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Notes on some species of HISTER.

BY GEORGE H. HORN, M. D.

IN the synopsis of the species of Hister of our fauna published by me (Proc. Am. Philos. Soc. 1873, p. 280), the arrangement is very nearly that adopted by Marseul, except that the truncation of the mesosternum enters as an important factor. There was observed at the time (p. 292), a tendency in several species in which the mesosternum was emarginate to have the emargination become so feeble as to cause the character to lose a portion of its value. In a review of the species made while comparing some unnamed specimens it seemed that sufficient importance had not been given to the striation of the prosternum, a character casually mentioned by Marseul but not otherwise made use of.

A modification of the table (synopsis p. 280), introducing this character seems to give a much better arrangement of the species, at the same time rendering the transition between the normal Histers and Phelister less abrupt. In the latter group all the species have a striate prosternum. The following is in short the change proposed:

Prosternum convex, without striæ.

Mesosternum emarginate.....Groups 1—7.

Mesosternum truncate.....Groups 8—9.

Prosternum more or less flattened, bistrate.

Mesosternum very feebly emarginate.....Group *servus*.

Group—*servus*.

Prosternum more or less flattened and bistrate, anterior tibiæ tridentate, the apical tooth bifid. (Elytra with four entire striæ and no subhumeral). The species are as follows:

Outer thoracic stria entire.

Pygidium coarsely and densely punctured.....**servus**.

Pygidium finely and sparsely punctured.....**indistinctus**.

Outer thoracic stria very short.....**defectus**.

The striæ which are characteristic of this group extend from the tip of the prosternum to the beginning of the lobe, and are divergent at each end, more so posteriorly. In the first two species the striæ are hooked at the anterior end and their tips thus approach, in *defectus* they are divergent and not hooked.

H. servus, Er.—West Indies, Maryland, Arizona.

H. indistinctus, Say,—N. C., Ga., N. M.

H. defectus, Lec.—Mass., S. C., Ga.

I have in my cabinet a specimen with the last two dorsal segments coarsely and densely punctured as in *servus* but with the outer thoracic stria short as in *defectus*. I do not care to give this a name until other specimens appear when it may possibly be necessary to unite those already named instead of describing new species.

Revision of the species of **ACMÆODERA** of the United States.

BY GEORGE H. HORN, M. D.

The number of new species which have accumulated in our collections since the latest synopsis (Leconte, Trans. Am. Philos. Soc. 1859), has nearly equalled the number then known and of these fourteen have remained to the present time unnamed. While feeling the necessity of having these described I have until now been deterred from attempting any arrangement of our entire series by the remarks of Mr. Crotch (Proc. Acad. 1873, p. 89), as follows: "but I am entirely unable to discover any characters except the variable ones of color, sculpture and form; so that the limits of species appear to be merely opinionative." Possibly the following pages may show quite to the contrary.

As there is considerable structural variation the different members of the body will be reviewed.

The head is always punctured, the front either impressed or convex and the vertex usually finely carinate, either deeply inserted with the eyes partly concealed by the angles of the thorax, or with the eyes free.

The thorax is very variable. When viewed from above the apex may be emarginate as in the *sinuatæ* and *emarginatæ* or truncate as in the *truncatæ*; sometimes the middle of the anterior margin is slightly prolonged. The sides vary in form from strongly arcuate to nearly straight, and the margin may be broad and distinctly reflexed or very narrow, often entirely invisible from above or even nearly