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**BRACHYPEPLUS PUDICUS SP. N., A NEW SPECIES OF THE
GENUS BRACHYPEPLUS ERICHSON FROM THE
AZORES (COLEOPTERA: NITIDULIDAE)**

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With 7 figures

RESUMO. Descreve-se *Brachypeplus pudicus* sp.n. dos Açores.

INTRODUCTION

This new species is known to us only from the specimens here indicated as holo- and paratypes of *B. pudicus* sp.n.. However Karl Spornraft's list of *Nitidulidae* from Madeira (1966) indicated 24 specimens of *Brachypeplus* sp. which he regarded as fairly distinct from *B. rubidus* Murray, 1864, both in external characters and the structure of the male genitalia (in contrast to Lundblad's identification (1958) of the coleopterous fauna on Madeira). There is good reason to assume that the specimens studied by Spornraft and Lundblad are conspecific with the ones described here as *B. pudicus* sp.n.. The specimens of *Brachypeplus* sp. from Terceira reported by Serrano and Borges, 1987, probably also belong to this species.

The species of the genus *Brachypeplus* are extremely numerous but so far little is known about them. Probably less than half of the recent

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congeners have been described. This genus is most abundantly represented in the subfamily *Cillaeinae* (Kirejtschuk, 1986). The species are mainly of tropical distribution and the Azores present one of the northernmost localities where an indigenous species of *Brachypeplus* has been found. There are some records from Europe, even as far north as Sweden (Heqvist, 1955), derived from imported timber.

***Brachypeplus pudicus* sp. n.**

Type locality. The Azores: São Miguel and Furnas.

Type material. Holotype. Azores, São Miguel, Furnas, 14.vii.1986 (G. Gillerfors). In Zool. Mus. Univ. of Lund, Sweden.—Paratypes: 4 specimens, same data as holotype, but 8.vi.1985: 1 specimen deposited in Zool. Inst., Academy of Sciences, Leningrad; 1 in Mus. f. Naturkunde Humboldt Univ., Berlin; 1 in Mus. Mun. Funchal, Madeira; 1 in coll. G. Gillerfors, Varberg, Sweden.

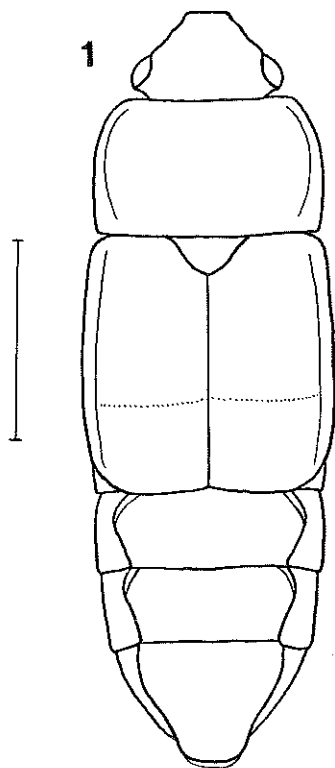
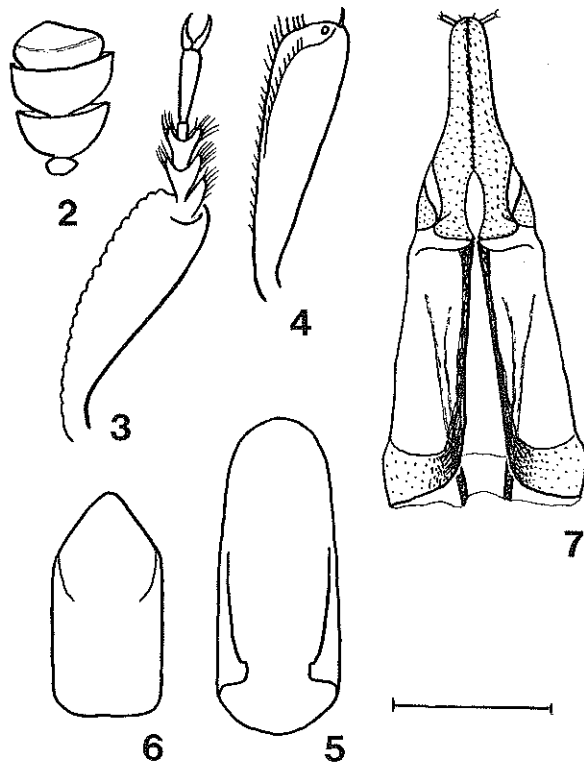


