Three new species of *Omocerus* CHEVROLAT, 1835
(*Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae*)

**LECH BOROWIEC**

Zoological Institute, University of Wroclaw, Sienkiewicza 21, 50-335 Wroclaw, Poland,
e-mail: cassidae@biol.uni.wroc.pl

**ABSTRACT.** *Omocerus similis* n. sp. from N Brazil, *O. angulicollis* n. sp. from Peru, and *O. rugosicollis* n. sp. from Bolivia and Peru are described.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, *Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, Omocerus*, Neotropics.

The genus *Omocerus* CHEVROLAT, 1835 (= *Tauroma* HOPE, 1840) comprises 33 species, divided into four subgenera (BOROWIEC 1999). They were reviewed by **SPAETH** (1931), except three species described after the review (SOARES 1962, DĄBROWSKA & BOROWIEC 1995). In the material studied recently I found three new species, one belonging to the nominotypical subgenus, and two of the subgenus *Paratauroma*. Their descriptions are given below.

**Omocerus (s. str.) similis** n. sp.

**ETYMOLOGY**

Named after its external similarity to a well known *Omocerus aureicornis* BLANCHARD.

**DIAGNOSIS**

Pronotum with straight, strongly converging anteriorly sides, and elytral disc with scutellar row of punctures place this species close to *O. aureicornis* BLANCH.
and *O. caucanus* (Sr). The latter species differs distinctly in larger size (length above 12.5 mm, in *O. similis* always below 11.5 mm), and elytra uniformly metallic green (with golden or purple margin in *O. similis*). *O. aureicornis* is at first glance very similar, differs in narrower but longer pronotum (mean width/length ratio 1.97, \( n = 100 \), in *O. similis* 2.08, \( n = 46 \)), always with regularly straight sides (in *O. similis* many specimens have sides before base slightly rounded or angulate). Groundcolour of elytra in *O. similis* is always verdigris green (fig. 9), slightly dull, while in *O. aureicornis* it is often cupreous green, bronze green, or if green, then slightly glabrous (fig. 10). *O. aureicornis* is generally larger (mean length of male 11.1 mm, female 11.8 mm, \( n = 50 \) for both sexes; in *O. similis* in male 9.6 mm, in female 10.8 mm, \( n = 16 \) for male, \( n = 30 \) for female), and has distinctly longer humeral thorns (mean width of male 14.3 mm, female 14.6 mm, \( n = 50 \) for both sexes; in *O. similis* in male 11.6 mm, in female 12.2 mm, \( n = 16 \) for male, \( n = 30 \) for female). Apical part of aedeagus in *O. similis* is almost rounded (fig. 5), while in *O. aureicornis* it is conical with truncate apex (fig. 7).

1-4. *Omocerus similis*: 1 - body in dorsal view, 2 - lateral, 3 - anterior, 4 - antenna
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Description

Length: male: 9.1-10.2 mm, female: 9.8-11.4 mm, width (without humeral thorns): male: 6.8-7.5 mm, female: 7.3-7.9 mm, width (with humeral thorns): male: 11.2-12.1 mm, female: 11.3-12.7 mm, length of pronotum: male: 3.1-3.3 mm, female: 3.2-3.7 mm, width of pronotum: male: 6.5-7.0 mm, female: 6.8-7.6 mm, length/width ratio: male: 1.31-1.39, female: 1.35-1.44, width/length of pronotum ratio: male: 2.03-2.13, female: 1.89-2.19.

Body metallic verdigris green, margins of pronotum and elytra gold or purple-gold or purple (fig. 9). Six basal antennal segments metallic green or gold-green, remainder black. Upper surface slightly dull, ventrites glabrous. The green colour of upper surface is quite constant, in the long type series only one specimen has elytra and pronotum with indistinct cupreous tint.

Pronotum trapezial, with deep anterior emargination, anterior corners distinct, subangulate (fig. 1). Sides almost straight, strongly converging anterad, in several specimens sides in basal fifth slightly convex. Disc with narrow median sulcus, sometimes it vanishes between dense puncturation. Whole surface of pronotum coarsely, densely punctate, but slightly less dense than in related *O. aureicornis*, especially on top of disc punctures often with distance between them as long as puncture diameter. Surface of disc appears irregular but not as rugose as in *O. aureicornis*, especially on sides of disc interspaces in *O. similis* usually do not form irregular folds, so characteristic for most specimens of *O. aureicornis*.

