

SYNOPSIS OF THE GENUS ELYTROLEPTUS

(Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)

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R e s u m e n

En 1879, el Dr. Eugenio Dugés propuso en *La Naturaleza* un nuevo género para dos especies de Cerambycidae de Guanajuato, México, que se distinguen de las pertenecientes al género próximo sudamericano *Pteroplatus* por poseer élitros más angostos. Estas especies fueron descritas como *Elytroleptus* (*Elytroleptus*) *alfredi* (que resultó ser sinónimo de *Pteroplatus pallidus* Thomson, 1860) y *E. luteus*.

Posteriormente al trabajo de Dugés, ocho especies más han sido descritas de México y siete del suroeste de los Estados Unidos, de regiones cercanas a la frontera con México, la mayoría de ellas también conocidas de México. Una sola especie, *E. floridanus* (LeConte), se presenta mucho más allá de la región fronteriza, en el sudeste de los EE. UU.

Amén de su interés taxonómico, *Elytroleptus* se destaca porque la mayoría de sus especies se asemejan en coloración a los Lycidae, y muchas también en forma, con el cuerpo aplanado y los élitros ensanchados apicalmente. Varias de ellas han sido colectadas junto con Lycidae.

La presente sinopsis es el resultado del estudio de los tipos de la mayor parte de las especies descritas, así como el material adicional obtenido de museos europeos y americanos. Se espera que este trabajo facilite la identificación de las especies y sea un incentivo para estudios ecológicos y de comportamiento que contribuyan a aclarar las relaciones entre *Elytroleptus* y Lycidae (véase Knoll, 1948; y Linsley, Eisner y Klots, 1961).

In 1879, Dr. Eugenio Dugés, in *La Naturaleza*, proposed a new genus for two species of Cerambycidae from Guanajuato, Mexico, which differed from their South American relatives of the genus *Pteroplatus* by having more slender elytra. They were named by him *Elytroleptus* (*Elytroleptus*) *alfredi* (which proved to be a synonym of *Pteroplatus*

pallidus Thomson, 1860) and *E. luteus*. In the intervening years, eight additional species have been named from Mexico and seven from southwestern United States near the Mexican border, these last mostly known to occur in Mexico, the remainder expected to occur. Only one species, *E. floridanus* (LeConte) occurs much beyond the border in southeastern United States. Thus the genus, as now known, is quite typically Mexican.

Aside from its taxonomic interest, *Elytroleptus* is of special concern to naturalists because most of the species exhibit lycid-like coloration, many are lycid-like in form, with flattened body and apically expanded elytra, and several have been collected from aggregation of lycids. The present synopsis, resulting from a study of the types of most of the described species and supplemental material available in European and American museums, is offered in the hope that it will facilitate identification of the species and ecological and behavioral studies designed to clarify their internships with lycids (see Knull, 1948; Linsley, Eisner and Klots, 1961).

Key to the Species of ELYTROLEPTUS

- 1. Elytra bicolored or black 2
 - Elytra concolorous yellow or rufo-testaceous 10
- 2(1). Elytra with basal half or three-fourths yellow or rufo-testaceous, anterior margin of apical dark area arching to suture or more or less transverse... 3
 - Elytra concolorous yellow or rufo-testaceous 10
 - margin of apical dark area extending obliquely forward to suture..... 5
- 3(2). Pronotum thinly clothed with erect hairs which do not obscure the shining and very coarsely confluent punctate surface, elytra tricostate; smaller species, 7-10 mm..... 4
 - Pronotum largely clothed with appressed silky pubescence which obscures the surface, punctation moderately coarse; elytra quadricostate apically; large species, 12-17 mm. Western Texas to southern Arizona and northern Mexico (Chihuahua, Durango) **apicalis**
- 4(3). Elytra very coarsely deeply punctate, basal area with only about three rows of punctures between the costae, pubescence short and obscure, integument rufo-testaceous, apical fourth or fifth black, anterior margin of dark area transversely sinuate.
 - 10 mm. Mexico (Querétaro, Hidalgo) **dichromaticus**

