

Description of a new species of *Desmocerus* with a synoptic table of the genus

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production of these two forms follows Mendel's Law and also to ascertain which form constitutes the dominant type in the species. As all the males are ostensibly yellow, the problem is a difficult one, since, if this law holds with this species, some of the yellow males must be potentially black and produce offspring in which the black type prevails.

Mr. Cook said he did not believe that dimorphism in nature follows the working of any law. The matter was further discussed by the members present.

MARCH 2, 1905.

The 194th regular meeting was held at the residence of Messrs. A. L. Quaintance and W. M. Scott, 1809 24th St., N.W., President Banks in the chair and Messrs. Ashmead, Burke, Gill, Girault, Hinds, Hopkins, Howard, Pratt, Quaintance, Scott, and Webb, members, and Messrs. Davis, Johnson, Strauss, and McClendon, visitors, present. In the absence of the secretary Mr. Pratt was appointed secretary *pro tem*. Prof. Thomas B. Symons, Entomologist of the Maryland Agric. College Exp. Station was elected an active member. The acting secretary read a letter from Prof. J. B. Smith relative to a National Association of Entomologists; this was discussed by Messrs. Ashmead, Banks, Gill, Hopkins and Quaintance. The matter was referred to the following committee appointed by the President at the request of the Society, Messrs. Ashmead, Titus and Quaintance.

Mr. Webb exhibited specimens of two species of *Desmocerus* and presented the following paper:

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *DESMOCERUS* WITH
A SYNOPTIC TABLE OF THE GENUS.

BY J. L. WEBB.

Desmocerus piperi n. sp.

♀.—Length 20.5 mm. Head, prothorax, ventral surface, legs, and antennæ bluish black; elytra bluish green, with narrow orange margins. Body elongate; head scarcely as long as prothorax, narrowed towards base; prothorax narrower than elytra, and strongly narrowed towards head, with an

obtuse elevation midway on each side, basal angles produced into spines; elytra scarcely narrowed posteriorly, posterior margin rounded with apices sub-acute.

♂.—Length 18.8 mm. Elytra distinctly narrowed posteriorly, and uniformly dull orange colored in pinned specimens (bright orange-red when living).

♀ and ♂ type No. 8401, U. S. N. M.; ♂ Blue Mts., Wash., July, 1896. Collector, C. V. Piper. The specimens before me, 15 in number, show little variation from the type, except one male, in which the fifth joint of each antenna is deformed.

Collected in numbers by Professor C. V. Piper, in the Blue Mountains of Oregon, and the Bitter Root Mountains of Idaho, feeding on the flowers of the black-berried elder, *Sambucus melanocarpa*.

The following table will aid in the identification of the species of this genus:

I. Elytra with basal third orange-colored, posterior two-thirds blue, without orange margins. Sexes equal in size and of the same color. Elytra of ♂ not distinctly narrowed towards apex. *palliatus*.

II. Elytra with orange margins in one or both sexes; males smaller, with elytra distinctly narrowed towards apex.

A. Elytra with narrow orange margins in both sexes.

a. Elytra pubescent *cribripennis*.

b. Elytra glabrous, punctures dense and fine towards apex *californicus*.

B. Elytra with orange margins in female; entire elytra orange in male.

a. Female elytra with narrow orange margins . . . *piperi*.

b. Female elytra with broad orange margins, darker only on median dorsal surface *auripennis*.

—Mr. Pratt exhibited slides and figures of larvæ, pupæ and adults of *Ceratopogon guttipennis* Coq. which he had found in the mountains at Bluemont and Woodstock, Virginia. The larvæ were found living in hollow tree stumps filled with water, in company with larvæ of three species of mosquitoes; *Culex triseriatus*, *C. signifer*, and *Anopheles barberi*. Their food seemed to be the rotting leaves, dead insects and other débris. He stated that the little “gnats,” or, as they are locally called “punkies” or “no-see-ums,” were exceedingly troublesome, especially early in the morning. Mr. Burke asked if any species of *Ceratopogon* occurred on the Pacific coast and M