



Charles A. Triplehorn: An Inordinate Fondness for Darkling Beetles

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CHARLES A. TRIPLEHORN:
AN INORDINATE FONDNESS FOR DARKLING BEETLES



Charles A., “Chuck to his friends”, Triplehorn was born at Bluffton, Ohio on 27 October 1927. Active in the Boy Scouts as a youth, he attained the rank of Eagle Scout. His interest in wildlife, especially reptiles, lead him to the life sciences in college. He graduated with a Bachelors degree in zoology and then a Masters degree in entomology (under thesis advisor Joseph Knull) from the Ohio State University in 1949 and 1952, respectively. His first paying job in entomology was at the Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station, where he worked on the insects of oak trees. After a two year stint, he returned to schooling, earning a PhD in entomology at Cornell University under Dr. Howard Evans in 1957, with a dissertation on the systematics of darkling beetles. In 1962, he moved back to his home state to take a position with the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, where he worked on corn insects. During 1964–1966, Chuck was stationed in Brazil with US-AID. While the work on corn insects displaced his interest in snakes, the former was eventually displaced by his interest in darkling beetles, a field in which he became the world’s foremost authority. Dedicated to students, to his colleagues, and his profession, Chuck was elected President of The

Coleopterists Society in 1976 and later President of the Entomological Society of America in 1985. Among his honors are his election to honorary membership of both The Coleopterists Society and the Entomological Society of America and the latter society’s highest honor – the Founders Memorial Award.

As a faculty member at the Ohio State University, Chuck was asked by his former mentors Donald Borror and Dwight DeLong to co-author the fourth edition of their classic textbook, *An Introduction to the Study of Insects*. It was not Chuck’s first involvement in the book. As a graduate student, he had contributed his own illustration of *Merinus laevis* to the first edition. From his initial involvement as editor of the Coleoptera chapter, he eventually became the chief “compiler” for the modern editions. It has become the standard textbook for entomology throughout the world, with editions in multiple languages including Arabic and Indonesian. It was this textbook, perhaps more than any of his many publications, that brought him fame. As for fortune, there were, of course, the royalties, which Chuck once described as “I could have made more per hour bagging groceries or pumping gas.”

If Chuck is more famous for anything, it might be his sense of humor. We would repeat one of his jokes here except that, as one wagtail put it: not all jokes are off-color, just the funny ones; and Chuck's jokes are very funny!

At present, Chuck enjoys his status as Professor Emeritus at OSU, where he takes every opportunity to putter in the insect collection which is named in his honor, The C. A. Triplehorn Insect Collection. He continues to be active in his field, collaborating with tenebrionid colleagues around the world, mentoring students, and publishing papers on his specialty, the darkling beetles (29 published papers and counting since retirement!), often assisted by his son Bruce, the other entomologist in the family. We have it on good authority that for at least part of his recent 88th birthday, he participated in his regular game of volleyball!

