

STUDIES ON NORTH AMERICAN MORDELLIDAE, III<sup>1</sup>  
(Coleoptera)

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This paper is the third of a series dealing with North American members of the family and is based on material from the same sources. Six new species from localities east of the Mississippi River are hereinafter described, in addition to new records of previously described forms.

*Tomoxia latipalpis* Ray, new species  
(Figures 1, 11, 12)

Moderately elongate, subcuneate, sides converging beyond middle of elytra. Derm black, except for a narrow line along apex of front, clypeus, tips of mandibles, maxillary palpi, antennae, tibiae and tarsi of anterior and intermediate legs, base of posterior tibiae, posterior tarsi, and tip of anal style, which are flavocastaneous, with legs a little darker. Surface moderately densely covered with whitish pubescence; condensed on elytra to form two diagonal bands, the premedian one extending toward humeri and reaching suture, the other postmedian, reaching side margins but interrupted at suture; densely covering meso- and metasternum; narrowly along basal margins of abdominal segments and broadly at basal angles.

Head strongly convex, distinctly narrower than pronotum; eyes large, hind margin reaching occiput, surface densely covered with short, erect setae. Antennae .72 mm. long, not reaching base of pronotum; segments 1-2 large, equal; 3 small, as broad as long; 4 distinctly longer and broader than 3, one-third broader than long; 5-10 but slightly longer than broad, each one-third longer than 4 but no broader; 11 one-third longer than 10, oval, sides and apex rounded. Terminal segment of maxillary palpi greatly enlarged, somewhat boat-shaped, lateral edge and ends strongly rounded, mesal margin almost straight.

Pronotum distinctly broader than long (.94x.83 mm.), apex and sides strongly rounded, basal angles obtuse, base arcuate, mid-basal lobe short, but rounded. Scutellum small, subtriangular, apex broadly rounded.

<sup>1</sup>Studies on North American Mordellidae, II. Pan-Pac. Ent., 32:41-50. 1946.

Elytra slightly more than twice as long as broad (2.08x.94 mm.), sides subparallel on basal half, subcuneate caudad, apices strongly, individually rounded. Anterior and intermediate tarsi as long as their tibiae, penultimate segment broadened, apical margin concave. Posterior tibiae with a short, subapical ridge and a long dorsal carina extending from subapical ridge to within one-fifth of base; basitarsi with a similar, less strongly indicated, carina. Anal style more than two and one-half times as long as apical ventral segment (.91x.38 mm.), fairly robust, attenuate to apex.

Length to apices of elytra, 2.91 mm.; to tip of anal style, 3.63 mm.

*Holotype*: ♂, ROYAL PALM STATE PARK, FLORIDA, July 27, 1940 (J. C. Bradley); in the collection of Cornell University, Type No. 2261.

Structurally this species is most closely allied to *Tomoxia discoidea* (Melsheimer).<sup>2</sup> It may, however, easily be separated by the completely black elytra, the narrower anal style, the broader terminal segment of the maxillary palpi, and the different antennae, which have segments three and four much shorter, the latter being broader than long.

#### CONALIA HELVA (LECONTE)

*Glipodes helva* LeConte, Proc. Acad. N. S. Phila., 1862, 14:48.

*Conalia helva* Liljeblad, Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich., 1946, 62:17.

Four specimens, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, May 30, 1931 (H. Dietrich); New Smyrna, Florida, April (M. Wright); and Tallulah, Louisiana, July 31, 1930 (P. A. Glick).

#### *Conalia melanops* Ray, new species

(Figures 6, 9)

Moderately robust, sides of elytra subparallel to within two-fifths of apex. Color black, a narrow line along apex of front, basal four-fifths of mandibles, clypeus, maxillary palpi, anterior legs, base and apex of intermediate femora, and a narrow line along base of pronotum fuscocastaneous; antennae varying from castaneous at base to fuscous at apex; suture of elytra narrowly rufocastaneous from base almost to apex. Surface densely covered with fine, recumbent fuscobrunneous pubescence, which, in certain lights, exhibits a yellowish tinge.

<sup>2</sup>Proc. Acad. N. S. Phila., 1846, 2:315.

Head broadly convex, distinctly narrower than pronotum; eyes entire, reaching occiput, densely covered with short, erect hairs. Antennae approximately 1.7 mm. long, not reaching base of pronotum; segments 1-2 large, equal; 4 one-half longer than 3 and slightly broader; 5-7 each one-third longer than 4, 5 much broader than 4, 6-7 decreasing in width; 8-11 missing. Terminal segment of maxillary palpi enlarged, with the form of a broad isosceles triangle, inner and apical sides equal, the latter and angles rounded.

Pronotum much broader than long (1.51 x 1.17 mm.), finely margined, apex and sides broadly rounded, basal angles obtuse, base arcuate, midbasal lobe short, broad, rounded. Scutellum small, triangular, apex rounded.

Elytra two and one-half times as long as broad (3.32 x 1.51 mm.), sides parallel on basal three-fifths, thence curved to apex, apices individually rounded. Posterior tibiae with a single long, oblique ridge extending from apical angle to within a fifth of base and a thin carina along dorsal edge; basitarsi with two short, equal, oblique ridges on apical half; remaining segments without ridges. Anal style short, robust, less than twice length of apical ventral segment (1.13 x 0.68 mm.), truncate at apex.

Length: to apices of elytra, 4.49 mm.; to tip of anal style, 5.62 mm.

*Holotype*: ♀, DUPARQUET, QUEBEC, August 8, 1939 (G. Stace Smith); in the collection of Eugene Ray.

This species, the second of the genus to be recorded from North America under the emended classification of Liljeblad,<sup>3</sup> may easily be separated from *helva* (Leconte),<sup>4</sup> by the shorter, broader anal style, the more parallel-sided form, the shorter, rounded, midbasal lobe of the pronotum, the black color, by the antennae, of which the fourth segment is one-half longer than the third, the decrease in the width of antennal segments five to seven, and in the broader, terminal segment of the maxillary palpi.

