

effective in severe infestations. The time involved in washing followed by the sulphur-lard ointment technique makes this approach unpractical on commercial poultry farms.

The following method is now being applied on a large commercial poultry farm in the Ashburton district, and is proving to be most successful. Applications of 0.5% by weight concentrations of lindane or DDT (based on para para isomer) were better than other materials tested; legs were clean and healthy six weeks after treatment. It was necessary to treat twice at 3-weekly intervals if a 0.1% concentration was used.

In all treatments, raw linseed oil was used as a carrier; this, alone, proved to be of no value as a controlling agent. By using solutions of lindane or DDT in raw linseed oil it is possible also to control *C. mutans* infestations of the neck, face and combs of fowls, a problem not possible with petroleum products which were far too severe on the skin, nor could scaly encrustations on the latter be removed by washing in warm soapy water.

If proper hygiene is used such as cleaning houses and rearing arks regularly, and deep digging of soil in poultry runs, there will be little trouble encountered with the above pest.

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NOTES ON MELOLONTHINAE (Coleoptera). 1. (Including description of a new species.)

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Observations of flights of *Chlorochiton* species:—

Chlorochiton planiclypeus Given, *C. simmondsi* (Broun), and *C. discoidea* (Broun) all fly and feed during full daylight. *C. planiclypeus* was observed by Dr. Cumber to fly and settle on willows on the banks of the Manawatu River during late September 1952. *C. discoidea* and *C. simmondsi* apparently fly low, and feed on alpine meadow vegetation from late December to February.

Chlorochiton suturalis (Fabr.) appears during December and January, and flight extends from just before dusk, to approximately an hour after dusk. On one occasion during early January at Rotoiti, Nelson, a large flight was observed to be at maximum at about 9 p.m. During this flight it was noted that beetles were strongly attracted to light, a reaction not usual for the genus, and not on other occasions noted for this species.

Flights of *C. longicornis* Arrow were observed to follow a relatively constant pattern during January and early February 1953 at Paihia, Bay of Islands. During early January, the first beetles were observed to fly at about 8 p.m., maximum flight was at about 8.15 p.m., and flight ceased at 8.30 p.m. The period covering full flight was approximately from 8.10-8.20 p.m. By February 8th, flight commencement was about 7.25 p.m., with peak at approximately 7.50 p.m. The emergence area was under dense low cover of

exotic climbing and creeping vegetation, with moderate high cover of fig, plum, privet and tea-tree (*Leptospermum ericoides* A. Rich.). The area was situated approximately 200 yards back from the beach, between flat occupied sections and steep *Leptospermum*-covered slopes. The sex ratio of beetles appeared to be about 10:1 in favour of males, and little variation in this figure was evident throughout the period of observation. However, several specimens collected floating on the sea or washed up on beaches after flights were all females. Flights of this species were also observed in marginal areas of forest remnants near Keri Keri, Waiwera, and between Paihia and Opuā. The beetles in all cases appeared to spend little time in low flight, rising to the tops of surrounding trees fairly rapidly. No actual feeding was observed, but beetles were taken from *Cyathea dealbata* Swartz (ponga), *Dacrydium cupressinum* Soland (Rimu), *Dysoxylum spectabile* Hook (Kohekohe), and the exotic fig and privet. Dissection of male beetles late in January showed little or no evidence of feeding.

A New Species of the Genus *Sericospilus* Sharp. *Sericospilus cumberi* n. sp.

This is the smallest species of the genus yet described, and also the most northerly record of occurrence. Nearest allies of the species are *S. minor* Given, *S. brevis* Given, and *S. piliventris* (Broun).

Colour very similar to that of *S. minor*, *S. brevis* etc., but with infusate mottling darker and more obvious. Dorsal and ventral ground colour testaceous; head red-brown on vertex, progressively lighter anteriorly, but with clypeal margin reddish; pronotum with narrow median, elongate lateral discal, and small lateral submarginal infuscations. Elytra with interstitial mottling but no iridescence. Claws, teeth and spines of limbs reddish brown, otherwise testaceous.