Elytral disc strongly, but regularly convex in profile (fig. 2). Sutural intervals not elevated, with short scutellar rows of 3 to 5 punctures. Puncturation of disc coarse and dense, punctures almost touching each other, especially on sides of disc. Centre of punctures without dark, dull areolae. Surface of disc only on sides

5-8. Male genitalia: 5-6 - *Omocerus similis*, 7-8 - *O. aureicornis*; 5, 7 - aedeagus lateral, 6, 8 - dorsal
appears slightly irregular. Humeral thorns in male moderately long, usually slightly protruding posterad and upwards (fig. 3); in female humeral thorns only slightly shorter than in male, usually slightly protruding anterad and upwards. Anterior and posterior surface of thorns and posthumeral part of elytra in male unpubescent, in female with short, dense, erect hairs. Margins of elytra very narrow, impunctate, but punctures of marginal row usually partly reaching surface of the margin, especially in males. Antennae with six basal, glabrous segments, remaining segments densely pubescent (character of the nominotypical subgenus). Segments 8-10 elongate, c. twice longer than wide (fig. 4). Ventrites mostly without diagnostic characters, prosternal process with coarse and dense punctures, prosternal collar finely punctate. Metasternal elevations with fine, transverse grooves only on sides.

Male genitalia as in figs 5-6.

**TYPES**


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**Omocerus (Paratauroma) angulicollis n. sp.**

**ETYMOLOGY**

Named after strongly angulate pronotal sides.

**DIAGNOSIS**

It is a unique species within the subgenus *Paratauroma*, the only one with strongly angulate sides of pronotum. At first glance, the closest to it is *O. reticulatus* (KIRSCH) which has similar, extremely dense puncturation of pronotal disc (fig. 14) but differs in rounded sides of pronotum and in golden to purple elytral margins (green, the same colour as disc in *O. angulicollis*). Elytral disc in postscutellar point in *O. reticulatus* is slightly more elevated than in *O. angulicollis*, puncturation of disc more dense, appears more rugose than in *O. angulicollis*. Strongly angulate sides of pronotum are also present in *O. (s. str.) masoni* (Sp.), at first glance very similar to the new species, but distinctly differing in six glabrous, basal antennal segments (character of the nominotypical subgenus) while *O. angulicollis* has only five glabrous, basal antennal segments (character of the
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subgenus *Paratauroma*. Some atypical specimens of *O. creberrimus* (Boh.) have more or less angulate sides of pronotum (usually in this species pronotal sides are rounded) but differ in much finer and sparser pronotal punctuation (fig. 13), with distances between punctures usually distinctly longer than punctures diameter (in *O. angulicollis* punctures touching each other). *O. rugosicollis* n. sp. at first glance is also very similar, especially in pronotal and elytral punctuation, but differs in regularly rounded sides of pronotum.

**Description**

Length: 14.0 mm, width (without humeral thorns): 9.8 mm, width (with humeral thorns): 14.1 mm, length of pronotum: 4.6 mm, width of pronotum: 8.2 mm, length/width ratio: 1.43, width/length of pronotum ratio: 1.78.

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Whole body metallic green, margins of elytra of the same colour as disc (fig. 11), margins of pronotum only slightly paler than pronotal disc, green-gold. Six basal antennal segments metallic green, remainder black.

Pronotum with deeply emarginate anterior margin, anterior corners distinct, subangulate. Sides in basal half slightly concave, then strongly, almost straightly converging anterad, thus each side in the middle distinctly angulate (fig. 15). Disc with narrow median sulcus. Whole surface of pronotum strongly, densely punctate. Punctures almost touching each other, surface of disc appears irregular and rugose.