- Elytra moderately coarsely and shallowly punctate, basal area with five or six rows of punctures between the costae, pubescence long and conspicuous, integument lemon yellow, apical one-third black, anterior margin of dark area arched to the suture. 7-10 mm. Mexico (Sonora, Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Morelos, Nayarit, Mexico, Guerrero) **scabricollis**
- 5(2). Elytra gradually dilated from base, quadricostate toward apex; large species, 13-15 mm. in length 6
- Elytra subparallel, at most slightly widened apically, tricostate; small species, 7-11 mm. in length 7
- 6(5). Elytra entirely black; pronotum with sides angulate, surface densely clothed with appressed golden tomentum except for an oval black area on posterior half of disk and another black area on each side behind lateral angle. 13 mm. Mexico (Oaxaca) **nigripennis**
- Elytra with humeral area and a broad median band yellowish-testaceous; pronotum with sides obtusely or broadly rounded, surface densely clothed with appressed golden tomentum except for median and lateral longitudinal black vittae. 15 mm. Mexico and Veracruz **grandis**
- 7(5). Pronotal disk with a pair of yellow or red, finely punctate, densely pubescent, longitudinal bands on each side of middle and a similar band along anterior margin and on each side at base 8
- Pronotal disk coarsely punctate and subglabrous, without finely punctate, pubescent bands 9
- 8(7). Pronotum with golden yellow bands; elytra strongly costate, pale areas distinct. 8-10 mm. Southeastern Canada to Florida and eastern Texas **floridanus**
- Pronotum with red bands; elytra less strongly costate, pale areas reduced or absent in typical form, basal one-fourth reddish-yellow extending obliquely backward from sutural margin to side and along lateral margin to apex in var. *obliquus*. 7-10 mm. Western Texas (Davis and Chisos Mountains) **immaculipennis**
- 9(7). Elytra not more than three times as long as basal width, basal punctures as coarse as those of disk of pronotum, costate distinct throughout, integument pale yellow, dark area confined largely to apical half; pronotum, ferruginous, with an oval darker impression on each side; abdomen black or piceous; posterior tibiae, apex of intermediate tibiae, and tarsi black, 8-9 mm. Texas and northern Mexico (Tamaulipas) **divisus**
- Elytra nearly three and one-half times as long as basal width, basal punctures much less coarse than those of disk of pronotum, costae distinct at base only, integument rufous or rufo-testaceous, dark area covering most of elytra except base and sides; pronotum rufous or piceous, without an oval impression at sides; abdomen rufo-testaceous, tarsi and all of the tibiae black. 6-11 mm. Northern Mexico (Chihuahua) . . . **humeralis**

- 10(1). Pronotum yellow or yellow-orange, if margined or clouded with black, disk predominantly yellow 11
 —Pronotum black or with extensive black areas, mid-line of disk always black 14
- 11(10). Head and pronotum yellow-orange, pronotum sometimes margined with black or clouded with black, elytra yellow or yellow-orange 12
 —Head and pronotum yellow, elytra reddish-yellow; ventral surface and legs largely brown. 8 mm. Western Texas (Davis Mountains) **lineatus**
- 12(11). Elytra expanded apically, surface moderately to finely punctate, the punctures less distinct toward apex 13
 —Elytra subparallel, each tricostate, the costae prominent, punctures coarse and distinct from base to apex, pubescence sparse; thoracic and abdominal sterna largely black or piceous. 8-11 mm. Central México (Guajuato, México); Durango to western Texas and southern Arizona . . . **luteus**
- 13(12). Elytra tricostate throughout; elytral base, epipleura, and femora rather densely clothed with much longer erect and suberect hairs than remainder of elytra. 8-10 mm, México (México) **pallidus villosus**
 —Elytra tricostate at base, quadricostate behind middle, the short costa less elevated; elytral base, epipleura and femora clothed with suberect hairs similar in length to those of remainder of elytra. 12-16 mm. Southern Arizona and northern México (Chihuahua, Durango) **inginitus**
- 14(10). Pronotum black 15
 —Pronotum reddish-yellow or bicolored 16
- 15(14). Elytra tricostate, yellow, clothed with long suberect hairs; pronotum with disk very coarsely punctate except for an irregular median smooth area at base and an antemedian tubercle on each side. 9 mm. México (Querétaro) **scabricollis var.**
 —Elytra quadricostate, ferruginous, clothed with short recumbent golden pubescence; pronotum with disk flattened, coarsely rugose. 11.5 mm. Western Texas (Davis Mountains) **davisi**
- 16(14). Pronotum with longitudinal or reddish pubescent vittae 17
 —Pronotum subglabrous, disk very coarsely, deeply punctate, ferruginous with an oval black area at middle, sides depressed, black; elytra yellow, coarsely punctate, tricostate, innermost costa converging to suture near middle. 8 mm. México (Querétaro, Hidalgo) **dichromaticus**
- 17(16). Elytra dilated from in front of middle, disproportionately long, tricostate at base, quadricostate behind middle, the short costa less elevated; elytra reddish-yellow to fulvous. 11-14 mm. Southern Arizona and New Mexico to Oaxaca, México **rufipennis**
 —Elytra gradually and moderately dilated posteriorly, tricostate throughout,

yellow in male, yellow or rufo-testaceous in female. 8-10 mm. México
(Durango, México, Zacatecas, Guanajuato, Jalisco) **pallidus**

Elytroleptus apicalis (LeConte)

Pteroplatus apicalis, LeConte 1884, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 12:24.

