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Two new species of Dryophthorinae in the genera *Metamasius* and *Melchus* from the Lesser Antilles (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

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Abstract

Metamasius planatus and *Melchus jessae*, are described and illustrated from the Lesser Antilles islands of Dominica and St. Lucia. *Metamasius planatus* (Dominica) is distinguished by a relatively flat profile and presence of dense, very fine, golden micropilosity covering most of the dorsal surface. *Melchus jessae* (Dominica and St. Lucia) is the sixth species known in the genus and is distinguished by the cylindrical rostrum (not laterally compressed apically). Information on natural history for both species is limited: some *Metamasius planatus* and one *Melchus jessae* were collected in bases of *Euterpe globosa* fronds. A revised key to genera of Neotropical Litosomini is presented.

During a visit to the Smithsonian Institution collection, specimens of new species of Lesser Antilles Dryophthorinae in the genera *Metamasius* Horn and *Melchus* Lacordaire were discovered. A description of the species along with a summary of diagnostic characters and illustrations is presented here. Vaurie (1966, 1967) revised the genus *Metamasius*; later Anderson (2002) added new species from Costa Rica and Panama. Within Litosomini, Anderson (2003) described the genus *Daisya* and new species of the closely related genus *Melchus* Lacordaire; another related genus, *Neophrynoides*, includes only the widespread *Neophrynoides luteus* (Chevrolat). O'Brien and Turnbow (2011) presented a checklist of Dominica weevils but neither species is recorded therein.

Initially, I presumed the specimens of the new species of *Melchus* to be assignable to the genus *Neophrynoides* as they lacked the apically compressed rostrum of all previously known *Melchus* species; however, examination of other structural features suggests the species is best placed as a species of *Melchus*, but lacking the compressed rostrum, thus necessitating a modification of the diagnosis of that genus.

Specimens are deposited in the collection of the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada (CMNC); private collection of Charles W. O'Brien, Green Valley, Arizona (CWOB); United States National Museum, Washington DC (USNM); and the West Indian Beetle Fauna Project Collection held at Montana State University, Bozeman, MT (WIBF).

Metamasius planatus Anderson, new species

(Figures 1–4)

Identification.—Specimens of this species are easily recognizable by their relatively flat profile and presence of dense, very fine, golden micropilosity covering most of the dorsal surface, especially the elytra and pronotum. This micropilosity is dense throughout the length of the elytral sutural interval and in the basal portions of intervals 3, 5 and 7 giving them the appearance of being wider than adjacent intervals. Four other species of *Metamasius* occur on Dominica; *M. hemipterus* (L.), *M. liratus* (Gyllenhal), *M. maurus* (Gyllenhal) and *M. quadrisignatus* (Gyllenhal) (O'Brien and Turnbow 2011).

Description.—Male, 11.2–12.1 mm long; 3.9–4.3 mm wide. Female, 10.4–12.9 mm long; 3.5–4.7 mm wide. Color mostly black dorsally and ventrally; elytra dark reddish brown to various extent in basal one-half. Body flat in profile, depth slightly more than one-half width at midlength; covered variously with dense, very fine, golden micropilosity. Rostrum about one-half length of pronotum; markedly curved, compressed laterally, impunctate;

Derivation of specific name.—This species is named after my daughter Jessie Catherine Anderson. I'm sure her love of travelling will eventually take her to these diverse and interesting islands.

Revised Key to Genera of Neotropical Litosomini (after Anderson 2003)

- 1 Size small, total body length less than 5 mm; tibiae with distinct subapical tooth at inner angle in addition to larger curved tooth. *Sitophilus* Schoenherr
- 1' Size moderate, total body length greater than 5 mm and generally greater than 8 mm; tibiae with either a small rounded subapical swelling or sharp subapical tooth at inner angle in addition to larger curved tooth 2
- 2 Rostrum extremely long and slender, as long as length of pronotum and elytra combined; mandibles elongate subtriangular, with inner margins parallel-sided and lacking teeth, not touching medially; antenna with club with basal glabrous part with slender, stalk-like base, width at apex 3–4 times width at base; legs long and slender *Toxorhinus* Lacordaire
- 2' Rostrum various, but shorter than length of pronotum and elytra combined; mandibles small, convergent and occluding medially, with inner margins distinctly toothed; antenna with club with basal glabrous part with broad base, width at apex less than 3 times width at base; legs more robust 3
- 3 Elytra with scattered raised concentrations (tufts) of short erect broad setae, in some cases surrounded by dense micropilosity. 4
- 3' Elytra glabrous or with scales or with setae not forming concentrations 6
- 4 Rostrum straight; antennal club with apical pilose part obliquely oriented and appearing only as a narrow line; entire body uniformly covered with brownish matte coating in addition to tufts; tibiae at apex with subapical tooth at inner angle in addition to larger curved tooth. *Neophrynoides* O'Brien and Wibmer
- 4' Rostrum straight to curved ventrally; antennal club with apical pilose part distinct, less than one-third length of basal glabrous part but not appearing as narrow line; body covered or not with brownish matte coating; pronotum and/or elytra with tufts; tibiae at apex with only large curved tooth 5
- 5 Male lacking tooth or swelling on inner margin of front femora; rostrum markedly laterally compressed or not in at least apical one-half *Melchus* Lacordaire (Part)
- 5' Male with front femur with distinct subapical swelling or tooth on inner margin; rostrum more or less cylindrical, not or slightly laterally compressed *Daisya* Anderson
- 6 Rostrum markedly laterally compressed in at least apical one-half *Melchus* Lacordaire (Part)
- 6' Rostrum more or less cylindrical, not or only slightly laterally compressed 7
- 7 Rostrum curved ventrally; tarsal article 3 very slightly laterally expanded at apex, longer than wide; elytra without scales *Cosmopolites* Chevrolat
- 7' Rostrum more or less straight; tarsal article 3 distinctly laterally expanded at apex, wider than or as wide as long; elytra with or without scales *Eucalandra* Faust

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