Donald B. Thomas
Aaron D. Smith
Rolf L. Aalbu

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GENUS AND SPECIES NAMES PROPOSED BY CHARLES A. TRIPLEHORN

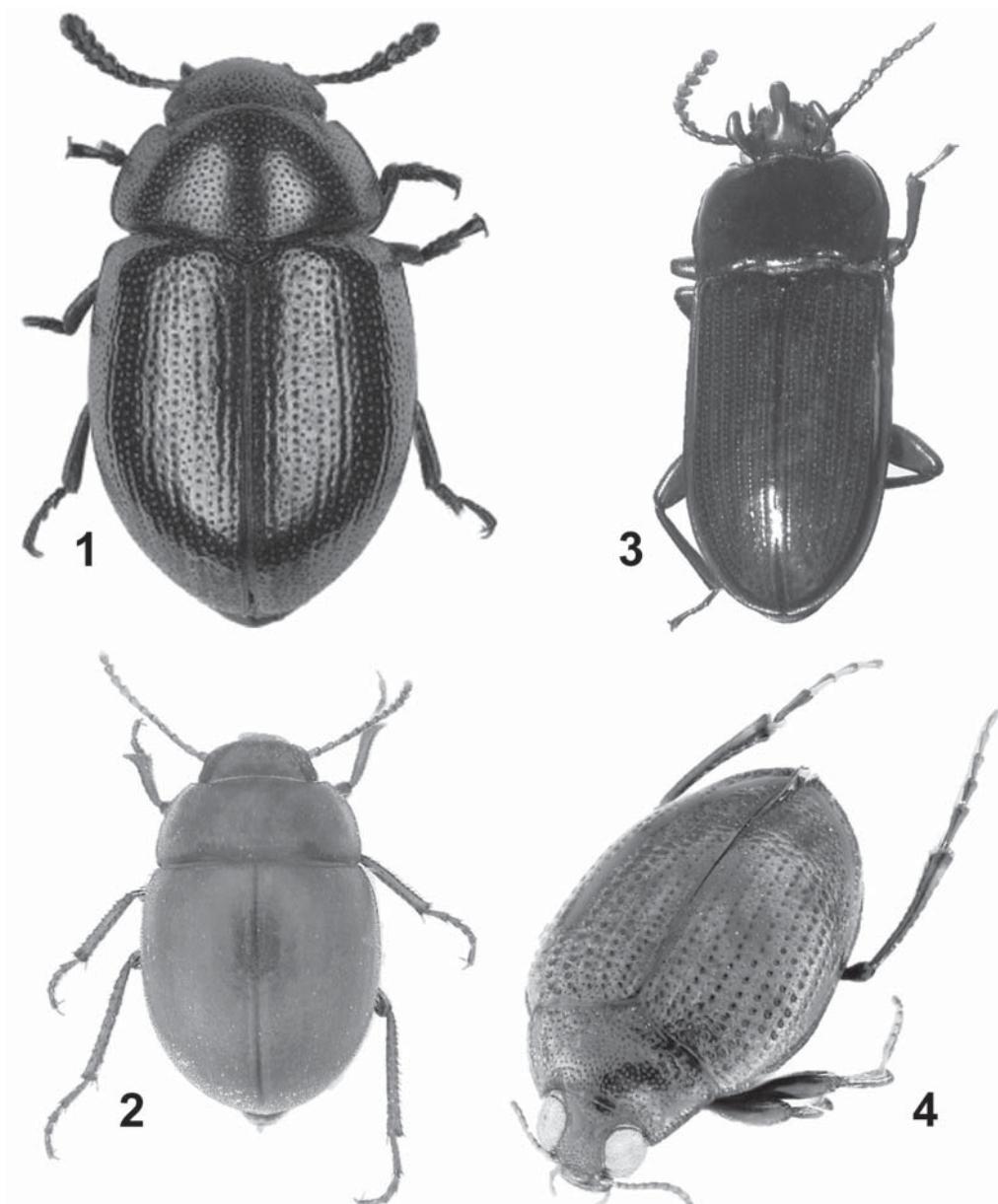
Genus group names:

Caverneleodes Triplehorn 1975: 39
Epitragosoma Brown and Triplehorn 2001: 519
Loxostethus Triplehorn 1962: 504
Omegeleodes Triplehorn and Thomas 2013: 253

Species group names:

Adelina mystax Triplehorn and Ivie 1983: 272
Apsida rubripennis Triplehorn 2006: 343
Apsida lustrans Triplehorn 1970: 568
Asbolus pappilosus (Triplehorn) 1964: 48.
Asidina rugicollis Triplehorn and Brown 1971: 76
Blapstinus faulkneri Aalbu and Triplehorn 1991: 173
Blapstinus pacificus Aalbu and Triplehorn 1991: 171
Corticeus abditus Bremer and Triplehorn 1999: 61
Corticeus coynei Triplehorn 1970: 47
Corticeus notialis Bremer and Triplehorn 1999: 59
Corticeus rosei Triplehorn 1970: 49
Corticeus tensicollis Triplehorn 1979: 46
Corticeus tuberculatus Triplehorn 1979: 48
Diaperis bifida Triplehorn and Brendell 1985: 14
Edrotes fossor Triplehorn 1972: 27
Eleodes albui Triplehorn 2007: 628
Eleodes bidens Triplehorn 2007: 641
Eleodes brucei Triplehorn 2007: 638
Eleodes corrugans Triplehorn 2007: 630
Eleodes esterlai Triplehorn 1975: 39
Eleodes fiski Triplehorn 2015: 170
Eleodes hirtipennis Triplehorn 1964: 60
Eleodes knullorum Triplehorn 1971: 56
Eleodes leptoscelis Triplehorn 1975: 42
Eleodes mirabilis Triplehorn 2007: 634
Eleodes muricatulus Triplehorn 2007: 637
Eleodes platypennis Triplehorn 2007: 636
Eleodes redelli Triplehorn 2007: 639
Eleodes rugosifrons Triplehorn and Redell 1991: 525
Eleodes samalayucae Triplehorn 2007: 641
Eleodes spiculiferus Triplehorn 2007: 632
Eleodes sproucei Triplehorn and Redell 1991: 525
Eleodes ursus Triplehorn 1996: 14
Eleodes watrousi Triplehorn 2007: 640
Epitragosoma arenaria Brown and Triplehorn 2001: 519
Eusattus pons Triplehorn 1968: 376.
Lelegeis hispanoileae Triplehorn 1962: 503
Liodema explanatum Triplehorn 1998: 325