Fig. 1.—Holotype of *Brachypeplus pudicus* sp. n. (Scale bar: 1.0 mm).

Diagnosis. *Brachypeplus pudicus* is more similar to some Indo-Malayan and Malagasy congeners than to the Afro-tropical ones. The form and size of the body, coloration and other features of *B. pudicus* resemble those of *B. fimbriatus* Reitter, 1880, but are distinguished from the latter by unicoloured reddish abdominal tergites and dark antennal clubs, pronotal shape (longer and with less curved sides), being less distinctly punctulate on dorsal surface, the temples not being projected, oblong antennal clubs, and by the genital structure of the male.

DESCRIPTION

Male (holotype). Length 3.7, breadth 1.2 and height 0.6 mm. Moderately convex above as well as below. Reddish with 2/3 of distal part of head and 1/3 of distal part of pronotum dark brown, antennal club blackish. Upper surface rather shiny with slightly conspicuous pubescence (hairs



Figs. 2-7: 2.—Antennal club. 3.—Fore tibia and tarsus. 4.—Intermediate tibia. 5.—Tegmen from above. 6.—Penis from above. 7.—Ovipositor from below. (Scale bar: 0.25 mm).

somewhat longer than distance between hair roots on head and pronotum); pronotal and elytral sides with slightly visible ciliae. Head and pronotal surface with nearly invisible punctures almost twice larger than eye facets, intervals between them $1/3 - 1/2$ puncture diameter. Elytra with longitudinal rows of close indistinct and more or less transverse punctures; very slightly convex striae between them with irregular rows of smaller punctures.

Uncovered tergites and ventral surface with diffuse punctures as large as eye facets (larger only on metasternum and at sides of tergites), intervals between them nearly of puncture diameter. Space between punctures more or less contrastingly reticulate, but on head and pronotum with smooth reticulation.

Head as long as distance between eyes, flat and faintly impressed at antennal roots; temples not projected behind eyes. Mentum 4 times as wide as long. Antennal grooves distinct, with least distance subequal with length of antennal club. Antennae somewhat longer than width of head, their clubes (fig. 2) nearly $2/7$ of total antennal length, 3rd segment slightly longer than 2nd, 4th subequal with 5th and twice shorter than 3rd.

Pronotum with bordered base and moderately explanate sides, with average width of explanate part about as wide as antennal hairs. Distance between fore coxae subequal with hind and 3 times less than intermediate coxae. 1st abdominal sternite somewhat longer than 2nd, but shorter than 3rd. Anal sclerite scarcely exposed from under pygidium.

Tibiae scarcely narrower than antennal club, but femora twice wider, with fairly smooth edges. 1st to 3rd tarsal segments of all legs about twice wider than antennal hairs, claws simple. (Figs. 3 & 4).

Aedeagus as fig. 6 moderately sclerotized. Female. Differs from male only by absence of exposed anal sclerite from under pygidium. Ovipositor as fig. 7 moderately sclerotized.

Variations. Length 3.6-4.3 mm. The paratypes are very similar to the holotype. However distinctness of punctures on head, pronotum and elytra is somewhat variable and the space between the punctures on these parts of some of the paratypes seems nearly smooth.

BIONOMICS

The specimens were found beneath rather fresh bark of recently fallen trunks of *Pittosporum undulatum* Vent.

LITERATURE

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