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STUDIES IN THE WEEVILS OF THE WESTERN UNITED STATES NO. IX

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF EUCYLLUS (COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE).¹

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Eucyllus tinkhami, n. sp.

Fig. 1. A. B

Female: Rotund, body wall black, unicolorous due to being densely clothed with closely appressed roundish-shaped ash grey, scales short white setae on the disks of the head, prothorax, and elytra, pile on the scape, femur, prothorax, and humerus. Head broad and flattened; rostrum not distinctly separated, but gradually narrowed forward to the apex, slightly sulcate above; eyes convex and prominent; scrobes distinct and reaching the eyes; antennae robust, scape arcuate, passing over the eyes and beyond the front margin of the prothorax; first funicular segment robust, second segment slender and as long as segments three and four combined, club oval, reddish in color. Prothorax twice as broad as long, base arcuate sides strongly rounded, greatest width before the middle, apex emarginate, disk with shallow distinct punctures, each with a short decumbent white seta, long white pile on the anterior rounded margins of the prothorax. Elytra four-fifths as broad as long and one-third broader than the prothorax; ten finely impressed striae on each elytron, with small well placed punctures on the flat intervals, each with a short seta, humeri and along the margins of the elytra clothed with long white pile. Beneath scales similar to those on the elytra; second abdominal segment as broad as the third and fourth combined, femora and tibiae with long white pile. Corbels well developed on all tibiae; the combs consist of flat blunt reddish spinules, metathoracic corbel developed into a conspicuous spine-shaped structure. Length 5 to 7.1 mm., breadth 3-4 mm.

Type material: Female holotype, male allotype, and 23 paratypes. The holotype, allotype, and 8 paratypes are in the writer's collection at Brigham Young University, 7 paratypes in Ernest R. Tinkham's collection at Indio, California, 4 paratypes in the Entomological Collection of the United States National Museum, Washington, D.C., and 4 paratypes in the Entomological Collection of the California Academy of Sciences at San Francisco.

Type locality: Kelso Sand dunes, Devil Playground, 40 miles northeast of Amboy and 35 miles south of Baker in San Bernardino County, California. Collected by Dr. Ernest R. Tinkham at 9:30 p.m., May 23, 1959. I am pleased to name this species in honor of

1. Contribution No. 166.

Dr. Tinkham who for a number of years has been studying the fauna of the sand dunes of the Western United States.