Head (fig. 1) with the clypeus deeply concave and evenly rounded anteriorly; frons, vertex and eyes not distinctive; **antenna** of male (fig. 9) with the longest lamella shorter than joints 1-4 together, and little if any longer than joints 2-4, joint 3 longer than 4; **pronotum** not markedly transverse, only slightly sinuate posteriorly, parallel-sided in posterior half and uniformly incurved to acute anterior angles; **elytra** with the interstices not strongly raised and not obviously alternately differentiated. **Foretibia tridentate** with the ultimate tooth strongly upturned and acute.

Genial claspers (Fig. 5) intermediate between those of *S. piliventris* (Fig. 6) and *S. minor* (Fig. 8).

Length: 6mm.

Breadth: 2.7mm.

Holotype male and paratype males in the collection of the Entomological Research Station, Nelson.

Remarks.—The type material was collected at Whangaroa, Northland, from *Pteris scaberula* A. Rich. fronds during mid-afternoon on 30/1/53.

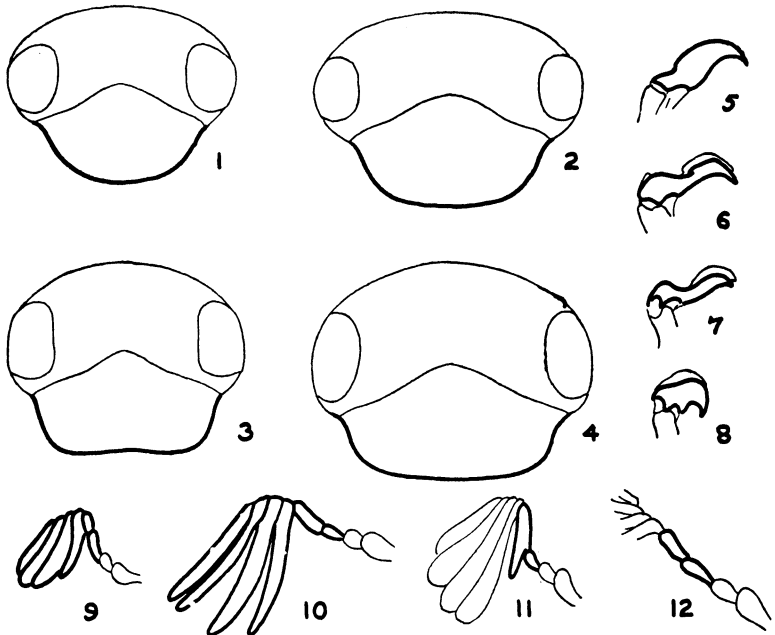


Note.—This species may be fitted to the key in “A Revision of the Melolonthinae of New Zealand” (Given, 1952) p. 61, by the addition of the following as a third separation unit under No. 8—

“Fourth antennal segment shorter than third - - - Whangaroa, North Auckland. - - - - - *S. cumberi* n. sp.”

FIGURES.

- Fig. 1—*Sericospilus cumberi* n. sp., head.
 ” 2— ” *minor* Given, head.
 ” 3— ” *piliventris* (Broun), head.
 ” 4— ” *brevis* Given, head.
 ” 5— ” *cumberi* n. sp., male genital claspers.
 ” 6— ” *piliventris* (Broun), male genital claspers.
 ” 7— ” *brevis* Given, male genital claspers.
 ” 8— ” *minor* Given, male genital claspers.
 ” 9— ” *cumberi* n. sp., male antenna.
 ” 10— ” *minor* Given, male antenna.
 ” 11— ” *piliventris* (Broun), male antenna.
 ” 12— ” *brevis* Given, male antenna.



RANDOM NOTES.

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1. PSEUDOCALLIPRASON MARGINATUM (White).

Whereas *Navomorpha sticticum* was found with notable associates in the daytime, the insect *P. marginatum* was taken in that locality only at night, one specimen resting on a sheltered tree