

Loinell (M.L.)

Description of a new species
of golden beetle from Costa Rica.



DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF GOLDEN BEETLE FROM
COSTA RICA.

By MARTIN L. LINELL,
Aid, Department of Insects.



Among a small lot of Costa Rican Coleoptera, recently presented to the U. S. National Museum by Mr. John Keith of San José, Costa Rica, through Capt. G. P. Scriven, U. S. A., there were three specimens of the magnificent golden and silvery beetles from that locality. One of these I have identified as *Plusiotis resplendens* of Boucard, a true *Plusiotis*; the second one as *P. chrysargyrea* of Sallé, a species intermediate between *Plusiotis* and *Pelidnota* as regards the mandibles, the only structural character separating these two genera. The third specimen, which is described below, strictly belongs to *Pelidnota*, since it has the mandibles as distinctly bidentate as in the majority of species of this genus, but it would evidently be wrong to separate it from association with the species of *Plusiotis*, inhabiting the same region, which it resembles so much in form and coloration. Its nearest ally seems to be the above-mentioned *Plusiotis chrysargyrea*, which it approaches in form, although having a still broader thorax. The species is readily distinguished from any form of the genus hitherto described both in coloration and elytral sculpture.

PLUSIOTIS KEITHI, new species.

Oblong, parallel, somewhat convex, above splendidly golden colored. Clypeus, front and a broad side-margin of thorax pinkish brown. A large purple spot at inner margin of eyes and a line of same color on the thorax, separating the golden color of the disk from that of the side-margin. Head rather coarsely punctured with finer punctures intermixed. Clypeus rugose, almost semicircular, with strongly reflexed margin. Mandibles distinctly bidentate. Thorax at base nearly as broad as the elytra, sparsely and finely punctured at the middle, more densely at the sides. Elytra without striæ, sparsely covered with large, shallow, somewhat rugose punctures. Apical callus prominent. Sutural striæ impressed towards the apex. The finely rugose

pygidium, the whole under surface and the legs of a pinkish brown with silvery reflections; all sutures shining cupreous. A line on inner margin of tibiæ and all the tarsi rich purplish blue. Mesosternal process very long, conical.

Size.—Length, 30 mm.; width, 16 mm.

Type.—Accession number 26,734, U.S.N.M.

Boucard who has monographed the genus *Plusiotis*, has also studied these insects in nature during his travels in Central America. In regard to the habits of the golden and silvery species, he states that they feed in concealment during the day on the leaves of trees, especially young oaks. Just before sunset they take wing for a short time. Their period of life is very brief and their habitat is extremely restricted. How difficult it is for collectors to obtain them may be better understood by citing his own words, narrating one of his visits to these regions. He says: "I was in Costa Rica in the proper season and at the exact locality where these insects are found, but was not able to get more than three specimens, although I offered a high price for them to the natives and did myself all that possibly could be done. Every one in the country knew what I meant, when I asked for golden and silvery beetles, but they did not procure any."