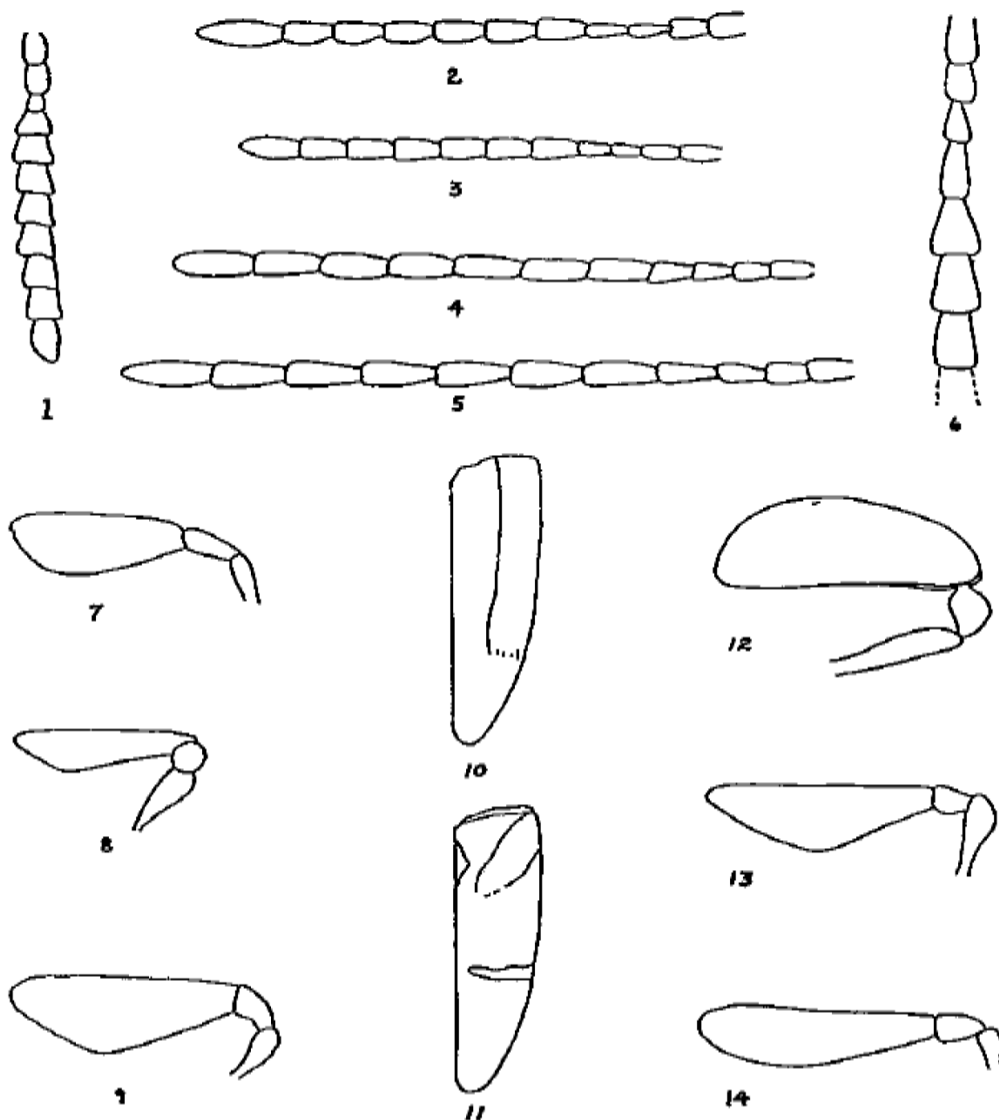
#### MORDELLISTENA FROSTI LILJEBLAD

*Mordellistena frosti* Liljeblad, 1918, Can. Ent., 50:156.

Two specimens, Duparquet, Quebec, June 25, 1937, on *Cornus* (G. Stace Smith). This species was originally described from a single specimen collected at Aziscoos Lake, Maine.

<sup>3</sup>Liljeblad, E. 1946. Monograph of the Family Mordellidae of North America, North of Mexico. Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich., No. 62, 229 pp., 7 pls.

<sup>4</sup>Proc. Acad. N. S. Phila., 1862, 14:48.



1. Antenna of *Tomoxia latipalpis*. 2. Antenna of *Mordellistena lateralis*. 3. Antenna of *Mordellistena heterocolor*. 4. Antenna of *Mordellistena dietrichi*. 5. Antenna of *Mordellistena mixta*. 6. Antenna of *Glipodes melanops*. 7. Maxillary palpus of *Mordellistena lateralis*. 8. Maxillary palpus of *Mordellistena dietrichi*. 9. Maxillary palpus of *Glipodes melanops*. 10. Elytron of *Mordellistena lateralis*. 11. Elytron of *Tomoxia latipalpis*. 12. Maxillary palpus of *Tomoxia latipalpis*. 13. Maxillary palpus of *Mordellistena heterocolor*. 14. Maxillary palpus of *Mordellistena mixta*.

## MORDELLISTENA PICIPENNIS SMITH

*Mordellistena picipennis* Smith, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 1882, 10:91.

One specimen, Gregory Ridge, Smoky Mts., Tennessee, June 17, 1939, altitude 3,000 feet (C. P. Alexander).

*Mordellistena dietrichi* Ray, new species  
(Figures 4, 8)

Narrow, elongate, sides parallel to within one-third of apices of elytra. Color yellowish brown, except posterior legs and ventral body surface, which are fuscocastaneous. Surface densely covered with short, fine, recumbent yellowish pubescence.

Head strongly convex, semi-globose; eyes large, hind margin not reaching occiput, a V-shaped notch on anterior margin behind antennae, surface between facets with short, erect hairs. Antennae filiform, 1.49 mm. long, reaching beyond base of pronotum; segments 1-2 large, equal; 4 one-third longer and slightly broader than 3, together longer than 5; 5-10 each one-third longer and slightly broader than 4; 11 one-half longer than 10, broadest posteriorly, sides and apex rounded. Maxillary palpi with three terminal segments enlarged; terminal segment elongate, subrectangular, apical margin diagonally truncate, angles rounded; penultimate segment rounded, almost circular; antepenultimate segment rounded cuneate, much broader at apex than at base, sides curved, apical margin concave.

