

PALPICORNIA (COLEOPTERA) FROM THE AZORES¹

By Bo W. Svensson²

With 3 figures

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

In 1857, M. H. Drouët and a colleague collected many animals on the Azores. In his book on the faunal elements of the Azores (Drouët 1861), no Palpicornia beetle is mentioned. Nor did Wollaston (1865) refer to them from the Azores in his work *Coleoptera Atlantidum*.

In the summer of 1865, F. Godman and J. A. Brewer collected Coleoptera extensively on these islands. The material was treated by Crotch (1867) who mentions seven species of Hydrophilidae from the Azores, namely: *Philhydrus lividus* Forst. = *Helochares lividus* Forst., *Sphaeridium bipustulatum* Fabr., *Dactylosternum abdominale* Fabr., *Cercyon obsoletum* Gyll. = *C. lugubris* Olivier, *C. littorale* Gyll. = *C. litoralis* Gyll., *C. inquinatum* Woll. = *C. inquinatus* Woll., *C. centro-maculatum* Sturm. = *C. atricapillus* (Mrsh.).

In his general survey *Les Palpicornis Des Iles Atlantique* (1940), d'Orchymont mentions 9 species from the Azores. The two new ones are *Ochthebius freyi* d'Orchymont which was described from the Azores, and *Oosternum costatum* Sharp, a species introduced from America.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

There are 32 specimens of Palpicornia (Hydraenidae and Hydrophilidae) in the material collected by Dr. P. Brinck and Dr. E. Dahl in the Azores in 1957. The material is dealt with below.

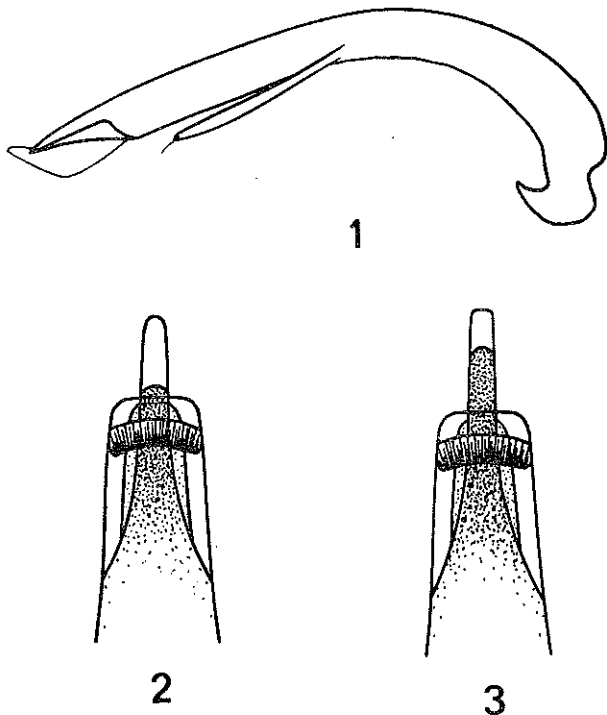
Ochthebius freyi d'Orchimont, 1940

F a i a l. Baía da Areia das Fontes 1 km N of Praia do Norte (on shore). Grassy ground, under stone. 2.4.57. Loc. 77 (♂). Described from Santa Cruz and endemic to the Azores. D'Orchymont examined the dry male genitalia of two specimens, one of which the type, but could not find any parameres. The aedeagus of this new specimen agrees exactly with that of the type but the parameres are present (Fig. 1)!

¹) Report No. 63 from the Lund University Expedition 1957 to the Azores and Madeira.

²) Department of Animal Ecology, University of Lund, Sweden.

However, I have also studied the type specimen in polyvinyl-lactophenol when the parameres could be seen very clearly.



Figs. 1-3—1. Aedeagus of *Ochthebius freyi* d'Orch. Azores. —
2. Tip of aedeagus of *Enochrus politus* (Küst.). Gran Canaria,
leg. det. H. Lindberg. — 3. Tip of aedeagus of *Enochrus bicolor*
F. Azores. All preparations in polyvinylactophenol.

***Sphaeridium bipustulatum* Fabricius, 1781**

São Miguel. Charco da Madeira 6 km N of Ponta Delgada.
1.3.57. Loc. 4 (♀). Known from several islands on the Azores.

***Cercyon atricapillus* (Marsham, 1802)**

Faial. Baía da Areia das Fontes 1 km N of Praia do Norte
(ravine). 2.4.57. Loc. 77 (1♀).

A rather widely distributed species, also known from Madeira
and the Canary Islands.

Cercyon lugubris Olivier, 1790

Sã o Miguel. Ribeira das três Voltas, near Ribeira Chã (river), 16.3.57. Loc. 35 B-D (1♀). — Ponta Delgada, 2 km NE of town (swimmingpool). 5.3.57. (1♂). — 3 km E of Ribeirinha (N coast). 25.3.57. Loc. 63 (1♂, 2♀). — 3 km S of Pico da Pedra (in dung). 25.3.57. Loc. 64 (1♂, 5♀).

Faial. Praia do Almoxarife. 31.3.57. Loc. 72 (1♂, 5♀). — 0,5 km WNW of Ribeirinha. 1.4.57. Loc. 73 (1♂). — Baía da Areia das Fontes 1 km N of Praia do Norte (on shore). 2.4.57. Loc. 77 (1♂, 5♀).

Pico. Madalena, Areia Larga. 9.4.57. Loc. 104 (1♂).

Crotch (1867) writes «at Ponta Delgada, S. Miguel, and also in the higher parts of the island, but not common». Probably the most widely distributed Hydrophilid species in the Azores, but not known from Madeira or Canary Islands.

Enochrus bicolor Fabricius, 1792

Terceira. Freshwater lagoon N of Praia da Victoria. 27.3.57. Loc. 68 B-D (1♂, 3♀).

New to the islands. Known from the Canary Islands but not from Madeira. The most common species of *Enochrus* in the Atlantic Islands seems to be *E. politus*, which is known from many localities in the Canary Islands and also from Madeira. The two species, *politus* and *bicolor*, may be separated in the following way: The colour of *politus* is generally dark brown or nearly black. However, pale brown or testaceous specimens may sometimes occur. The punctuation on pronotum and elytra in *politus* is faint and the insect is very shiny. In *bicolor* the punctuation is deeper and denser. In *politus* the epicranial suture is very indistinct, whereas in *bicolor* it is very marked and sometimes even slightly raised. Also in the genitalia there seem to be good distinguishing characters. In the aedeagus the outermost part of the dorsal strut, the bulb, is longer in *politus* than in *bicolor*. The tip of the dorsal strut also is more acute in *politus* than in *bicolor* (Fig. 2, Fig. 3). The male from the Azores agrees very well in the genital characters with Swedish ones. Three out of the four Azorean specimens are smaller than average Swedish ones. A smaller form of *bicolor*, var. *brevipalpis*, is known from England (Sharp 1914).

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