

A new Prionid longicorn Beetle from the Loyalty Islands
(Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)

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(Presented by Dr. D. W. Clancy)

Among specimens of a large collection of Pacific Island longicorn beetles kindly submitted for study by Dr. M. A. Cazier of the American Museum of Natural History there are three species of the subfamily Prioninae represented from New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands. All were collected by L. Macmillan. One, *Cacodacnus hebridanus* Thomson, taken on New Caledonia, March-April 1939 (Ac. 37523), is already known from the New Hebrides, New Caledonia and Norfolk Island. The second, probably *Megopsis* (s. str.) *caledonica* Fauvel, taken on Maré Island, Loyalty Islands on December 17, 1937, is new to the Loyalty Islands. The third species, also from Maré Island, seems to have no very close known relatives. It is placed tentatively in Lameere's sub-group (subtribe) Tragosomae of the tribe Anacolini, though differing from the known members of the group in having the metepisternum narrowed only ventrally and the prothorax strongly narrowed from middle to both apex and base. Four of the seven known genera assigned to this subtribe occur in nearby regions: one in New Zealand, one on Lord Howe Island, one in Tasmania and Australia (Victoria) and the fourth in Australia. The other three are neotropical. This new form also has some affinity with the subtribe Monodesmi of the same tribe. Two of the three genera assigned to that group occur in Central America and the third in Africa and India. The description of the new form follows:

Pteronephila Gressitt, new genus

Antennae and legs slender, fairly long; maxillary palpi long; eyes moderately emarginate; prothorax short, strongly spined at middle of each side; elytra very long, costate; metapisternum broad, arcuately narrowed ventrally and acute apically.

Labrum short, subrounded anteriorly; clypeus membranous, short; mandibles moderate, stout basally, recurved and acuminate apically; maxillae with one lobe visible; maxillary palpi twice as long as labial palpi, with second and third segments longer than fourth; labium short; ligula small and narrow; genae short, with projecting angles; eyes large, coarsely faceted, not very distant above and below, moderately emarginate; antennal supports somewhat raised internally. Antennae slender, only slightly flattened, three-fourths as long as body (male); scape slender, only slightly shorter than third segment and about as long as fourth. Prothorax nearly twice as broad as long, exclusive of lateral spines; strongly narrowed from base of long, slender spine at middle of each side to apex and base; lateral margins almost indistinguishable. Scutellum small. Elytra long and parallel-sided, three and one-third times as long as head and prothorax com-

bined, subrounded apically, each with four distinct discal costae as well as a sutural and marginal one. Anterior coxal cavity reaching nearly to base of lateral prothoracic spine, open posteriorly; intercoxal process triangular, reaching to about middle of coxae; mesosternal intercoxal process narrow; metepisternum broad anteriorly, arcuately narrowed beneath. Legs very slender. Abdomen distinctly narrower than metathorax, strongly tapered posteriorly, hardly more than one-third as long as elytra.

Generotype: *Pteronephila spinifera* Gressitt, new species.

Differs from *Prionoplus* White, of New Zealand, in having the antennae slender, untoothed, unstriated, and non-carinate, the prothorax with basal angles obsolete and unspined, the femora and tibiae untoothed apically and the tarsi long and slender. Differs from *Howea* Olliff in having the antennae simple and shorter, the prothorax spined at middle and the femora slender. *Enneaphyllus* Waterhouse and *Rhipidocerus* Westwood differ in having the antennae lamellate or serrate in both sexes.

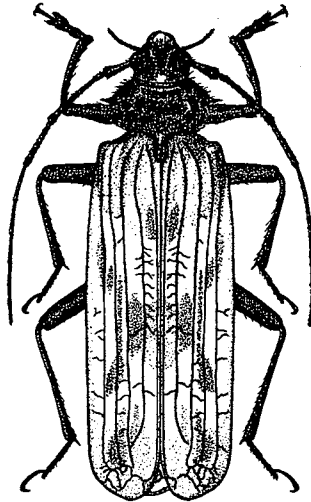


Figure 1.—*Pteronephila spinifera* Gressitt, n. gen., n. sp.; slightly enlarged.

The name of this new genus alludes to a winged spider, since, aside from its wings, this beetle, with its slender appendages and abdomen, is suggestive of the large tropical orb-weaving spiders of the genus *Nephila*.

Pteronephila spinifera Gressitt, new species

Male: Dark pitchy brown, more reddish on metasternum and abdomen; elytra pale buff with costae reddish brown, to pitchy basally, including branch veins, and with some faint clouding of dusky on discs forming a vague X across center, as well as a short longitudinal stripe in first interstice at end of basal fifth, and some more reddish clouding on extreme bases; antennae and legs reddish pitchy, slightly more reddish on femora. Body clothed with suberect whitish buff hairs, more tawny on head, to ochreous on labrum, mandibles and behind eyes; hairs shorter and recumbent on central part of pronotal disc, longest on metasternum, lacking on elytra except for a partial pubescence

of minute recumbent hairs; antennae nearly glabrous, with a few oblique hairs on scape and undersides and apices of following segments; legs with long pale hairs only on bases of femora; distal portions of femora with shorter, subrecumbent pale hairs; tibiae with stouter, short oblique tawny hairs.

Head small, subvertical in front, moderately grooved medially, sparsely and finely granulate along middle of each side, practically impunctate, transversely striate beneath; mandibles shorter than remainder of head; eyes about twice as deep as wide, moderately emarginate, but not embracing antennal insertions, wider beneath, separated above by a distance less than that between antennal insertions, and beneath by a hardly greater distance. Antennae slender, slightly compressed, nearly four-fifths as long as body; scape somewhat thickened beyond middle, fully five times as long as greatest width, nearly three-fourths as long as third segment; second slightly longer than broad; third one-third longer than fourth; fourth to tenth somewhat regularly decreasing in length; tenth one-third as long as sixth, slightly shorter than eleventh. Prothorax short, strongly narrowed from middle to apex and base, with a long slender spine at middle of each side, projecting slightly upward; width at apex as great as length; width to ends of spines twice as great as width of head; disc obliquely inclined anteriorly, armed at middle of each side with a longitudinal ridge extending from anterior to posterior transverse constrictions and strongly raised just behind middle into a laterally compressed crest, rounded subacute in lateral outline and more declivitous posteriorly; remainder of disc minutely punctured, with two subtransverse low ridges across middle and some swellings with a few asperities on each side above the low lateral spine. Scutellum small, subcordate, raised on each side. Elytra wider than prothorax at tips of lateral spines, nearly three times as long as combined breadth, rounded-truncate apically, microscopically punctured, each with five discal costae at base, the first gradually approaching extremely close to sutural margin and nearly fusing with it, second costa, and to some extent third, with some branch veins in basal half, and all with some branches or transverse connectives in parts of distal half, particularly near apex where a partial reticulation exists. Ventral surfaces minutely punctured. Legs slender; femora swollen only in basal halves; hind tibiae as long as basal width of elytra; first hind tarsal segment as long as next two combined, last segment longer than first.

Length 56.5 mm.; breadth 17 mm.

Holotype, male (American Museum of Natural History), Maré Island, Loyalty Islands, Nov. 14, 1937, L. Macmillan.

Differs from other members of the subfamily from the southwestern Pacific in having a single long slender spine on each side of the prothorax, as well as in the combination of very slender antennae, long slender elytra and slender, untoothed legs with the femora much thicker basally than at middle. In the figure, the femora are drawn too stout distally and the basal margins of the elytra are drawn too oblique.