- Loxostethus erythroscelis* Triplehorn and Merkl 1997: 738
- Loxostethus fasciatus* Triplehorn 1962: 504
- Loxostethus gibbosus* Triplehorn and Merkl 1997: 738
- Loxostethus jamaicensis* Triplehorn 1962: 506
- Loxostethus opacifrons* Triplehorn 1962: 506
- Loxostethus oblongus* Triplehorn and Merkl 1997: 737
- Loxostethus unicolor* Triplehorn 1962: 506
- Megasilda tenuicollis* Triplehorn 1967: 40
- Neobaphion allenii* Triplehorn 1989: 458
- Neobaphion papula* Triplehorn and Aalbu 1985: 588
- Neomida acera* Triplehorn 1994: 426
- Neomida aeneipennis* Triplehorn 1994: 382
- Neomida deltoocera* Triplehorn 1994: 423
- Neomida divergicornis* Triplehorn 1994: 420
- Neomida dolichocera* Triplehorn 1994: 417
- Neomida heterocera* Triplehorn 1994: 421
- Neomida lawrencei* Triplehorn 1994: 419
- Neomida myllocnema* Triplehorn 1994: 386
- Neomida paurocera* Triplehorn 1994: 424
- Neomida pogonocera* Triplehorn 1994: 422
- Neomida telocera* Triplehorn 2006: 328
- Pechalius bradleyi* Triplehorn 1974: 73
- Phaleria championi* Triplehorn and Watrous 1980: 56
- Phaleria thinophila* Watrous and Triplehorn 1982: 15
- Phaleromela prohumeralis* Triplehorn 1961: 127
- Phaleromela variegata* Triplehorn 1961: 154
- Platydema dolichocerum* Triplehorn 1962: 502
- Platydema neglectum* Triplehorn 1965: 404
- Platydema teleops* Triplehorn 1965: 399
- Platydema wandae* Triplehorn 1965: 427
- Platydema woldai* Triplehorn and Phillips 1998: 291
- Platydema xanthostigmatum* Triplehorn 1994: 245
- Strongylium apache* Triplehorn and Spilman 1973: 10
- Strongylium hemistriatum* Triplehorn and Spilman 1973: 20
- Strongylium paddai* Ivie and Triplehorn 1986: 423
- Talanus mecoscelis* Triplehorn 1968: 33
- Talanus spilmani* Triplehorn 1968: 35
- Tribolium setosum* Triplehorn 1978: 73
- Zopherus xestus* Triplehorn 1972: 11
- Zopherus solieri* Triplehorn 1972: 12
- Zopherus championi* Triplehorn 1972: 13
- PATRONYMS HONORING CHARLES A. TRIPLEHORN**
- Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae**
- Triplehornia* Matthews and Lawrence, 2005 (Fig. 1)
- Chaseleodes* Thomas, new subgenus (of *Eleodes*)
- Texaponium triplehorni* (Berry, 1974) (Fig. 2)
- Eleodes triplehorni* Somerby, 1976
- Caenocrypticoides triplehorni* Flores and Araya, 2004
- Asbolodes triplehorni* Ando, 2005
- Philhammus triplehorni* Medvedev, 2005
- Hypogena cat* Steiner, 2005
- Hypogena triceratops* Steiner, 2005 (Fig. 3)
- Eleodes tribulus* Thomas, 2005
- Coleoptera: Heteroceridae**
- Heterotarsus triplehorni* Medvedev, 2005
- Platykochius triplehorni* Iwan, 2005
- Othryoneus triplehorni* Ferrer and Odegard, 2005
- Tonkinius triplehorni* Schwaller, 2007
- Antennoluprops triplehorni* Schwaller and Aalbu, new species
- Archaeoglenes triplehorni* Iwan and Kamiński, new species
- Bradymerus triplehorni* Grimm, new species
- Craniotus triplehorni* Aalbu, Smith, and Sanchez Piñero, new species
- Cylindrinotus charlesi* Nabozhenko, new species
- Diceroderes subtriplehorni* Smith and Cifuentes-Ruiz, new species
- Scleropatroides triplehorni* Iwan and Matthews, new species
- Somocoelias triplehorni* Merkl and Egorov, new species
- Taurohelops triplehorni* Keskin and Nabozhenko, new species
- Vabole triplehorni* Alekseev and Nabozhenko, new species
- Coleoptera: Zopheridae**
- Sesaspis triplehorni* Foley and Ivie, 2008
- Coleoptera: Carabidae**
- Clinidium triplehorni* Bell and Bell, 1985
- Coleoptera: Haliplidae**
- Haliplus triplehorni* Vondel and Spangler, 2008 (Fig. 4)
- Coleoptera: Ptinidae**
- Acanthaptinus triplehorni* Philips, 2005
- Coleoptera: Elateridae**
- Agrypnus triplehornorum* (Knoll, 1973)
- Semiotus triplehorni* Wells, 2007
- Coleoptera: Lampyridae**
- Petalacmis triplehorni* Branham, 2006
- Coleoptera: Cleridae**
- Omadius triplehornorum* Mawdsley, 2006
- Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae**
- Laselva triplehorni* Furth, 2007
- Sumitrosis triplehorni* Riley, new species
- Coleoptera: Cerambycidae**
- Odontocera triplehorni* Wappes and Santos-Silva, new species
- Coleoptera: Anthicidae**
- Amblyderus triplehorni* Weissmann and Kondratieff, 1999