Pronotum distinctly broader than long (1.17x1.06 mm.), sides and apex broadly rounded, basal angles obtuse, base arcuate, mid-basal lobe broad, rounded. Scutellum broadly triangular, apex rounded.

Elytra elongate, narrow, three times as long as broad (3.02 x 1.09 mm.), sides subparallel from base to within a third of apex, thence strongly curved, apices individually rounded. Anterior and intermediate tarsi filiform, shorter than their tibiae, penultimate segment shortest, somewhat expanded, apex truncate. Posterior tibiae with two equal, oblique ridges, each extending half-way across outer surface (subapical one not included); basitarsi with three equal, oblique ridges, second segment with one. Anal style three times length of apical ventral segment (1.32 x .45 mm.), acuminate to apex, the latter pointed.

Length: to apices of elytra, 4.08 mm.; to tip of anal style, 5.4 mm.

*Holotype*: ♀, LUCEDALE, MISSISSIPPI, June 7, 1931 (H. Dietrich); in the collection of Cornell University, Type No. 2262.

This species is allied to the group that includes *picipennis* Smith<sup>5</sup>, and *pallipes* Smith.<sup>6</sup> It is, however, very distinct from

<sup>5</sup>, "Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 1882, 10:91, 92.

either of these forms. The color is much lighter, being yellowish brown, with the posterior legs and ventral surface darker, the antennae much longer, with the terminal segment extending beyond base of pronotum, the third and fourth segments together longer than the fifth, the very peculiar maxillary palpi, the three terminal segments of which are enlarged, and the peculiar eyes, which have a distinct, V-shaped notch on their anterior margins.

*Mordellistena lateralis* Ray, new species  
(Figures 2, 7, 10)

Moderately narrow, subcuneate, sides of elytra subparallel on basal third. Color black, apex of front ferruginous, clypeus, anterior legs and intermediate femora fuscoferruginous. Surface densely covered with fine, recumbent pubescence, sericeous everywhere, except on mesal half of elytra, where it has a violaceous tinge, the latter expanding to cover entire apical fourth.

Head strongly convex, distinctly narrower than pronotum; eyes entire, surface densely covered with fine, short, erect hairs. Antennae 1.1 mm. long, not reaching base of pronotum; segments 1-2 subequal; 3-4 equal in length, the latter broader at apex; 5-10 each one-third longer and one-half broader than 4; 11 one-third longer than 10, oval, broadest premedially, apex narrowly rounded. Terminal segment of maxillary palpi enlarged, broadly securiform, apical edge with a slight concavity, mesal margin strongly curved from apex to base, latter edge slightly sinuate.

Pronotum distinctly broader than long (1.05x.91 mm.), finely margined, apex and sides broadly margined, basal angles obtuse, base arcuate, midbasal lobe broad, short, rounded. Scutellum small, apex and sides rounded.

Elytra two and one-third times as long as broad (2.44 x 1.05 mm.), sides subparallel on basal third, thence curved to apex, apices individually rounded. Anterior and intermediate tarsi filiform, slightly longer than their tibiae, penultimate segment shortest, not expanded. Posterior tibiae with two short, oblique, parallel ridges; basitarsi with three short ridges, second segment with two. Anal style two and one-half times length of apical ventral segment (.94x.38 mm.), robust, attenuate, blunt at apex.

Length: to apices of elytra, 3.35 mm.; to tip of anal style, 4.29 mm.

*Holotype*: ♀, SHAWNEETOWN, ILLINOIS, June 25, 1932 (Ross, Dozier and Park); in the collection of the Illinois State Natural History Survey.

From *syntaenia* Liljeblad,<sup>7</sup> its closest ally, this species may

<sup>7</sup>Can. Ent., 1921, 53:184.

immediately be separated by the bicolored elytral pubescence, which gives the effect of a single, broad, lateral cinereous stripe on the basal three-fourths of each elytron, by the ferruginous apex of the front and the fuscoferruginous anterior legs and intermediate femora, by the narrower terminal segment of the maxillary palpi and by the broader antennae, segments three and four of which are equal in length.