This species occurs in southern Arizona, New Mexico, western Texas and northern Mexico, where it is found in association with *Lycus fernandezii* Dugés and in part with *L. Arizonensis* Green. Although both sexes characteristically have black elytral apices, a male from the Davis Mountains, Texas (VI-24-57, D. J. and J. N. Knull), taken with typical *apicalis*, has concolorous elytra, although the apices are somewhat opaque, and the antennae extend across the basal three-fourths of the elytra. In the key it could run to *ignitus*.

Mexican material has been identified from the following localities: CHIHUAHUA: 15 miles east of Parral, 5500ft., July 15, 1947 (M. A. Cazier, Rockefeller Exp., Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.), 5 miles west of Parrita (Cañón de Santa Clara), July 5-7, 1954 (J. W. MacSwain, Calif. Ins. Surv.); DURANGO: Nombre de Dios, June 25, 1952 (E. E. Gilbert, C. D. MacNeil, Calif. Ins. Surv.).

Elytroleptus ignitus (LeConte)

Pteroplatus ignitus Le Conte, 1884, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 12:24.

This species is very closely related to the preceding, differing superficially by the absence of black tips on the elytra. It is similiary distributed but joins aggregations of *Lycus* (*Lycostomus*) *loripes* Chevrolat, and also *L. femoratus* Schaeffer.

In material seen by me the following localities were represented from Mexico: CHIHUAHUA: Chihuahua (H. F. Wickham, Mus. Comp. Zool.), Primavera, 5500 ft., July 30, 1947 (W. Gertsch, Rockefeller Exp., Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.) 15 miles east of Parral, 5500 ft., July 15, 1947 (M. A. Cazier, Rockefeller Exp., Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.); DURANGO: Nombre de Dios, June 25, 1952 (E. E. Gilbert, C. D. MacNeill, Calif. Ins. Surv.).

Elytroleptus grandis Linsley

Elytroleptus grandis Linsley, 1935, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 61:97.

Male: Yellowish-testaceous, sides of head behind eye, antennae,

midline of pronotum, sides of pronotum and prosternum, scutellum, a transverse ante-median band on the elytra black or very dark piceous, elytral apices broadly black with a very slight violaceous or bluish tint, anterior tibiae at apex intermediate and posterior tibiae except base, dark piceous, prosternum at sides, met-episterna and sides of metasternum brownish piceous, abdomen brownish testaceous; pubescence mostly yellow on yellow, areas black on dark areas, suberect beneath and on appendages, in part erect on sides of pronotum, and mostly appressed elsewhere. Head with vertex and frons finely punctate, the former with a few superimposed coarser punctures; antennae serrate, reaching clothed with coarse suberect black hairs, fifth and sixth segments partially so, remaining segments clothed with fine short appressed black pubescence, with a few, scattered, short erect setae, fourth segment shorter than third or fifth, third and fourth segments thickened apically, remaining segments expanded at apex, eleventh segment appendiculate, distinctly longer than tenth. Pronotum a little wider than long, sides broadly rounded, with an oval impression above the margin, mid-line black, coarsely confluent punctate except for a somewhat oval black area just in front of, and a little larger than scutellum, which is densely but more finely punctate, longitudinal pubescent band on each side of mid-line, golden yellow, lateral impression black, very coarsely, confluent punctate; prosternum shining and almost impunctate in the concave ante-coxal impression, coarsely confluent punctate at sides; meso- and metasterna shining, finely and very sparsely punctate, thinly pubescent; met-episterna finely but more densely punctate. Elytra elongate flaring from in front of middle, tricostate basally, quadricostate over apical half, the short accessory costa less elevated, surface distinctly but only moderately coarsely punctate, subbasal punctures mostly separated by one diameter or less, about seven or eight rows of punctures between the first two costae, punctures not distinct in apical dark area which is rough and scabrous, ante-median dark area shallowly transversely rounded behind, anterior margin extending obliquely forward toward scutellum, apical dark area covering a little more than one-third of elytral apices, anterior margin sinuate, apices separately rounded, fringed with coarse black hairs. Abdomen shining, thinly clothed with suberect yellow hairs. Legs slender, femora thinly clothed with suberect hairs of moderate length. Length 14.5 mm.