Figs. 1–4. *Triplehornia floreni* Grimm (Grimm 2011, used by permission); **2)** *Texaponium triplehorni*; **3)** *Hypogena triceratops*; **4)** *Haliplus triplehorni*. Photographs in Figs. 2–4 by Warren Steiner.

Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae

Opius triplehorni Fischer, 1979

Hemiptera: Cicadellidae

Acuponana triplehorni DeLong and Bush, 1971

Dalbulus charlesi Triplehorn, 1985

Polyamia triplehorni DeLong and Cuthbert, 1973

Oragua triplehorni Young, 1977

Egenus triplehorni DeLong and Linnavuori, 1978

Docalidia triplehorni Nielson, 1979

Lepidoptera: Noctuidae

Lacinipolia triplehorni Selman and Leuschner,

2001

Neuroptera: Sisyridae*Climacia triplehorni* Flint, 1998**Acar: Pygmephoridae***Microdispidoides triplehorni* Smiley and Moser, 2009**REFERENCE CITED**

Grimm, R. 2011. Two new species of the genus *Triplehornia* Matthews & Lawrence from Borneo and the Philippines (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae). *Stuttgarter Beiträge zur Naturkunde A, Neue Serie 4:* 259–261.



UPPER: Chuck with Aaron Smith at the Charles A. Triplehorn Insect Collection at the Ohio State University in 2006; MIDDLE: Chuck with teneb colleagues at the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Reno, Nevada in 2011; LOWER: Chuck wearing that awesome T-shirt in 2013.

THE GENUS *PHALEROMELA* REITTER IN NORTH AMERICA (TENEBRIONIDAE)

By C. A. TRIPLEHORN

Among North American workers in the Tenebrionidae, Nearctic members of the tribe Phaleriini have heretofore been restricted to but a single genus, *Phaleria* Latreille, containing twelve described species, most of which appear to be valid. Typically, the species of *Phaleria* have the anterior tibiae broadly expanded apically and all of the tibiae coarsely and densely spiny; the mesosternal groove into which the erect prosternal process fits is deep and acutely V-shaped and the antennae are short and stout, rarely extending caudad beyond the middle of the pronotum; the eyes are large, transverse and broadly emarginate anteriorly.

Horn (1870:377) suggested that *Phaleria globosa* LeConte and *P. humeralis* Horn differed sufficiently from other species of *Phaleria* known to him to warrant the recognition of a separate genus but neglected to name it.

In 1916, Reitter erected the genus *Phaleromela* to receive *Phaleria subhumeralis* Marseul, which thus became the monobasic type of the genus. Reitter's primary criteria in separating *Phaleromela* from *Phaleria* were the smaller, rounded eyes with entire anterior margins and . . . less strongly excavated mesosternum.

Gebien (1939) lists the genus *Phaleromela* Reitter and includes *subhumeralis* (Marseul), *humeralis* (Laporte), *picta* (Mannerheim) and *globosa* (LeConte), but offers no explanation for the transfers. However, there seems but little doubt that this assemblage of species forms a natural group. Reitter's description, based as it is upon a single species, is not sufficiently general to characterize all the included species. It therefore seems in order to present a broader redescription of *Phaleromela* in which all of the known species may be included.

Phaleromela Reitter

Elongate-oval to broadly oval, convex, glabrous, shiny. Head with anterior margin evenly arcuate from eye to eye; clypeus poorly defined; eyes small, widely separated both above and below, anterior margin entire; terminal segment of maxillary palpus narrowly elongate, obliquely truncate apically; antennae long, extending well beyond base of pronotum, feebly clavate. Pronotum narrower than elytra at base. Elytra finely punctate-striate, striae sharply incised but feebly impressed, each elytron with eight discal striae, no short stria paralleling margin of scutellum; intervals subconvex, finely, asperately punctured. Ventral surface of pronotum finely, longitudinally wrinkled; prosternal process convex between front coxae, slightly prolonged behind, deflexed apically; mesosternum rather deeply but not abruptly excavate anteriorly; epipleura entire but very narrow and everted at elytral apices, anterior tibiae conspicuously flattened and expanded apically, margined externally with flat, stiff spines; all tibiae rather densely spiny with prominent apical spurs.

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