Elytral disc strongly, but regularly convex in profile (fig. 16). Sutural intervals in anterior half of disc elevated, short scutellar rows of 2 or 3 punctures are placed on elevation along sides of scutellum. Puncturation of disc coarse and dense, punctures almost touching each other, especially on sides of disc. Centres of punctures without dark, dull areolae. Surface of disc appears slightly irregular, but slightly glabrous. Humeral thorns short (holotype is female), only slightly protruding anterad and upwards (fig. 17). Anterior and posterior surface of thorns and whole sides of elytra with short, dense, erect hairs (probably, like in other species, it is a female dimorphic character; males of most species have unpubescent sides of elytra). Margins of elytra very narrow, impunctate. Antennae with five basal, glabrous segments, segment 6 sparsely pubescent segments 7-11 densely pubescent (character of the subgenus Paratauroma). Segments 8-10 elongate, almost twice longer than wide (fig. 18). Ventrites mostly without diagnostic characters, prosternal process with coarse and dense punctures, also prosternal collar strongly punctate. Metasternal elevations with deep, transverse grooves.

TYPES
Holotype female: “PERU, Junin, Sani Beni, 10.XI.1995” (preserved at the Department of Systematic Zoology and Zoogeography, University of Wrocław, Wrocław, Poland).

Omocerus (Paratauroma) rugosicollis n. sp.

ETYMOLOGY
Named after extremely dense, rugosely punctate pronotum.

DIAGNOSIS
It belongs to a group of species with suture elevated behind scutellum. Only three species of the group have strongly, rugosely punctate pronotum: O. rugosicollis n. sp., O. reticulatus (KIRCH), and O. angulicollis. The last species differs distinctly in angulate sides of pronotum (regularly rounded in O. rugosicollis). O. reticulatus differs in margin of elytra golden to purple (blue-green, the same
colour as disc in *O. rugosicollis*); puncturation of elytral disc in *O. reticulatus* is finer but more dense than in *O. rugosicollis*, on whole disc appears rugose (in *O. rugosicollis* in area close to suture puncturation is quite dense, but does not appear rugose, on sides and in slope punctures are very dense, but not as rugose as in *O. reticulatus*). Scutellar row of punctures in *O. reticulatus* is placed outside elevated part of suture, while in *O. rugosicollis* the row is placed on elevated part of suture.

**DESCRIPTION**

Length: 14.7-15.0 mm, width (without humeral thorns): 10.6 mm, width (with humeral thorns): 15.2-15.8 mm, length of pronotum: 4.5-4.9 mm, width of pronotum: 8.2-9.0 mm, length/width ratio: 1.39-1.42, width/length of pronotum ratio: 1.82-1.84.

THREE NEW SPECIES OF *OMOCERUS*

Whole body metallic green, or blue-green, margins of pronotum and elytra of the same colour as disc or only slightly paler (fig. 12). Six basal antennal segments metallic green or blue-green, remainder black.

Pronotum with deeply emarginate anterior margin, anterior corners distinct, but obtuse. Sides in basal third almost parallel, then softly converging anterad, thus each side regularly rounded (fig. 19). Disc with narrow median sulcus. Whole surface of pronotum strongly, densely punctate. Punctures almost touching each other, surface of disc appears irregular and rugose, especially on sides.

Elytral disc strongly, but regularly convex in profile (fig. 20). Sutural intervals in anterior half of disc elevated, short scutellar rows of 1 to 3 punctures are placed on elevation along sides of scutellum. Punctuation of disc coarse and dense, punctures almost touching each other, especially on sides of disc. Centres of punctures without dark, dull areolae. Surface of disc appears slightly irregular, especially on sides, but slightly glabrous. Humeral thorns short (type specimens are female), only slightly protruding anterad and upwards (fig. 21). Anterior and posterior surface of thorns and whole sides of elytra with short, dense, erect hairs (probably, like in other species, it is a female dimorphic character; males of most species have unpubescent sides of elytra). Margins of elytra very narrow, impunctate. Antennae with five basal, glabrous segments, segment 6 sparsely pubescent, segments 7-11 densely pubescent (character of the subgenus *Paratauroma*). Segments 8-10 elongate, slightly more than twice longer than wide (fig. 22). Ventrites mostly without diagnostic characters, prosternal process with coarse and dense punctures, also prosternal collar punctate. Metasternal elevations with moderately deep, transverse grooves only on sides.

**Types**

Holotype female: “BOLIVIA, Quatro Ojos, XI.1913”; paratype female: “PERU, Cusco Dept.” “Quincenil, Araza Valley, XI-95, TELLO” (holotype preserved at the Department of Systematic Zoology and Zoogeography, University of Wrocław, Wrocław, Poland; paratype at the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart, Germany).

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**References**