The above description is drawn from a male from Cuernavaca ("Cuernav."), Mexico, May (Barrett) (A. Fenyés collection, California Academy of Sciences, taken in company with a lycid *Calopteron* sp., to which it bears a close superficial resemblance in size, form, and coloration. This example differs from the type which was collected at Tejuipilco, District of Temascaltepec, Mexico, in the more rounded pronotal margin, yellow femora, yellow thoracic sterna, brownish-testaceous abdomen, etc., but the two appear to be conspecific.

***Elytroleptus rufipennis* (Le Conte)**

Pteroplectus rufipennis LeConte, 1884, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. 12:23

Elytroleptus eros Bates, 1885. Biologia Centrali-Americana, Coleoptera, 5:318, pl. 21, fig. 3.

Elytroleptus longipennis Bates 1885, Biologia Centrali-Americana, Coleoptera, 5:318.

Male: Dorsal surface red or reddish-orange, fading to orange or yellowish-orange; antennae, sides of head and pronotum, and discal line on pronotum, black; ventral surface dark brown or blackish; femora, except base and apex, yellow or orange, the dark base and apex very narrow on profemora, successively broader on meso- and metafemora; pubescence golden and silky on pale areas, coarser and black on dark areas, except for the femora which have a mixture of the two on the yellow areas of the posterior pairs. Head finely punctate above; antennae short, reaching only to middle of elytra. Pronotum wider than long, sides broadly rounded or subangulate, discal dark area coarsely, densely punctate, lateral impressed areas densely but less coarsely punctate. Elytra elongate, flaring from in front of middle, tricostate basally, quadricostate apically, accessory costa less elevated; surface distinctly but not coarsely punctate, first two costae separated by six or seven rows of punctures; apices separately rounded, fringed with golden hairs. Abdomen shining, sternites thinly clothed, with long erect hairs; fifth sternite not or scarcely emarginate at apex, sixth tergite clothed apically with straight hairs. Length, 13-14 mm.

Female: Antennae extending over basal one-third of elytra; abdomen with fifth sternite emarginate at apex, sixth tergite densely fringed with conspicuous curved hairs. Length, 13 mm.

I have seen no Mexican records beyond those of the types of *eros* Bates and *longipennis* Bates, and United States material before me is primarily from the Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona. D. J. and J. N. Knull took an example in the Hualpai Mts., Arizona 4, 1937, and a single female of a color variety, subspecies, or distinct but closely related species, in the Davis Mountains, Texas, June 17, 1958. This last differs in the concolorous reddish-yellow head and thorax, yellow mesosternum, and paler legs, which are yellow except for the tarsi and apices of meso- and metatibiae.

***Elytroleptus nigripennis* Bates**

Elytroleptus nigripennis Bates, 1885, *Biologia Centrali-Americana*, Coleoptera, 5:318.

I have seen only the type of this species, which is from Oaxaca. The elytra are entirely black, as in *Lycus* (*Lycostomus*) *sordidus* Graham.

