

THE
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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF TERRESTRIAL ISOPOD FROM THE GUACHARO CAVE, TRINIDAD.

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WITH 3 TEXT-FIGURES.

IN June last Mr. C. B. Williams forwarded to me for identification two small tubes containing a number of tiny terrestrial Isopods, collected in the Guacharo Cave, Trinidad. This cave is infested by a bird called the Guacharo (*Steatornis steatornis*). In his account of the *Birds of British Guiana*, Dawson¹ states the Guacharo or Oil-bird "inhabits dark caverns, congregating in large numbers, and only issuing forth at nights to feed on oil-nuts and fruit. It builds its nest of clay, wherein are deposited four white eggs, often very dirty."

The specimens of Isopods in one tube were obtained from the nests, whilst those in the other were collected from the guano in the cave.

In both cases the habitat is curious and interesting, but as one of the species (from the nests) occurs beneath the bark of trees in British Guiana, it is highly probable that they are carried into the cave with food or nesting materials.

Both species, one of which is new, are referable to the genus *Calycuoniscus*, Collinge.

***Calycuoniscus bodkini*, Collge.**

Jour. Linn. Soc. Lond. (Zool.), 1915, vol. xxxii, p. 509, pl. 50.

This species was originally collected by Mr. G. E. Bodkin, from beneath the bark of trees in the Botanic Gardens, Georgetown, Demerara, British Guiana. There are two examples from Trinidad, in the material obtained from the Guacharo's nests.

***Calycuoniscus spinosus*, n. sp.**

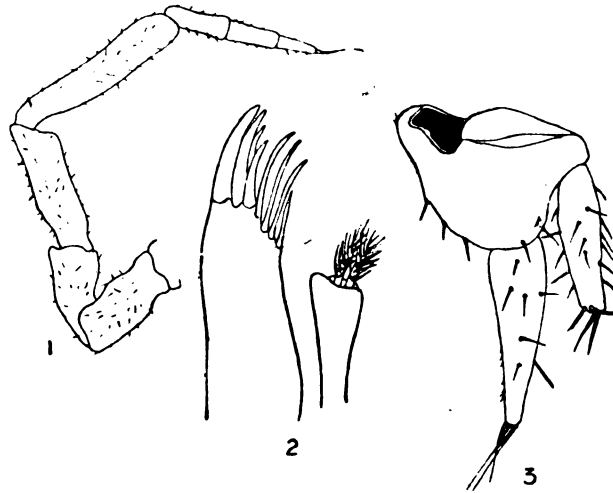
Figs. 1-3.

Body oblong-oval, slightly convex dorsally; metasome narrower than the mesosome, the segments of both, and also the cephalon, covered with fairly long, bluntly ending spines, and a few cup-shaped

¹ Journ. Bd. Agric. Brit. