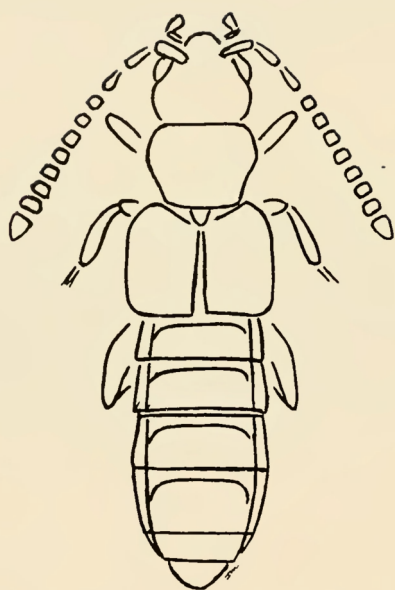


Fig. 1. *Cameronium sonorensis*, new species.

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Species of the genus *Cameronium* have hitherto been known only from the shores of the warm arid regions of North Africa and the Red Sea and from Zanzibar. The discovery of a new species in cracks in the rocks in the intertidal zone of the desert coast of Sonora, Mexico, discloses a very interesting example of insect distribution. We can anticipate the discovery of other species of this genus in similar situations in other parts of the world.

Members of this genus differ from other marine bolitocharinids by the combination of their unarmed tibiae and bifid ligulae. A more detailed discussion of the genus may be found in Moore (1956).

Cameronium sonorensis, new species

Holotype. — From cracks in the rocks in the intertidal zone at Punta de los Cuervos, San Carlos Bay, Sonora, Mexico; collected by Ian Moore, November 7, 1962; in the California Academy of Sciences.

Paratypes. — Three specimens, same data as holotype, in the California Academy of Sciences, the San Diego Natural History Museum, and the collection of Ian Moore.

Description of holotype. — Form: Small, elongate, subparallel (fig. 1). Color: Head piceous, becoming paler anteriorly, pronotum rufo-testaceous, mesosternum piceous, elytra rufo-testaceous, with the scutellar region clouded, abdomen piceous, the tergites paler apically, antennae with the first two segments pale, the others progressively darker, legs and mouth parts testaceous.

Head: Orbicular; surface evenly convex at the sides, shallowly impressed centrally between the eyes, densely reticulate, finely and rather densely punctured throughout. Eyes at about their length from base of head. Antennae: First two segments more than twice as long as wide, third a little narrower and a little shorter than second, fourth through sixth about as wide as second, not longer than wide, seventh through tenth distinctly transverse, eleventh longer than wide, gradually narrowed to apex.

Pronotum: About as wide as head, transverse, widest near apical third; sides arcuate in apical half, sinuate before the hind angles; apical margin straight; base arcuate. Surface convex except for a broad, shallow central impression which is deepest near the base. Integument sculptured very much like the head. Elytra: Distinctly wider and a little longer than the pronotum. Sides gently arcuate, apices straight. Surface sculpture similar to that of pronotum.

Abdomen: The first three segments nearly parallel, thence gradually tapered to apex. Surface with a sparse network of fine lines; finely, sparsely, somewhat asperately punctured; interspaces very shining. Length: 2 mm. Sex: unknown.

The paratypes differ in no noticeable way from the holotype.

This species is very similar in structure to *C. obockianum* but has the head black, whereas it is pale in the latter.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *Cameronium*

- 1a. Head pale *liebmanni*, *obockianum*
1b. Head dark
2a. Pronotum black *flavipenne*
2b. Pronotum pale *sonorensis*

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