

A NEW CERAMBYCID BEETLE FROM CHILE

BY

W. S. FISHER

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, United States
Department of Agriculture.

The two specimens described in this paper were sent to the United States National Museum for identification by Dr. Edwyn P. Reed, of Valparaiso, Chile, with a request that, in case they should prove to belong to a new species, this be named *rachelis*, in remembrance of Rachel, an amateur collector of Coleoptera.

It appears necessary to propose new names, both generic and specific, by which this species may be known. It belongs to a small tribe of longhorn beetles previously including four genera, three from Australia and one from the southern part of Africa.

Neotaphos, new genus

Body robust, elongate, pubescent. Palpi short, subequal in length; last joints oblong, truncate at apices. Ligula membranous. Mandibles short, robust, arcuate, acute at apices. Head moderately prominent, not covered by the prothorax; antennal tubercles moderately elevated, acute at apices; cheeks short. Antenna 11-jointed, distinctly shorter than body, inserted on the front more or less distant from the mandible, robust, unarmed, outer joints slightly flattened; first joint one-fourth longer than the third; fourth shorter than third; the following joints slightly longer than fourth and subequal in length; last joint obliquely flattened at apex. Eyes rather finely granulated, deeply emarginate. Prothorax transverse, tuberculate at sides and on top. Scutellum small, triangular, acute at apex. Elytra moderately convex, costæ parallel at sides, rounded and unarmed at apices. Legs rather long, subequal in length; tibiae normal; femora linear, posterior pair not extending beyond tips of elytra; tarsi short, first joint of posterior pair equal in length to the second and third joints united; tarsal claws divaricate. Anterior coxæ globose, not angulated posteriorly or projecting beyond level of prosternal process; coxal cavities open posteriorly. Middle coxal cavities open externally. Prosternal process narrow, straight, projecting posteriorly. Mesosternal process broad,

obliquely declivous in front, emarginate behind. Last abdominal segment broadly truncate at apex.

GENOTYPE.—*Neotaphos rachelis*, new species.

This genus belongs to the tribe Typhocesini and is related to *Taphos* Pascoe, but it differs from the description given for that genus in having the last joints of the palpi oblong, the antenna shorter than the body and the last joint not appendiculate, the eyes finely granulated, the prosternal process rounded at the apex, and the body pubescent.

***Neotaphos rachelis*, new species**

Moderately shining, black, except intermediate joints of antennae, elytra, tibiae, hind tarsi, which are brownish or reddish yellow.

Head with the front short, strongly transverse, broadly depressed on vertex and behind epistoma, feebly, broadly concave between the antennal tubercles; surface coarsely, densely, irregularly rugose, sparsely clothed with long, erect fine, whitish hairs. Antennas one half as long as the body outer joints densely clothed with short, recumbent, silky, brownish yellow pubescence.

Pronotum strongly transverse, slightly wider at apex than at base; sides feebly, obliquely expanded and rather strongly sinuate from apical angles to a large, rather acute tubercle on each side at basal third (the tubercles pointing obliquely backward), then parallel and strongly constricted behind the tubercles; disk with five more or less elevated, smooth tubercles, one median and two on each side; surface coarsely, irregularly rugose, coarsely punctate between the rugae, sparsely, irregularly clothed with long, erect, fine, whitish hairs. Scutellum coarsely punctate and sparsely pubescent.

Elytra slightly wider than pronotum; sides parallel from humeral angles to near the tips, which are separately broadly rounded or vaguely angulated; humeral angles broadly rounded; each elytron with three or four irregular, smooth, longitudinal costae extending from base to near the apex; irregularly rugose, finely, irregularly punctate between the rugae, moderately clothed with rather short, erect, reddish yellow pubescence, with a few longer hairs intermixed.

Body beneath irregularly punctate, finely on abdomen, very coarsely, confluent on the prosternum, sparsely clothed

with short recumbent and long erect, whitish hairs, the hairs reddish yellow on the tibiae and tarsi; last abdominal segment broadly truncate and with a dense fringe of long, yellowish hairs at apex.

Length, 20-22 mm.; width, 6,5 -- 6,75 mm.

Type—United States National Museum. Paratype returned to Dr. Edwyn P. Reed.

