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A New Species of Pleocoma from Southern California

(Coleoptera : Scarabaeidae)

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Literature has been sparse and little is known of the habits and distribution of the elusive beetles of the genus *Pleocoma*. However, with the encroachment of civilization into our more primitive areas, more locations of occurrence are being found and more material is available for study. The fact that the adult beetles are active during rains requires greater than average perseverance on the collector's part, especially in regards to those species inhabiting remote mountainous areas. Severe flooding, frequent landslides, and roads blocked by trees, make access to these areas impossible at times. The author on several occasions has been forced to dig through a landslide in order to return home after a collecting excursion. Female *Pleocoma* must be diligently sought after, for being flightless they remain on or in the ground. Searching

for burrows, or following males to the abode of the female is the normal method of collecting.

The habit of the male beetle of flying to lights and to the surfaces of ponds (Davis, 1934), facilitates their collection. Material taken recently by myself and Noel McFarland in this manner, represents a new species. It has the unique characteristic of possessing eight lamellae in the antennal club. This feature excludes it from either of the "four to five" or "six to seven" lamellate antennal club groups which are presently utilized in classifying *Pleocoma* species (Linsley, 1946, Ellertson & Richer, 1950).

***Pleocoma octopagina* Robertson, new species**

(Fig. 1-4)

Male (holotype).—Form large, robust, broadly oval, (Fig. 1), piceous-brown, golden pubescent beneath. *Head* castaneous, edged with black; clypeal horn very pronounced, deeply notched, moderately punctured, slightly fimbriate; horn of vertex long, slightly notched, moderately clothed with long hairs, clypeal and vertex horns subparallel. (Fig. 2): ocular canthi radially on apex; eyes prominent; antennae with scape moderately stout, subconical, second segment moniliform, obovate; third segment four times as long as broad, longer than first and second segments combined, slightly reflexed with flattened extended process anteroventrad on outer end; fourth segment lamellate, longer than second and third combined, fourth-fifths as long as fifth segment, markedly lacinate on ventral edge, fifth segment lamellate, nine-tenths as long as sixth, less lacinate than fourth, segments six to eleven lamellate, extremely long, longer than length from antennal socket to eleventh segment, with pronounced curve outward at tip, less and less lacinate on ventral edges, all segments containing setae to varying degrees, especially on periphery, all lamellate segments covered with minute recumbent hairs, (Figs. 3 & 4). *Pronotum* tending to blotchey brown and piceous, approximately two and one-half times as broad as long; sides subparallel, anterior corners broadly rounded, posterior corner narrowly rounded; moderate anterior median depression only slightly crenate, rest of surface finely, rather sparsely punctate, shiny, cirrose on periphery. *Scutellum* finely, sparsely punctate, hardly fimbriate. *Elytra* piceous, somewhat shining; finely, very sparsely, irregularly punctate, opaque; striae only faintly visible, cirrose around outer margins. *Body* beneath castaneous, densely clothed in reddish golden pubescence. *Legs* castaneous, stout, fossorial, pubescent. *Length* 27mm, *width* 15mm (ranges from total type series, 25-31mm by 14-17mm).

FEMALE AND IMMATURES.—Unknown.

This species is immediately distinguishable from all others of the genus *Pleocoma* by having a long lamellate fourth antennal segment, thereby having eight lamellate plates in the club. All other species fall into one of two groups with either four to five or six to seven plates. The configuration of the third antennal segment also differs from that of previously known *Pleocoma*. In the others it is cylindrical and

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