Comments: In 1876 George H. Horn² established the genus

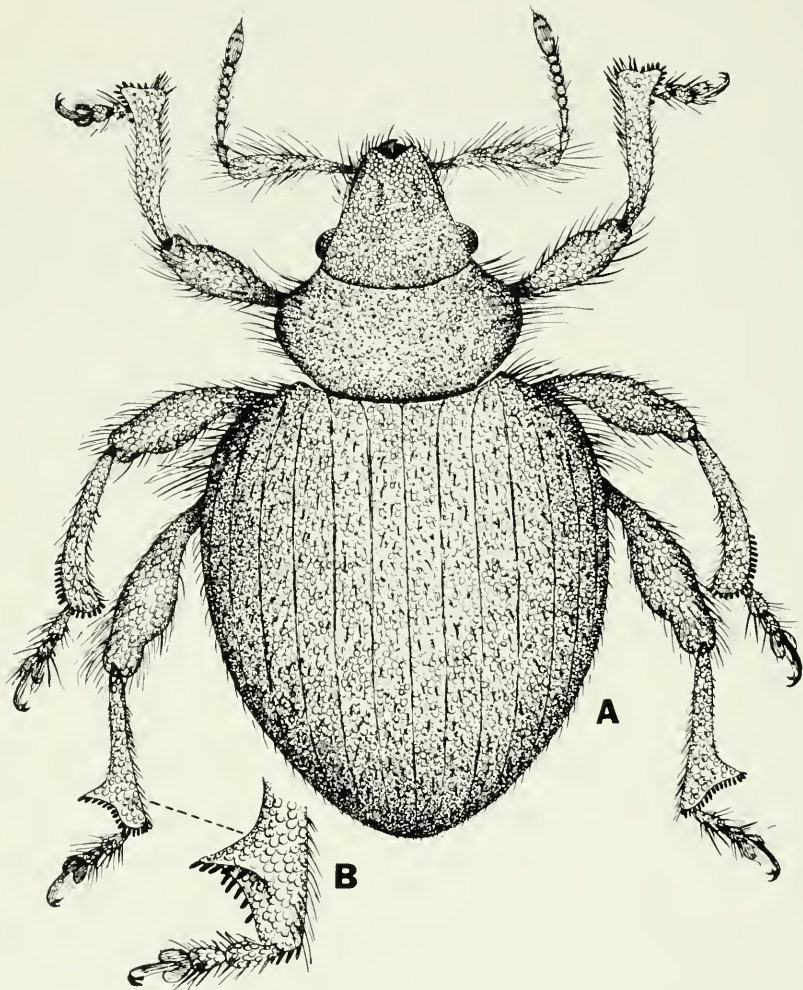


Figure I. A-*Eucyllus tinkhami*, new species. B-Corbel of metathoracic tibia.

Eucyllus with the species *vagens* as the genotype. This genus may be characterized as follows:

Mesopleural sclerites unequal, episternum large and attaining the elytra, epimeron small; first ventral suture arcuate; corbel surface of

² Horn, George H. Otiorynchidae in Rhynchophora of America. Proc. Am. Philos. Soc. XV 1876. p. 74.

hind tibiae squamose; scrobes lateral, deep, attaining the eyes, not convergent; scape arcuate, passing beyond the anterior margin of the prothorax.

For sixty years this genus remained a monotypic one until 1936 when Dr. E. C. Van Dyke³ described two additional species, *echinus* and *unicolor*.

Tinkhami as described in this paper may be included in the Van Dyke key as follows:

- I. Larger species 5 to 7.5 mm. in length.
 - a. Bicolored, elongate, second funicular segment from 3 to 4 times as long as broad, setae of entire upper surface hispid, many times as long as broad and acute at apices *vagens*.
 - b. Unicolored, rotund, first funicular segment robust, much broader and as long as the second segment; setae of upper surface white, short and decumbent; long white pile on the scape, femur, prothorax and humerus; corbels of hind tibiae well developed and squamous *tinkhami*.
- II. Smaller species 5 mm. or less in length.
 - a. Bicolored, three brown stripes on pronotum and numerous brown patches on elytra, erect setae of upper surface clublike, several times as long as broad *echinus*.
 - b. Unicolored, cinereous, erect setae of upper surface peg-like or tubercular, but little longer than broad *unicolor*.

Distributional notes: All the above species are represented in the Entomological collections at Brigham Young University as follows:

Vagens: 15 specimens from Horseshoe Island, Lake Mead, Nevada, collected by Vasco M. Tanner May 12, 1941; 1 specimen from "Nojava, California."

Tinkhami: 25 specimens from Kelso Sand dunes, Devil Playground, San Bernardino County, California, collected by E. R. Tinkham, May 23, 1959.

Echinus: 1 specimen from St. George, Washington County, Utah, collected by Angus M. Woodbury.

Unicolor: 1 specimen from Peach Springs, Arizona, collected by Ulke, 1896; 2 specimens from Arizona, collector not known; 2 specimens from the Virgin River, Washington County, Utah, collected by C. J. Weidt, 1892; 2 specimens from St. George, Washington County, Utah, collected by Angus M. Woodbury; 1 specimen from S.W. end of Cedar Mountains, Tooele County, Utah, collected by W. J. Thomas, VIII, 25, 1953.

3. Van Dyke, E. C., New Species of North American Weevils in the Family Curculionidae, subfamily Brachyrhininae IV, The Pan Pacific Entomologist Vol. XII, No. 1, pp. 19-32, 1936.