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Author(s): Byrd K. Dozier

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A NEW SPECIES OF *TYNDARIS* FROM  
SOUTHWESTERN MEXICO  
(COLEOPTERA: BUPRESTIDAE: POLYCESTINAE)

BYRD K. DOZIER<sup>1</sup>

1987 Gotham Street, Chula Vista, CA 92013, U.S.A.

ABSTRACT

*Tyndaris (Paratyndaris) robusta*, n. sp. from Michoacan, Mexico, is described, with a brief comment about its relationships.

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During a collecting trip to Mexico during the summer of 1984, an exciting new species of *Tyndaris (Paratyndaris)* Fisher was found near Capirio in the state of Michoacan. Further specimens were collected during a subsequent trip to the same area in 1986. This very distinctive species is described at this time partly to encourage more collecting in Mexico and also to stimulate the long overdue revision of this interesting group of polycestine beetles.

The last revision of this group (as *Ancylotela* Waterhouse) was by Barr (1972). Barr's work went a long way towards solving the confusion in the taxonomy, but a number of undescribed species still exist in collections. More recently, within the first part of a large work revising the tribes and genera of the World Polycestinae, Cobos (1980) combined and delimited five subgenera under *Tyndaris* Thomson, based mostly on character states of the antennae and tarsi. Previous to Cobos' work, *Tyndaris* included only a few species from southern South America, with the species of North America (including Mexico) placed in *Paratyndaris*.

The new species described herein is placed in the subgenus *Paratyndaris* following the classification provided by Cobos. It is hoped that this description will help to more accurately define *Tyndaris* and its subgenera from Mexico, as well as to underline the need for a thorough generic revision.

*Tyndaris (Paratyndaris) robusta* Dozier, **new species**

**HOLOTYPE MALE.** Length 10.5 mm, width 4.2 mm; robust; subcylindrical; black with strong blue reflection, faintly shining except for medial area of pronotum which is opaque with the blue reflection reduced; each elytron with one large red transverse, nearly parallel-sided fascia extending from near suture to lateral margin and from basal  $\frac{1}{4}$  to near midpoint, red mark extending anteriorly along lateral margin to base ventral to humeral umbone.

*Head* slightly flattened on front, with faint irregular longitudinal carina; densely punctured; moderately clothed with depressed, long, fine, white hairs; frontoclypeus broadly, angularly emarginate medially. *Antennae* slender; reaching near middle of pronotum when laid along side; serrate from sixth antennomere.

*Pronotum* strongly convex, subglobose, broadest at middle; anterior margin broadly, evenly arcuate; in dorsal view sides broadly arcuate, narrowing anteriorly; surface granulate, finely, densely, transversely asperate medially, coarsely, densely punctate laterally;

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<sup>1</sup> Research Associate, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville.

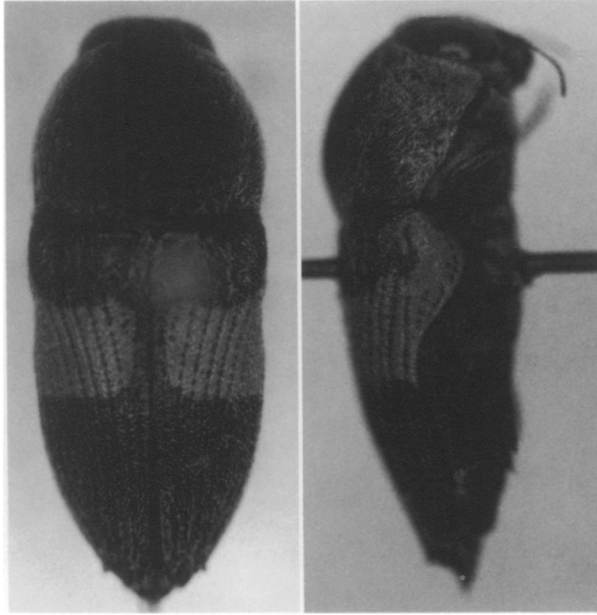


Fig. 1. *Tyndaris (Paratyndaris) robusta*, n. sp., holotype.

faint longitudinal line extending from posterior margin to past middle indicated by reduced asperities medially; irregularly clothed with subrecumbent white hairs, hairs longer, more depressed, very dense laterally where they nearly obscure the surface; in lateral view, marginal carinae oblique, weakly sinuate, prominent, entire; ventral face impunctate, broadly on anterior  $\frac{3}{4}$ , narrowly on posterior  $\frac{1}{4}$ . *Scutellum* elongate oval, acuminate anteriorly, flattened, glabrous, microsculptured.