*Mordellistena heterocolor* Ray, new species  
(Figures 8, 13)

Elongate, convex, sides subparallel. Derm of head, pronotum, four basal antennal segments and anterior and intermediate legs flavocastaneous; elytra, meso- and metasternum, abdomen and posterior legs and seven terminal segments of antennae fuscopiceous. Surface densely covered with fine, recumbent, golden pubescence.

Head convex; eyes emarginate on anterior margin. Antennae 1.02 mm. long, reaching base of abdomen; segments 1-2 small, subequal; 3-4 short, equal in length, the latter broader; 5-10 each one-half longer than 4, broader and flattened, although not serrate; 11 one-third longer than 10, broadest one-third distance from apex, sides and apex rounded. Terminal segment of maxillary palpi enlarged, with form of a broad, isosceles triangle, inner and outer edges straight, apical margin and angles rounded.

Pronotum convex, distinctly broader than long (.98x.83 mm.), outer edge completely and finely margined, sides and apex rounded, basal angles obtuse, base arcuate, midbasal lobe short, broad, slightly but distinctly emarginate. Scutellum broadly triangular, sides distinctly convex, apex rounded.

Elytra two and one-third times as long as broad (2.3x.98 mm.), sides subparallel on basal three-fifths, thence broadly curved to apex, apices individually rounded. Posterior tibiae with two ridges, basal one somewhat longer than other; basitarsi with three ridges, second segment with two. Anal style two and one-third times length of apical ventral segment (1.06x.45 mm.), moderately broad, evenly attenuate to apex.

Length: to apices of elytra, 3.13 mm.; to tip of anal style, 4.19 mm.

*Holotype*: ♂, BIG BAYOU, FLORIDA, March 12, 1920 (H. W. Wenzel collection); in the collection of Ohio State University.

From its closest ally, *indistincta* Smith,<sup>\*</sup> this species may be separated by the difference in the color of the pronotum and elytra, lack of a basal elytral spot, the bicolored antennae and

<sup>\*</sup>Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 1882, 10:93.

legs, the isosceles terminal segment of the maxillary palpi and the emarginate basal lobe of the pronotum.

MORDELLISTENA SPLENDENS SMITH

*Mordellistena splendens* Smith, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 1882, 10:93.

Two specimens, Beaufort, North Carolina, September 2 and 4, 1941 (A. C. Weed).

MORDELLISTENA RUFA LILJEBLAD

*Mordellistena rufa* Liljeblad, Can. Ent., 1917, 49:11.

One specimen, Alabama (H. W. Wenzel collection).

*Mordellistena mixta* Ray, new species  
(Figures 5, 14)

Narrow, elongate, sides subparallel on basal half of elytra. Color black, clypeus, a narrow line along apex of front, and spurs of hind tibiae castaneous. Surface densely clothed with fine, recumbent pubescence, generally sericeo-cinereous, except on elytra, where it is mixed with pubescence that partakes of ground color.

Head strongly convex, distinctly narrower than pronotum; eyes entire, subquadrate from a lateral view, all except dorsal margin straight, surface densely covered with fine, short, erect hairs. Antennae 1.25 mm. long, reaching base of pronotum; segments 1-2 subequal; 4 one-third longer and distinctly broader than 3; 5 one-fourth longer and slightly broader than 4; 6-10 each as long as 5 but slightly narrower; 11 one-third longer than 10, ovate, broadest premedially, tip narrowly rounded. Terminal segment of maxillary palpi enlarged, with the form of an elongate, scalene triangle, outer margin slightly concave, inner edge straight, apical margin convex and shorter than other two sides, corners rounded.

Pronotum distinctly broader than long (.91 x .83 mm.), finely margined, apex and sides broadly rounded, basal angles obtuse, base arcuate, midbasal lobe broad, short, rounded. Scutellum small, subtriangular, apex broadly rounded.

Elytra two and one-third times as long as broad (2.19 x .91 mm.), sides subparallel on basal half, thence curved to apex, apices individually rounded. Anterior and intermediate tarsi filiform, longer than their tibiae, penultimate segment shortest, not expanded. Posterior tibiae with three short, oblique, parallel ridges; basitarsi with four short ridges, second segment with two. Anal style but twice length of apical ventral segment (.91 x .45 mm.), moderately robust, attenuate to apex, the latter blunt.