Described from two specimens from northern Chile. The

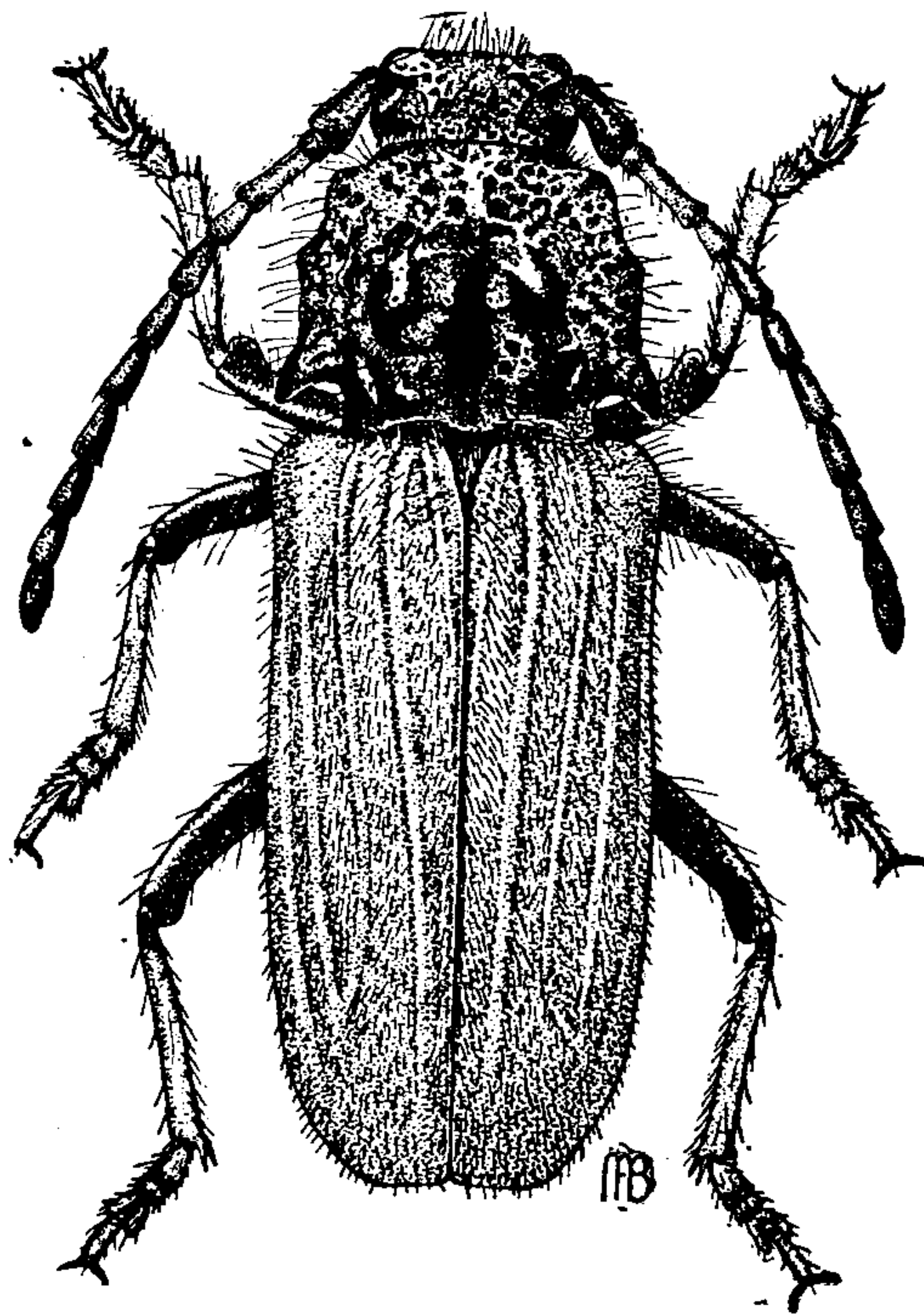


Fig. 38.—*Neotaphos rachelis*, n. sp.

type is labeled «Copiapo, Chile, E. P. Reed», and the paratype was collected at Paihuano, in the valley of Elqui, about 1,000 meters above sea level in November 1934, by Dr. Roberto Gajardo.

The paratype differs slightly from the type in having the outer joints of the antennae brownish yellow and feebly annulated, dark brown at their bases, the humeral angles of the elytra brownish, the head more deeply depressed in front, and with a longitudinal groove between the antennal tubercles, and the last abdominal segment vaguely emarginate at the apex.