McKeown, Keith C., 1937. Notes on Australian Cerambycidae. III. Description of a new species of *Ceraegidion*. *Records of the Australian Museum* 20(2): 191–194. [27 August 1937].

doi:10.3853/j.0067-1975.20.1937.260

ISSN 0067-1975

Published by the Australian Museum, Sydney

NOTES ON AUSTRALIAN CERAMBYCIDAE.

III.

Description of a New Species of *Ceraegidion*.

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(Figures 1–6.)

FOR over one hundred years the genus *Ceraegidion*, ever since its determination by Boisduval in 1835, has been represented by only one species, its monotype, *C. horrens*, one of the most remarkable of described Australian Cerambycidae. The discovery of a second species is, therefore, of considerable interest and importance.

Ceraegidion horrens was described by Boisduval in the "Voyage . . . de L'Astrolabe . . . pendant les Années 1826–1827–1828–1829" in 1835 (p. 492) from a specimen "découvert dans le nord de la Nouvelle-Hollande, par M. Cunningham". This description was republished in full, accompanied by a plate, in *Magasin de Zoologie*, v, Cl, pl. 124, in the same year. The plate illustrates a male, the dorsal view in colour and a lateral one in line.

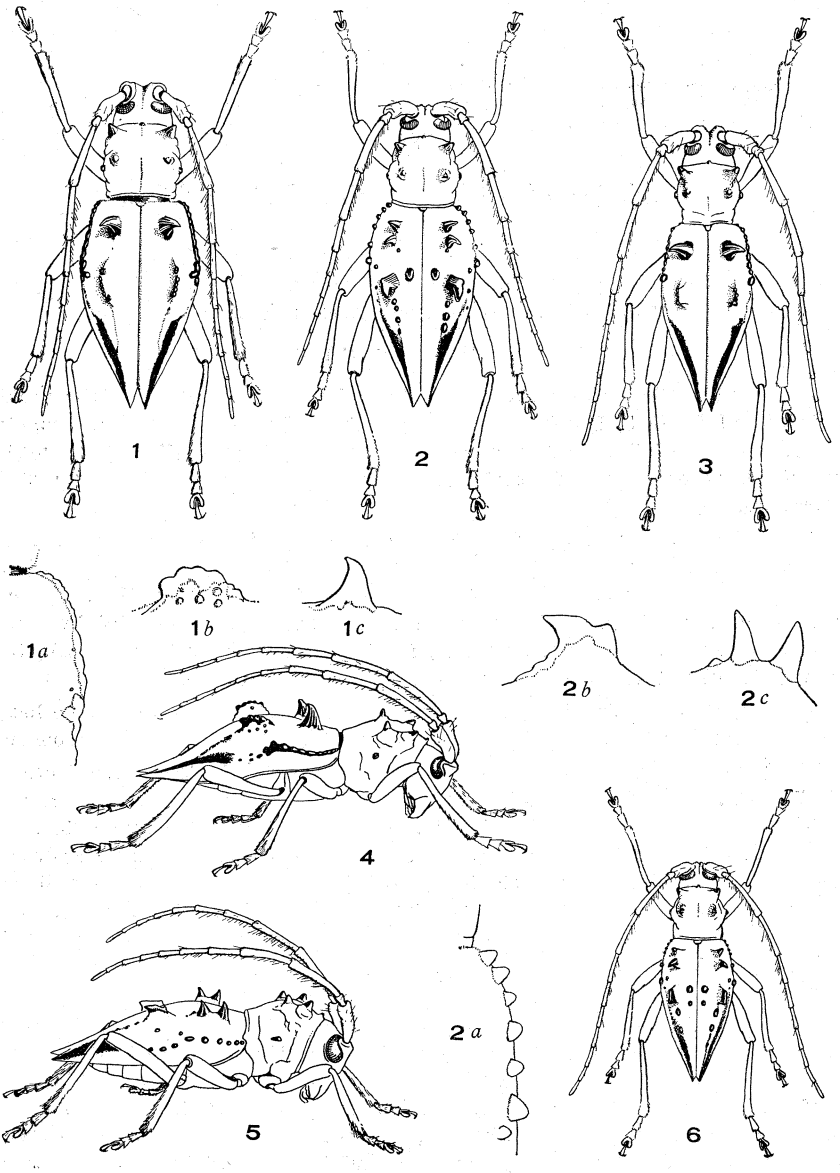
In 1864, Thomson, in his "Systema Cerambycidarum" (p. 40), gave the locality of the species as "Nlle. Zélande (*teste Bowring*)", which was quite erroneous.

C. French, senr., in a note published in 1889 in the *Victorian Naturalist* (vi, 7, Nov., p. 120), recorded the capture of a specimen of *C. horrens* at Croajingalong, East Gippsland, Victoria. In the substance of this note several curious errors occur. The capture of the specimen described by Boisduval is attributed to "the late R. Cunningham, brother of the well-known traveller and botanist, A. Cunningham, in New South Wales, and described . . . . in the 'Voyage' of the French war-ship *Astrolabe* in 1827 . . . . in which fine work it is also figured".

