

A New Record of *Gonatas carolinensis* GRAVELY
(Coleoptera, Passalidae) from Koror Island, Palau¹⁾

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Up to the present, the only one species of Passalidae, *Cetejus virginalis* (KAUP), has been known from Palau (HINCKS & DIBB, 1935). In 1997, however, the second author (ICHIHASHI) collected some individuals of one passalid species different from *C. virginalis* from Koror Island, Palau. Later, these specimens were identified with *Gonatas carolinensis* GRAVELY by S. BOUCHER, the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris. This is the first record of *G. carolinensis* from Palau. Its collection data are as follows: 8 exs., Koror Island, Palau, Micronesia, 11–V–1997, H. ICHIHASHI leg.

Gonatas carolinensis was described by GRAVELY (1918) from the Caroline Islands, but it is unknown which island of the Caroline Islands is the type locality of this species. Although the Caroline Islands include the Palau Islands as the westernmost part, the present specimens from Koror are a little different from GRAVELY's (1918) description, e.g., the lateral area of the metasternum punctured and hairy in the Koror specimens though smooth and hairless in GRAVELY's (1918) description. Therefore, Koror appears not to be the type locality of *G. carolinensis*.

Intensive field studies are expected to yield further discoveries of this species from the other islands of Micronesia.

In closing this brief report, we wish to express our hearty thanks to S. BOUCHER, the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris for species identification.

References

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1) This study was supported in part by the Grants-in-Aid from the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, Japan (Nos. 10041166, 11833014).