*Elytra* as wide as pronotum at base; humeri prominent; sides, in dorsal view, slightly constricted at basal  $\frac{1}{3}$ , arcuately narrowing at apical  $\frac{1}{3}$  to separately rounded apices; in lateral view obtusely angulate at base; strongly, convexly lobed ventral to humeri, then broadly sinuate to apex; margins coarsely serrate along apical  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; paired subapical teeth on apicolateral margins distinct, acute; apical tooth broad, acuminate; tooth on sutural ridge well developed, strongly elevated, broadly acute; surface punctate-striate, punctures moderately large, smaller on discal intervals, larger, coarser laterally; interstitial teeth absent; clothed with irregular, short, rather fine, recumbent white hairs.

*Underside* with thoracic sternites densely punctured, uniformly clothed with dense, moderately long, recumbent white hairs obscuring surface; median portion of 1st and 2nd abdominal sternites finely punctate, sparsely pubescent; 2nd sternite with very broad, smooth, microsculptured lobe; 5th sternite subflattened, arcuately triangular, apex with a short, acute, roughly sculptured, upturned process; sublateral area with roughly sculptured ridge; posterior margin of metacoxal plate feebly emarginate; tarsomeres 1-4 each with ventral pulvillus.

**ALLOTYPE FEMALE.** Length 8.2 mm, width 3.5 mm; differs from holotype by having the lobe on the posterior margin of the 2nd abdominal sternite only slightly indicated.

**VARIATION.** There is little variation in the type series except for size: length 8.2-12.5 mm, width 3.5-5.0 mm. There is also some difference in the amount of pubescence on abdominal sternites 1 and 2, but this is probably due to normal wear.

**MATERIAL EXAMINED.** Holotype male, allotype female (Florida State Collection of Arthropods): MEXICO: Michoacan, 18–20 mi S Capirio, vii.21–22.1984, B. K. Dozier. Six paratypes: 1 male, same data as holotype; 3 males, 2 females, same data except ix.17.1986. Paratypes deposited in the collections of C. L. Bellamy, G. H. Nelson, R. L. Westcott and the author.

**REMARKS.** Because of its large size, robust shape and large red elytral fascia, *T. (P.) robusta* is very distinct and cannot be easily confused with any other species. From Barr's (1972) key, this species runs to *T. (P.) acaciae* (Knull), from which it can be separated by having pulvilli on tarsomeres 1–4. The larval host is unknown. Adults collected in 1984 were beaten from an intermixed stand of *Acacia* sp. and *Prosopis* sp. The specimens collected in 1986 were found on the upright terminal branches of dead trees of an unidentified non-leguminous species.

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 COBOS, A. 1980. Ensayo sobre los generos de la subfamilia Polycestinae (Coleoptera, Buprestidae), parte 1. *EOS, Rev. Espanola Ent.* 54(1978):15–94.

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### SCIENTIFIC NOTE

#### A NEW STATE RECORD FOR *APHONUS TEXANUS* GILL AND HOWDEN (COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE: DYNASTINAE)

Gill and Howden (1985) described *Aphonus texanus* based on eight specimens collected in Bastrop, Frio, Gillespie, Henderson and Rusk counties, Texas. Since then no additional records have been published. On VII-15-1987 five males and five females were collected by myself and Alex J. Reifschneider at a mercury-vapor light in a horse pasture on the outskirts of Hutchinson, Kansas. This is a range extension of ca. 680 km north of the northernmost Texas record at Henderson Co: Payne Springs. Collectors should be alert for this species in Oklahoma. Specimens assumed to be *Orizabus pyri-formis* (LeC.) should also be checked as they are externally very similar to *A. texanus*.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- GILL, B. D., AND H. F. HOWDEN. 1985. A review of the North American genus *Aphonus* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae). *Coleopt. Bull.* 39:119–129.

RONALD M. YOUNG, *University of Nebraska State Museum, Division of Entomology, W436 Nebraska Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0514, U.S.A.*

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