The original specimen must have come from A. Cunningham, and not R. Cunningham as suggested by French, since the *Astrolabe* was in Australian waters from 1826 to 1829, whereas R. Cunningham did not arrive in Sydney until January, 1833, and was lost while with Mitchell's Expedition in 1835. A. Cunningham, on the other hand, reached Port Jackson in December, 1816, remaining in Australia until February, 1831; returning in February, 1837, so that there was every opportunity for Boisduval to have obtained the insect from him. Further errors occur with regard to the date of the "Voyage of the *Astrolabe*" and the figure. The work was published in 1835, and not 1827 as stated by French, for at this time the expedition was still in Australia. No figure of

C. horrens occurs in the book, but, as stated above, it was figured later in the *Magasin de Zoologie.*

In connection with the locality, "North Australia", given by Boisduval, it would appear to be inaccurate. All the specimens of *C. horrens* I have examined



Figures 1-6.

Ceraegidion dorrigoensis, sp. nov.: 1, ♀; 3, ♂; 4, lateral view of ♀. *C. horrens* Boisd.: 2, ♀; 6, ♂; 5, lateral view of ♀. *a,* lateral tubercles of elytra; *b,* elytral crest; *c,* elytral spine.

N. B. Adams, *del.*

have come from the South Coast of New South Wales, and the majority of them from the Illawarra district, none of them coming from the north. It is interesting to note with regard to the locality that A. Cunningham visited Illawarra, Blue Mountains, and the Bathurst-Mudgee district in August 1822 (*teste*, "Australian Illustrated Encyclopaedia"), while the late W. W. Froggatt, in his "Australian Insects", 1906, recorded *C. horrens* as being "not uncommon in the Illawarra district, N.S.W." The range of *C. horrens* would, therefore, appear to extend over the South Coast area of New South Wales (centring around the Illawarra district), and continuing to East Gippsland, Victoria.

Ceraegidion dorrigoensis, sp. nov.

Robust; black, somewhat densely clothed with a very short pile of a light brown colour, sprinkled with numerous small patches of a longer, bright orange pile.

♀. *Head* densely clothed with varied brown and orange pile, with a shallow impressed median line, becoming deeper and more marked between the antennary tubercles. Antennary tubercles with a naked lunulate area of nitid red derm at base.

Antennae almost reaching the extremity of the body, clothed with a coarse brown pile varied with orange-yellow. The first joint is liberally sprinkled with yellow patches, and this colour is somewhat concentrated toward the bases of joints 2 and 3. A sparse fringe of long golden hairs along the undersurface of the antennae, decreasing in length from base to apex.

Thorax longer than wide, parallel, strongly quadrispinose on disc. An obtuse nitid black lateral tubercle, a very small nitid black tubercle in the centre of the extreme anterior margin of the prothorax. The four discal spines are placed somewhat anteriorly; the anterior pair stout and acute, directed forwards, are black and nitid; the posterior pair erect, their bases densely covered with pile, and their apices only nitid. An elongate linear area of dark derm extends backwards from between the posterior tubercles.

Elytra triangular, considerably broader than thorax at base; rounded and becoming much widened for about one-third of their length, then decreasing sharply in breadth and terminating in acutely spined and dehiscent apices. Two stout and acute spines on disc of elytra close to base, black, nitid, and posteriorly recurved, their shape being like that of rose thorns; two prominent narrow crests about half-way, with their apical ridges black, nitid, and multituberculate. The anterior lateral third of elytra with a row of coalescing, nitid, black tubercles, producing a moniliform appearance. Posterior third of elytra with a narrow, somewhat lateral, area of black derm extending to the extremity of the apices. Suture narrowly black.

Legs clothed with coarse brown pile, varied with orange-yellow spots. Posterior third of tibiae, and tarsi, clothed with long yellow hairs, giving them a golden hue.

Lower surface densely clothed with brown pile varied with orange; a narrow naked linear area (possibly abraded) along median line of abdomen.

♂. Moderately slender; similar to female, but with the elytral crests shorter and higher. *Antennae* longer than body.

Long., ♂♂, 19–22 mm., lat. 7 mm. Long., ♀♀, 22–25 mm., lat. 8–10 mm.

Hab.—Dorrigo, New South Wales (W. Heron), January, 1929.

Types.—Holotype ♀, allotype ♂, and paratype ♂ and ♀ in Australian Museum, Sydney.

Ceraegidion dorrigoensis bears a superficial resemblance to *C. horrens*, but differs from that species in the single, and not bifid, anterior spines on the elytra; the longer and multituberculate apices of the elytral crests, and the absence of the pair of nitid, rounded tubercles in the depression between and slightly in advance of the elytral crests, together with the lateral row of moniliform tubercles which are joined in a continuous series, whereas in *C. horrens* they are fewer, separated, and more scattered. The difference in the shape of the elytral crests is very marked, those of *horrens* being higher, shorter, smooth on the apex, which tends to be produced into a somewhat recurved point. The vestiture is very similar in both species.

Both sexes of *C. dorrigoensis* are rather stouter in build than in *C. horrens*.

It is remarkable that the new species has for so long escaped the notice of entomological workers, for material from the Dorrigo district is by no means uncommon in a number of collections, where the specimens have apparently been accepted as being *C. horrens*; indeed, the holotype ♀ and allotype ♂ bear A. M. Lea's labels identifying them as that species.