

## Research Note

### PLATYPUS RATZEBURGI CHAPUIS (COLEOPTERA: PLATYPODIDAE): A NEW PEST ATTACKING COFFEE<sup>1</sup>

*Platypus ratzeburgi* is a wood-boring beetle found in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Central America and Texas. In Puerto Rico it has been found<sup>2, 3</sup> attacking moca (*Andira jamaicensis*), tabonuco (*Dacryodes excelsa*), guaba (*Inga vera*) and guamá (*Inga fogifolia*). The last two trees are used in the island to provide shade to coffee shrubs.

During the summer of 1986 José A. Quintana and Carlos Otero of the Agricultural Extension Service found in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, some coffee trunks of *Coffea robusta* with circular black spots in the bark, each spot with a small hole in the

center (fig. 1). The material was referred to me and a positive identification was obtained of *Platypus ratzeburgi* Chapuis by comparison with identified specimens in the Entomological Museum of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Río Piedras.

The beetles in the family Platypodidae are elongate, slender and cylindrical, with the head slightly wider than the pronotum. The tarsi are very slender, with the first segment longer than the remaining segments combined. They are very small (4–6 mm) and brownish. Chamberlin<sup>4</sup> describes



FIG. 1.—Damage caused by *P. ratzeburgi* in the trunks of *Coffea robusta* Linden.

<sup>1</sup> Manuscript submitted to Editorial Board 29 October 1986.

<sup>2</sup> Martorell, L. F., 1945. A survey of the forest insects of Puerto Rico, *J. Agric. Univ. P. R.* 29 (4): 467–48.

<sup>3</sup> Wolcott, G. N., 1948. The insects of Puerto Rico. *J. Agric. Univ. P. R.* 32 (2): 384–85.

<sup>4</sup> Chamberlin, W. S., 1939. The bark and timber beetles of North America. Publ. U.S.C. Coop. Assoc., Corvallis, Oregon, p. 110.

*P. ratzeburgi* in his work about bark and timber beetles in North America.

*Inga vera* trees heavily infested by *P. ratzeburgi* were observed near the affected coffee shrubs. Probably the insects moved from *I. vera* to the coffee shrubs. This is the

first record of *P. ratzeburgi* attacking coffee in the world.

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