Length: to apices of elytra, 3.02 mm.; to tip of anal style, 3.93 mm.



*Holotype*: ♀, ZION, ILLINOIS, July 16, 1935 (DeLong and Ross); in the collection of the Illinois State Natural History Survey.

From its closest ally, *unicolor* LeConte<sup>9</sup>, this species may be separated by the much longer and narrower antennae, which extend beyond base of pronotum, with the fourth segment one-half longer and distinctly broader than the third, the longer and narrower terminal segment of the maxillary palpi, with its concave lateral margin, and the shorter, but rounded basal lobe of the pronotum.

#### MORDELLISTENA INCOMMUNIS LILJEBLAD

*Mordellistena incommunis* Liljeblad, Can. Ent., 1921, 53:185.

Two specimens, Townsend, Tennessee, June 16 and 17, 1942 (C. H. Seevers and H. S. Dybas); one specimen, Huron County, Michigan, August 11, 1935 (R. R. Dreisbach).

#### MORDELLISTENA MASONI LILJEBLAD

*Mordellistena masoni* Liljeblad, Can. Ent., 1918, 50:157.

Two specimens, Stamford, Connecticut, July 19, 1927 (J. R. Hora) and Smokemont, North Carolina, June 25, 1935 (C. H. Seevers).

#### MORDELLISTENA FUSCIPENNIS (MELSHEIMER)

*Mordella fuscipennis* Melsheimer, Proc. Acad. N. S. Phila., 1846, 2:314.

*Mordellistena fuscipennis* Leconte, l. c., 1862, 14:50.

Two specimens, Rick's Branch, Eichorn, Illinois, June 24, 1932 (Ross, Dozier and Park) and Kampsville, Illinois, June 25, 1931 (Frison, Betten and Ross).

#### MORDELLISTENA VERA LILJEBLAD

*Mordellistena vera* Liljeblad, Can. Ent., 1917, 49:11.

One specimen, Caesar's Head, South Carolina, June 26, 1935.

#### MORDELLISTENA GIGAS LILJEBLAD

*Mordellistena gigas* Liljeblad, l. c., p. 13.

This species, originally described from a single female taken

<sup>9</sup>Proc. Acad. N. S. Phila., 1862, 14:50.

at Edgebrook, Illinois, is here represented by an individual taken at Ithaca, New York, July 18, 1935. The type has four ridges on its hind tibiae, the basitarsi have five, the second segment two and the third one, with a rudimentary ridge evident. The Ithaca specimen is a male and has but three ridges on the basitarsi. This, in addition to the smaller size, is the only difference between the two specimens. A specimen from La Trappe, Quebec, July 25, 1934 (J. Ouellet), also a male, has two distinct ridges on the third segment of the posterior tarsi.

#### MORDELLISTENA FUSCO-ATRA HELMUTH

*Mordellistena fusco-atra* Helmuth, 1864, Proc. Acad. N. S. Phila., 16:105.

This species, described from Illinois, is represented in material before the writer by a specimen from Whitehall, New York, June 26, 1934 (H. Dietrich). Due to previous loss of the type the above specimen is designated as *lectotype*, in the collection of Cornell University, Type No. 2265.

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#### FRANK ELLSWORTH BLAISDELL, SR. 1862-1946

Dr. Frank E. Blaisdell, Sr., Research Associate in Entomology in the California Academy of Sciences, died at Watsonville, California, on July 6, 1946, at the age of eighty-four years.

Dr. Blaisdell was born in Pittsfield, New Hampshire, March 13, 1862. When he was eight years old the Blaisdell family moved to California and it was in California that Dr. Blaisdell pursued his medical career and his entomological studies.

Dr. Blaisdell graduated from Cooper Medical College in 1889 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He practiced for three years in San Diego and for eight years at Mokelumne Hill in Calaveras County. The rest of his professional life was spent in San Francisco on the faculty of Cooper Medical College (later the Stanford University School of Medicine) from which he retired in 1927, and as a research associate in entomology at the California Academy of Sciences where he continued active scientific work until late in 1945.

A full account of Dr. Blaisdell's life and works will appear in a later issue of this journal.