***Elytroleptus pallidus* (Thomson)**

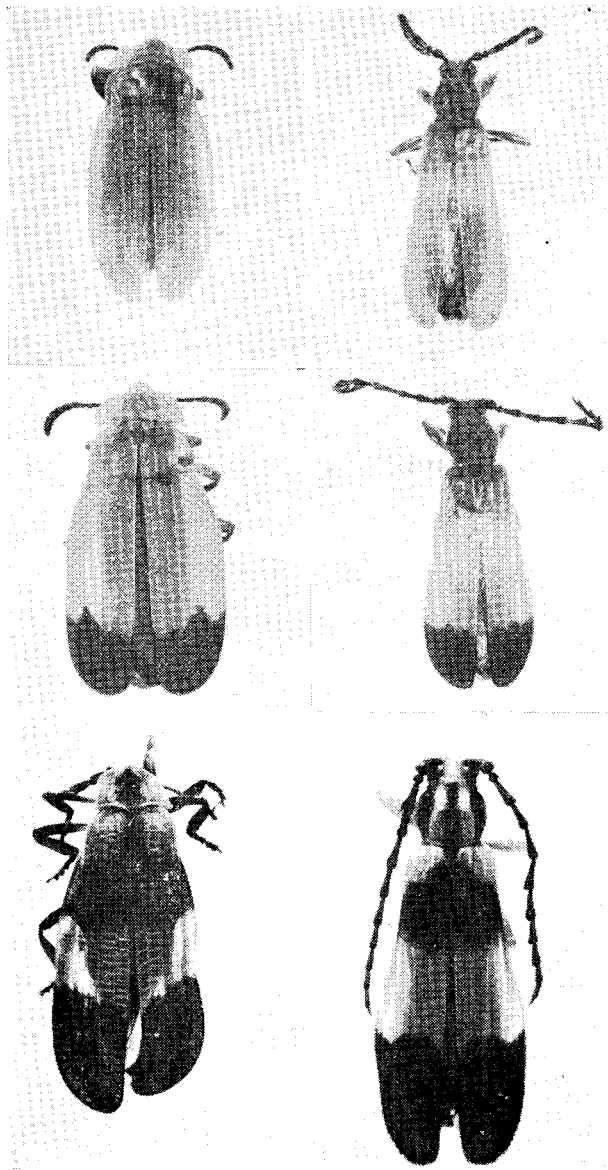
Pteroplatus pallidus Thomson, 1860, *Class. Famille Cérambycides*, p. 255.

Elytroleptus pallidus, Bates, 1885, *Biologia Centrali-Americana*, Coleoptera, 5:317.

Elytroleptus alfredi Dugés, 1879, *La Nature*, 4:185.

In addition to material from previously reported localities, examples of typical *pallidus* (both sexes with yellow elytra) have been seen from the following areas in Mexico: ZACATECAS: 17 miles north of Fresnillo, July 16, 1954 (E. G. Linsley, Calif. Ins. Surv.), Guadalupe, June 28, 1953 (C. and P. Vaurie, Rockefeller Exp., Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.); AGUASCALIENTES: Aguascalientes, June 29, 1953 (C. and P. Vaurie, Rockefeller Exp. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.); JALISCO: Lagos de Moreno, July 1, 1953 (C. and P. Vaurie, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.), Villa Guadalupe, July 26, 1951 (P.D. Hurd, Calif. Ins. Surv.) (H. E. Evans, Cornell Univ. Coll.); MEXICO: Teotihuacan Pyr., June 15-July 7, 1951 (H.E. Evans, Cornell); PUEBLA: Tehuacan, June 23, 1951 (H.E. Evans, Cornell).

A variety of *E. pallidus* in which the male has yellow elytra, the



Explanation of Plate

Upper: *Lycostomus loripes* Chevrolat (left) and mimic, *Elytroleptus ignitus* (Le Conte) right. Middle: *Lycus fernandesi* Dugés (left) and mimic, *Elytroleptus apicalis* (LeConte) right. Lower: *Calopteron* sp. (left) and mimic, *Elytroleptus grandis* Linsley, right.

female red, has been seen as follows: DURANGO: Durango City (H. F. Wickham, U.S. Nat. Mus.), 10 miles west of Durango City, July 12, 1954 (J. W. MacSwain, E.I. Schlinger, Calif. Ins. Surv.); MEXICO: Teotihuacan Pyr., June 15, 1951 (P. D. Hurd, Calif. Ins. Surv.)

Elytroleptus pallidus villosus Linsley, a subspecies with long erect hairs on the elytral epipleura and femora is from Bejucos, District of Temascaltepec, Mexico.

***Elytroleptus floridanus* (Le Conte)**

Pteroplatus? *floridanus* Le Conte, 1862, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1862:42.

The type of this species is a female. The Aurivillius and Leng catalogues list *Ancylocera brevicornis* Casey in synonymy as the female of *floridanus* LeConte. However, the latter is a true *Ancylocera*, not an *Elytroleptus*.

***Elytroleptus immaculipennis* Knull**

Elytroleptus floridanus immaculipennis Knull, 1935, Ent. News, 46:99.

Elytroleptus immaculipennis, Knull, 1950, Ent. News, 61:91.

Elytroleptus immaculipennis var. *obliquus* Knull, 1950, Ent. News, 61:91.

Material examined: two females from the Chisos Mountains, Texas, July 18, 19 (J. W. Green, Calif. Acad. Sci.). One example has the elytra black except for the narrow elevated basal two-thirds of the lateral margin, the second example is colored as the variety *obliquus*.

