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Jacques Rifkind

California State Collection of Arthropods, clerid@aol.com

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A new species of *Cymatodera* Gray (Coleoptera: Cleridae)  
from Honduras

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## A new species of *Cymatodera* Gray (Coleoptera: Cleridae) from Honduras

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**Abstract.** *Cymatodera batleth* **new species** (Coleoptera: Cleridae) is described from Honduras. It appears to belong to a group of Central American congeners that share similar facies and coloration, deeply emarginate elytral apices and elaborately modified male pygidia.

**Key words.** Checkered beetles, fauna, endemism, neotropical.

**ZooBank registration.** urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:404D5B1A-8BC3-4350-9E8A-20C770174A47

### Introduction

Heretofore ten species of *Cymatodera* Gray have been recorded from Honduras: *C. conflagrata* (Klug), *C. depauperata* Gorham, *C. guatemalensis* Schenkling, *C. prolixa* (Klug), *C. sallei* Thomson, *C. sinuosa* Burke, *C. rileyi* Rifkind, *C. crassa* Burke and Sole, *C. nigrofasciata* Burke and Sole, and *C. parva* Burke which have distributions extending into neighboring Central American countries (Burke 2013; Burke et al. 2017). The known Honduran *Cymatodera* fauna is likely to increase, given that half of the above were described only within the last decade (Burke 2013; Rifkind 2015; Burke et al. 2017, 2019), and Honduras remains relatively unexplored for Cleridae. This paper describes a new species of Honduran *Cymatodera*, and its first apparently endemic member of the genus.

### Materials and Methods

Specimens were photographed through the eyepiece of a Zeiss stereo dissecting microscope using the camera in an Apple iPhone 11, and with an Olympus TG-5 fitted with an Olympus LED light guide (LG-1), using the onboard photo stacking software. Measurements were established using the ocular grid in a Zeiss stereomicroscope and a millimeter scale.

The holotype was borrowed from the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, Florida, USA (FSCA). A paratype is retained in my personal collection: Jacques Rifkind Collection, Valley Village, California, USA (JNRC).

### Taxonomy

#### *Cymatodera batleth* Rifkind, new species

(Fig. 1–5)

**Type specimens.** Holotype, male. Honduras, Yoro, Pico Pijol N.P., 24–26 May, 1998, D. Hawks, coll. (FSCA). Paratype, male. Honduras, Yoro, P.N. Pico Pijol, V-13-[20]02, J. & M. Huether (JNRC).

**Description.** (Holotype). Length: 14 mm. Form: elongate; subcylindrical (Fig. 1). Color: piceous; mouthparts, antennae, tarsi, abdominal sternites 5 and 6 reddish brown; elytra with three broad, subsinuate testaceous fasciae, one subbasal, interrupted internally before suture, the second at middle, complete across middle, the last anteapical, also complete across middle. Head: measured across eyes, wider than pronotum; antennae elongate, extending past elytral base when laid alongside; antennomeres 3–10 subserrate; antennomere 11 subequal to antennomere 10, narrowly rounded apically; surface finely, densely punctate and finely rugulose, moderately



**Figure 1.** *Cymatodera batleth*, holotype, habitus.

densely clothed with mostly short, adpressed fine silvery setae, arranged in whorls. Pronotum: longer than broad (3:2), broadest across anterior margin; surface shining, shallowly, densely rugulose and punctate; vestiture rather sparse, composed of fine, pale setae of short to moderate length, some reclinate, some erect, most conspicuously arrayed in a whorl at anterior middle (Fig. 2). Elytra: elongate (more than 3× as long as wide), nearly parallel sided; each elytron deeply emarginate at posterior margin, slightly dehiscent at apex internally, each angle produced into a distinctive spine (Fig. 3); surface shining, densely, deeply, quite coarsely punctate, punctures not diminished in size or density until posterior  $\frac{1}{4}$ ; vestiture thinly arrayed, inconspicuous, composed primarily of short suberect, fine, pale–testaceous setae interspersed with a few longer erect brown setae. Metasternum: surface shining, sparsely punctulate, shallowly transversely rugulose below, negligibly setose, without carinae, tubercles or spicules. Abdomen: surface shining, visible sternites 1–4 alutaceous, sparsely punctate, moderately densely but inconspicuously setose, each with a large, distinct ovate depression laterally; sternite 5 (Fig. 4) shining, sparsely punctulate, posterior margin rather deeply arcuately emarginate, margin densely lined with posteriorly directed testaceous setae; sternite 6 (Fig. 4) rectangular, depressed at anterior  $\frac{1}{3}$ , sides and posterior margin of depression elevated into a distinct ridge, posterior  $\frac{2}{3}$  slightly convex longitudinally at middle; surface densely but shallowly punctate, moderately densely but inconspicuously setose; sides subparallel, lateral margins subsinuate, posterior margin deeply triangularly inflected, lateral angles triangularly lobate, feebly concave ventrally, slightly upturned and narrowly rounded posteriorly, and each longitudinally sulcate internally; tergite 6 (Fig. 5) oblong, sinuate laterally, narrowed at posterior  $\frac{1}{3}$ , wedge shaped and upturned posteriorly, hind angles rounded, posterior margin





**Figures 2–5.** *Cymatodera batleth*, holotype. 2) Pronotum. 3) Elytral apices. 4) Pygidium, ventral view. 5) Pygidium, dorsal view.

subtruncate. Aedeagus: parameres upturned posteriorly, apices subacuminate; phallus narrowly posteriorly, bearing two longitudinal carinae ventrally.

**Variation.** The single paratype, also a male, is very similar to the holotype.

**Etymology.** The specific epithet is derived from the Klingon word “bat’leth,” a double sided, hooked, edged weapon. The elytral apices of the new species bear a strong resemblance to the curves and points of this sword as depicted in the Star Trek franchise.

**Distribution.** *Cymatodera batleth* is known only from the Parque Nacional Pico Pijol, located in northwest Honduras.

**Diagnosis.** A unique combination of elytral shape and markings, and features of the male metasternum and pygidium will serve to distinguish this species from congeners. The new species is most similar to *Cymatodera oxchuc* Rifkind 2015 from Chiapas, Mexico; in *C. oxchuc*, however, abdominal tergite 6 entirely covers abdominal sternite 6 in dorsal view, which is not the case for *C. batleth*. Furthermore, *C. oxchuc* has the metasternum tuberculate, whereas in the new species the metasternum is unadorned. *Cymatodera merickeli* Rifkind 2015 is also similar in facies, but in this Oaxacan species, abdominal tergite 6 is broadly sagittate apically. These three species, along with one or two others that are known only from females, appear to form a natural group within *Cymatodera*, characterized by elongate, similarly marked elytra, deeply incised (“spinous”) elytral apices and elongate-rectangular, posteriorly modified abdominal tergite and sternite 6. Over the course of several decades, I have examined thousands of *Cymatodera* specimens from southern Mexico and Central America. I have never before seen a specimen assignable to *C. batleth* and therefore conclude that it likely represents a Honduran endemic.

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