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A new species of *Cymatodera* Gray (Coleoptera: Cleridae)
from Honduras

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A new species of *Cymatodera* Gray (Coleoptera: Cleridae) from Honduras

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Abstract. *Cymatodera batleth* **new species** (Coleoptera: Cleridae) is described from Honduras. It appears to belong to a group of Central American congeners that share similar facies and coloration, deeply emarginate elytral apices and elaborately modified male pygidia.

Key words. Checkered beetles, fauna, endemism, neotropical.

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Introduction

Heretofore ten species of *Cymatodera* Gray have been recorded from Honduras: *C. conflagrata* (Klug), *C. depauperata* Gorham, *C. guatemalensis* Schenkling, *C. prolixa* (Klug), *C. sallei* Thomson, *C. sinuosa* Burke, *C. rileyi* Rifkind, *C. crassa* Burke and Sole, *C. nigrofasciata* Burke and Sole, and *C. parva* Burke which have distributions extending into neighboring Central American countries (Burke 2013; Burke et al. 2017). The known Honduran *Cymatodera* fauna is likely to increase, given that half of the above were described only within the last decade (Burke 2013; Rifkind 2015; Burke et al. 2017, 2019), and Honduras remains relatively unexplored for Cleridae. This paper describes a new species of Honduran *Cymatodera*, and its first apparently endemic member of the genus.

Materials and Methods

Specimens were photographed through the eyepiece of a Zeiss stereo dissecting microscope using the camera in an Apple iPhone 11, and with an Olympus TG-5 fitted with an Olympus LED light guide (LG-1), using the onboard photo stacking software. Measurements were established using the ocular grid in a Zeiss stereomicroscope and a millimeter scale.

The holotype was borrowed from the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, Florida, USA (FSCA). A paratype is retained in my personal collection: Jacques Rifkind Collection, Valley Village, California, USA (JNRC).

Taxonomy

Cymatodera batleth Rifkind, new species

(Fig. 1–5)

Type specimens. Holotype, male. Honduras, Yoro, Pico Pijol N.P., 24–26 May, 1998, D. Hawks, coll. (FSCA). Paratype, male. Honduras, Yoro, P.N. Pico Pijol, V-13-[20]02, J. & M. Huether (JNRC).

Description. (Holotype). Length: 14 mm. Form: elongate; subcylindrical (Fig. 1). Color: piceous; mouthparts, antennae, tarsi, abdominal sternites 5 and 6 reddish brown; elytra with three broad, subsinuate testaceous fasciae, one subbasal, interrupted internally before suture, the second at middle, complete across middle, the last anteapical, also complete across middle. Head: measured across eyes, wider than pronotum; antennae elongate, extending past elytral base when laid alongside; antennomeres 3–10 subserrate; antennomere 11 subequal to antennomere 10, narrowly rounded apically; surface finely, densely punctate and finely rugulose, moderately



Figure 1. *Cymatodera batleth*, holotype, habitus.

densely clothed with mostly short, adpressed fine silvery setae, arranged in whorls. Pronotum: longer than broad (3:2), broadest across anterior margin; surface shining, shallowly, densely rugulose and punctate; vestiture rather sparse, composed of fine, pale setae of short to moderate length, some reclinate, some erect, most conspicuously arrayed in a whorl at anterior middle (Fig. 2). Elytra: elongate (more than 3× as long as wide), nearly parallel sided; each elytron deeply emarginate at posterior margin, slightly dehiscent at apex internally, each angle produced into a distinctive spine (Fig. 3); surface shining, densely, deeply, quite coarsely punctate, punctures not diminished in size or density until posterior $\frac{1}{4}$; vestiture thinly arrayed, inconspicuous, composed primarily of short suberect, fine, pale–testaceous setae interspersed with a few longer erect brown setae. Metasternum: surface shining, sparsely punctulate, shallowly transversely rugulose below, negligibly setose, without carinae, tubercles or spicules. Abdomen: surface shining, visible sternites 1–4 alutaceous, sparsely punctate, moderately densely but inconspicuously setose, each with a large, distinct ovate depression laterally; sternite 5 (Fig. 4) shining, sparsely punctulate, posterior margin rather deeply arcuately emarginate, margin densely lined with posteriorly directed testaceous setae; sternite 6 (Fig. 4) rectangular, depressed at anterior $\frac{1}{3}$, sides and posterior margin of depression elevated into a distinct ridge, posterior $\frac{2}{3}$ slightly convex longitudinally at middle; surface densely but shallowly punctate, moderately densely but inconspicuously setose; sides subparallel, lateral margins subsinuate, posterior margin deeply triangularly inflected, lateral angles triangularly lobate, feebly concave ventrally, slightly upturned and narrowly rounded posteriorly, and each longitudinally sulcate internally; tergite 6 (Fig. 5) oblong, sinuate laterally, narrowed at posterior $\frac{1}{3}$, wedge shaped and upturned posteriorly, hind angles rounded, posterior margin



Figures 2–5. *Cymatodera batleth*, holotype. 2) Pronotum. 3) Elytral apices. 4) Pygidium, ventral view. 5) Pygidium, dorsal view.

subtruncate. Aedeagus: parameres upturned posteriorly, apices subacuminate; phallus narrowly posteriorly, bearing two longitudinal carinae ventrally.

Variation. The single paratype, also a male, is very similar to the holotype.

Etymology. The specific epithet is derived from the Klingon word “bat’leth,” a double sided, hooked, edged weapon. The elytral apices of the new species bear a strong resemblance to the curves and points of this sword as depicted in the Star Trek franchise.

Distribution. *Cymatodera batleth* is known only from the Parque Nacional Pico Pijol, located in northwest Honduras.

Diagnosis. A unique combination of elytral shape and markings, and features of the male metasternum and pygidium will serve to distinguish this species from congeners. The new species is most similar to *Cymatodera oxchuc* Rifkind 2015 from Chiapas, Mexico; in *C. oxchuc*, however, abdominal tergite 6 entirely covers abdominal sternite 6 in dorsal view, which is not the case for *C. batleth*. Furthermore, *C. oxchuc* has the metasternum tuberculate, whereas in the new species the metasternum is unadorned. *Cymatodera merickeli* Rifkind 2015 is also similar in facies, but in this Oaxacan species, abdominal tergite 6 is broadly sagittate apically. These three species, along with one or two others that are known only from females, appear to form a natural group within *Cymatodera*, characterized by elongate, similarly marked elytra, deeply incised (“spinous”) elytral apices and elongate-rectangular, posteriorly modified abdominal tergite and sternite 6. Over the course of several decades, I have examined thousands of *Cymatodera* specimens from southern Mexico and Central America. I have never before seen a specimen assignable to *C. batleth* and therefore conclude that it likely represents a Honduran endemic.

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