***Elytroleptus scabricollis* Bates**

Elytroleptus scabricollis Bates, 1892, Trans. Ent. Soc. London, 1892:172.

The color pattern of this species suggests a lycid model such as *Lycus* (*Lycostomus*) *semiustus* Chevrolat.

Examples of typical *scabricollis* have been seen from the following localities: SONORA: Minas Nuevas, August 7, 1952 (C. and P. Vau-

rie, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.); SINALOA: Venedio, June 17 (J. A. Kusche, U.S. Nat. Mus.), Sanalona Pressa, July 24, 1952 (J. Lattin, Calif. Ins. Surv.); NAYARIT: Arroyo Santiago, near Jesus Maria, July 5, 1955 (B. Malkin, Calif. Ins. Surv.), Ahuacatlan, July 18-22, 1951 (P. D. Hurd, Calif. Ins. Surv.); MORELOS: Cuernavaca, June (W. Schaus, U. S. Nat Mus.), Alpuyecá, July 3, 1951 (H. E. Evans, Cornell Univ. Coll.) (P. D. Hurd, Calif. Ins. Survey).

This species shows considerable variation in color, one variety differing by having the male elytra concolorous yellow, without black tips. This form has been seen from MORELOS: Alpuyecá, July 3, 1951 (P. D. Hurd, Calif. Ins. Surv.) and July 8, 1951 (H. E. Evans, Cornell Univ. Coll.); and NAYARIT: Tepic, June 24, 1940 (L.W. Saylor, Calif. Acad. Sci.).

***Elytroleptus divisus* (Le Conte)**

Pteroplatus divisus LeConte, 1884, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 12:23.

The type of this species is a male from Dallas, Texas. Mexican material has been examined from the following places; TAMAULIPAS: Villagran, June 7, 1951 (P. D. Hurd, Calif. Ins. Surv.) (H. E. Evans, Cornell Univ. Coll.), 14 km. south of Villagran, 1100 ft., May 25, 1948 (F. Werner, W. Nutting, Mus. Comp. Zool.); NUEVO LEON: Vallecillo, June 2-5, 1951 (H. E. Evans, Cornell Univ. Coll.).

***Elytroleptus humeralis* Linsley**

Elytroleptus humeralis Linsley, 1961, Pan-Pacific Ent., 37 (in press)

E. humeralis is related to *E. divisus*, but it is more elongate, with the pale areas of the elytra bright rufo-testaceous, rather than yellow, and restricted largely to the humeral and lateral areas. Material has been seen only from CHIHUAHUA (Salaices; 20 miles SW of Camargo; 42 miles SW of Camargo).

***Elytroleptus dichromaticus* Linsley**

Elytroleptus dichromaticus Linsley, 1961, Pan Pacific Ent. 37 (in press).

In this species the male elytra are concolorous lemon yellow, those of the female black tipped. The type locality is Queretaro, QUERETARO. The species has been taken also at Zimapan, Hidalgo, on flowers

of *Eysenhardtia polystachys*.

***Elytroleptus luteus luteus* Dugés**

Elytroleptus luteus Dugés, 1879. La Naturalceza, 4:185, pl. 6, fig. 10.

Elytroleptus luteus, Bates, 1885, Biologia Centrali-Americana, Coleoptera, 5:317.

In addition to material from Guanajuato, the type locality, I have seen only the following: MEXICO: Bejucos, Temascaltepec, July 5, 1933 (H. E. Hinton and R. L. Usinger, Calif. Acad. Sci.).

***Elytroleptus luteus davisii* Knull**

Elytroleptus davisii Knull, 1940, Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer., 33:558.

Examples have been examined as follows: TEXAS: Davis Mountains (D. J. and J. N. Knull); ARIZONA: Douglas, August (Liebeck, in H. C. Fall collection, Mus. Comp. Zool.), Ruby Road, Atasco-south trail, near Nogales, July 1959, on *Lippia lagustrina* (?) (Wilson and Kaiser, U.S. Nat. Mus.); DURANGO: 10 miles west of Durango, July 12, 1954 (E. I. Schlinger, California Insect Survey). The latter example has the disk of the pronotum marked with black.

***Elytroleptus lineatus* Knull**

Elytroleptus lineatus Knull, 1950, Ent. News, 61:91.

This species, described from the Davis Mountains, Texas, undoubtedly occurs in northern Mexico. I have not seen the type, a female characterized by "the narrow elongate form and two-tone dorsal color".

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