

# NOTES ON AUSTRALIAN CERAMBYCIDÆ.

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(Plate iii.)

## Specimens in the Macleay Museum Collected during King's Survey.

CONSIDERABLE doubt has existed with regard to the identity of certain species of longicorn beetles described by W. S. Macleay from material collected during King's survey of the coasts of Australia.

In the course of an examination of the Cerambycidae in the Macleay Museum at the University of Sydney, I discovered six specimens with old labels bearing the name of Capt. King. All these labels are in the same handwriting, which appears to be identical with that of W. S. Macleay, and bear every evidence of age. The information contained on the labels agrees in all respects with the particulars given by Macleay in his appendix on the Annulosa in King's "Survey of the Coasts of Australia", ii. While the presence of one specimen might have been concluded to be accidental, the existence of six specimens may be taken as additional evidence of their authenticity. Any doubt which existed was, however, removed by careful comparison of each specimen with the original descriptions, with which they have been found to agree in each case, so that I have no hesitation in accepting them as authentic specimens collected by Capt. P. P. King's expedition and described by W. S. Macleay, and, in the absence of other material, they may be considered to be the types of the species concerned.

Some of the confusion has, no doubt, been due to the fact that Macleay placed three of the species under the generic name of *Callidium*, although they are representatives of three very distinct genera, viz., *Pytheus*, *Phacodes*, and *Hylotrupes*, and no subsequent worker seems to have realized their true position. *Callidium erosum* Macl. is listed, among others, in the Junk Catalogue by Aurivillius as "Genus ?", with the footnote, "Species described as *Callidium*, but of which the generic, or, indeed, the systematic position, is uncertain." All reference to Macleay's record of *Callidium bajulus* L. has been omitted from the catalogues, the identification being, probably, considered to be erroneous. Macleay considered that his *Callidium solandri* (so-called) was identical with the Fabrician insect, a species to which it bears no resemblance. Confusion in the case of *Acanthocinus piliger* Macl. was further intensified by Aurivillius, who considered that *Probatodes plumula* Newm. and this species were synonymous.

The discovery of authentic specimens of these insects has enabled me to correct the existing synonymy, which is as set out below. In the case of each species considered I have reprinted the original description by Macleay, and where confusion between species has occurred the original descriptions of the insects with which they were believed to have been synonymous have also been included.

Captain Phillip P. King's work, "Narrative of a Survey of the Intertropical and Western Coasts of Australia Performed between the Years 1818 and 1822", is dated 1827 on the title page, but Mr. C. Davies Sherborn, in *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (8), xiii, Feb., 1914, gives the actual date of publication as 18th April, 1826.

The work of the survey was carried out by Capt. P. P. King first in the cutter *Mermaid*, and later, in 1820, in the brig *Bathurst*. From the zoological material obtained it appears that the greater part of the collecting was carried out on the north-western and west coasts of Australia, though some specimens may have been obtained from Queensland. There seems little likelihood that insects were secured in the south; it is, therefore, the more remarkable that species occurring in the vicinity of Sydney and in Tasmania should have been considered to be identical.

In the accompanying plate the insects in the Macleay Museum have been figured in the condition in which they exist at the present time, and examples of *Depsages solandri* and *Probatodes plumula* have been included for the purpose of comparison.

I have to express my sincere thanks to Mr. K. E. W. Salter, B.Sc., Curator of the Macleay Museum, for his kindness in making the material available for my examination, and to Miss N. B. Adams, Australian Museum, for the preparation of the plate, her fine and accurate drawings contributing in no small degree to the value of this paper.

#### Genus *Phacodes* Newm.

#### *Phacodes subfasciatus* Gahan.

(Plate iii, figs. 3 and 3a.)

*Callidium solandri* Macleay [*nec* Fab.], in King, Survey Coasts Australia, ii, April 18, 1826, App., p. 452.

*Phacodes subfasciatus* Gahan, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond., 1893, p. 170.

This is one of the species in connection with which considerable confusion has existed owing to the inclusion by Macleay of species of widely separated genera in *Callidium*, but this confusion has been intensified by his identification of this insect as *Lamia solandri* Fabricius, an error which has been perpetuated by all subsequent workers. Macleay states: "I place Olivier's Synonym in this case first; because the Fabrician description is so erroneous, that did we not know the original insect in the Banksian Collection, there would be no possibility of making it out." It would appear from this that Macleay's recollection of the Fabrician specimen had been at fault.

There are two specimens of this insect in the Macleay Museum bearing the label: "*Callidium Solandri*, L. Solandri Fab. et Oliv., Captn. King, Australasia." Both specimens are damaged; the smaller, possibly a male, has one antenna wanting, while the larger specimen has the greater part of both antennæ broken off. These specimens measure 11 mm. and 14 mm. long respectively.

Gahan's description of *Phacodes subfasciatus*, with which the Macleay specimens agree very closely, is as follows:

"♀. Fusco-brunneus, cinereo fulvoque pubescens; prothorace quam latiori vix longiori, lateribus cinereo sat dense pubescentibus, disco pube grisea fulvoque sparsim vestito, medio vix evidententer carinato; elytris pube cinerea fulvoque punctis brunneis adpersis interrupta, vestitis, utrisque paullo pone apicem fascia sub-