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ON *ENHYDRUS FROGGATTI* MACLEAY.

By

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(Figure 1.)

THE description of the above-mentioned species was given by William Macleay in his paper on "The Insects of the Fly River"¹ as follows:

"This species differs from *E. albertisi* in being much smaller, in being less nitid but more of a bronzy hue, in having the scutellum much smaller, and in having the elytra much more distinctly marked with opaque striae.

"Length seven lines."

Régimbart² in his "Essai Monographique de la famille des Gyrinidae" (2^e Supplement) cited this description in original and joined to it the following remark:

"J'avoue que cette description, que je reproduis en entier, ne me donne aucune idée de ce que peut être cet insecte. Peut-être s'agit-il de *Macrogyrus blanchardi* Régimb., que est en effet beaucoup plus petit et marqué plus distinctement de stries opaques."

Indeed the short description given by the author does not allow one to identify the species with any certainty, and, as I had some doubts as to the correctness of Mr. Régimbart's interpretation, I addressed myself to the Australian Museum, Sydney, where the type is preserved, in order to get additional information.

Unfortunately there are no paratypes of this species, and according to the rules of the Trustees the unique type was not allowed to be sent out. I must, however, recognize that the authorities of the Australian Museum did their best to assist me in my researches, and I am especially obliged to Mr. A. Musgrave for an extensive description of the specimen in question, and additional indications, which were accompanied by an instructive figure, which is reproduced here (Fig. 1).

The information received allows me to draw up the following description of *Macrogyrus (Enhydrus) froggatti* W. Macleay:

Length 12.9 mm. (taken in total), width 6.4 mm. Oval, somewhat elongate; upper surface of body dark green with coppery and purplish reflections, the margins of the thorax coppery; the

¹ Macleay—Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, (2) I, 1886, p. 141.

² Régimbart—Ann. Soc. Entom. France, ix, 1891, p. 669.

undersurface of the body uniformly reddish-black, the hairs on the mouth-parts, legs and end of abdomen, yellowish. The upper surface is finely alutaceous, with round meshes in the head and pronotum, but on the elytra the meshes are transverse. Head impunctate with irregularly arranged striae. Thorax glabrous, marked with striae, but these appear to be more minute than those in the head. Elytra with eight longitudinal striae, the innermost one near the suture being barely apparent, the others becoming deeper and wider on nearing the margin, and are coppery when examined with a lens (under higher power they are alutaceous with round meshes). Each elytron terminates in two acuminate processes, while a similar process is present at the end of the lateral margin a little anterior to the terminal ones. Last abdominal segment projects beyond the ends of the elytra and is covered with yellow hairs. Abdomen, legs and antennae are reddish-black, the lateral margins of the hind coxae concave. The anterior femora are of the same type as in *M. blanchardi* Rég. In comparison to

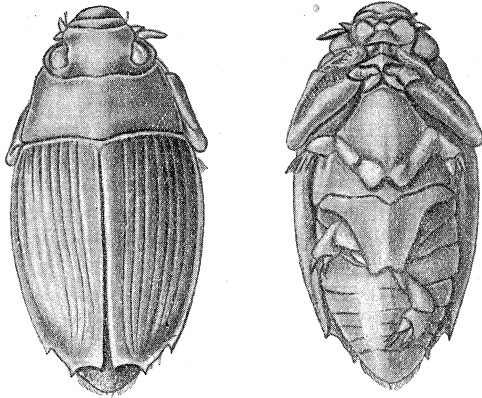


Fig. 1.—*Enhydrus froggatti* Macleay.

M. australis and *M. albertisi* the tiny transverse striolæ are longer and more numerous in *E. froggatti*, and moreover they are placed across the longitudinal striae of the elytra; the fine striae in *M. australis* and *M. albertisi*, on the other hand, appear to be angular.

It results that *Enhydrus froggatti* W. Macleay is a *Macrogyrus* belonging to the group of *M. blanchardi* Rég., from which it differs, however, chiefly by the acuminate processes at the tip of elytra and by having eight longitudinal striae instead of three-four in *M. blanchardi*.

There is more affinity between *M. froggatti* and *M. sexangularis* Rég³, which was collected by Loria during September to December,

³ Régimbart—Ann. Soc. Entom. France, lxxvi, 1907, p. 156.

1892, at Paumomu River in the south-western district of New Guinea.

The original type of the latter exists probably in Mr. Régimbart's collection, which is now in the Paris Museum; the Museo Civico at Genoa possesses only a single female specimen, which was placed in a series of *M. blanchardi* Rég. Through the kindness of Prof. Gestro, the Director of the Museo Civico, this specimen was sent to me for examination, and I found it identical with the description of *M. froggatti* in all essential characters, with the one exception that there are only four-five longitudinal striae on the elytra of *M. sexangularis*, while they are to the number of seven-eight in *M. froggatti*. As I have not seen the type of the latter itself, it might be possible that there exist still other distinctions. It seems, however, that the two are conspecific, and that the above-mentioned difference between *M. froggatti* and *M. sexangularis* is only a varietal one.

The paratype of *M. sexangularis* from the Museum at Genoa, which I examined, measured 13 mm. in length (and excepto); it was a dark-coloured specimen and appeared less nitid than *M. blanchardi*. Compared with the latter, there are moreover the following differences: Head more elongate and more distinctly bordered in front of the eyes. Pronotum less sinuate basally and anteriorly. Elytra with five longitudinal striae, four of which are distinct, the fifth being scarcely apparent posteriorly; they join posteriorly two and three, four and five in *sexangularis* (one and two, three and four in *blanchardi*); the transverse striolæ are long and numerous, and the flattened margin is broader in *sexangularis*, the truncature with acuminate processes in the latter. The femora are equal in both species, the anterior margins bisinuate; there is, however, an important difference in the anterior tibiæ (♀), which are strongly attenuated basally and broadened to apex on the interior margins in *M. blanchardi*, while they are gradually broadened on the exterior margins in *M. sexangularis*, and the figure seems to indicate that they are of the latter type in *M. froggatti*, too.
