A NEW GENERIC NAME FOR AND SOME BIOLOGICAL DATA ON AN UNUSUAL CENTRAL AMERICAN BEETLE (COLEOPTERA: PLATYPODIDAE)

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It was shown by Laboisiére (1940, Exploration du Parc National Albert, Mission G. F. de Witte, fasc. 31:51) that the generic name *Chapuisia* Dugés (1886, Ann. soc. ent. Belgique 29(2):58), of the family Platypodidae, is a junior homonym of *Chapuisia* Duvivier (1885, Mem. soc. sci. Liége, serie 2, 11(15):57) of the family Chrysomelidae. Since no other name is available for this unique platypodid genus, the new name *Schedlarius*, with *Chapuisia mexicana* Dugés as the type and only known species, is proposed in honor of Dr. K. E. Schedl who has contributed so much to our knowledge of the Scolytoidea.

This species, to be known henceforth as *Schedlarius mexicanus* (Dugés), is of considerable interest morphologically and biologically because of its unique position in the Scolytoidea. The taxonomic rank assigned to the group it represents has varied from author to author, ranging from that of tribe to family. The unusual morphological characters of this beetle are associated with equally unusual habits that until now have remained almost unknown.

Examples of this species were collected by the writer while with the 1953 expedition of the Francis Huntington Snow Entomological Museum (University of Kansas), three miles northwest of Tequila, Jalisco, Mexico, on July 19, at an elevation of 4000 feet, in a semi-desert area, from a broken limb eight inches in diameter of a small isolated tree that has not yet been identified. In general, the entrance tunnel penetrated the bark and about six to nine millimeters into the wood. At this point one to five egg galleries branched off and followed the grain of the wood parallel to the central axis of the limb. The egg galleries were more or less irregular in diameter and direction, and were as much as 10.5 centimeters in length. Although the wood surrounding the gallery systems was usually discolored slightly by the presence of fungi, as with some *Rhyncolus* galleries, there was no evidence whatsoever of an ambrosial fungus growing on the gallery walls, either with a magnification of 20 diameters at the time the collection was orginally made, or at 80 diameters two weeks later.

The eggs were deposited individually in rather large niches that were apparently placed indiscriminately around the walls of the egg gallery, with no evident preference for or against any particular position. Each egg was packed in its niche with a mixture of boring dust and a substance presumed to be a salivary secretion of the female parent. The larvae tunneled directly across the grain of the wood perpendicular to the axis of the egg gallery. Each larval tunnel curved gradually either to the right or left, and extended not more

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than one centimeter from the egg gallery. Most of the larvae were in the first or second instar, a few were in the third, and one larva was in the fourth instar. Pupae were not present.

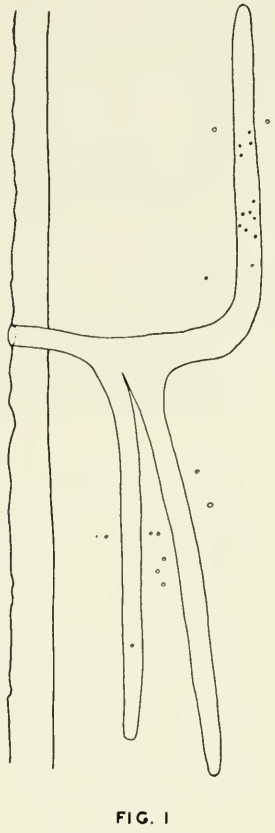

FIG. 1

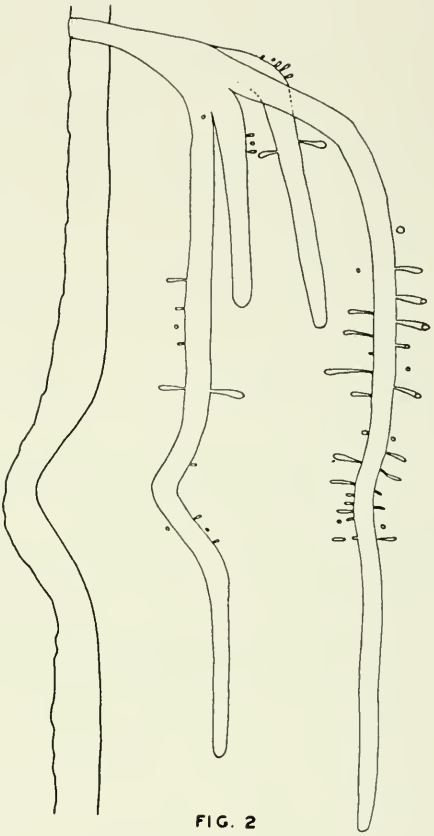

FIG. 2

Figs. 1-2. Galleries of *Schedlarius mexicanus:* 1. illustrates position of egg niches in upper gallery; 2, includes tunnels of larva.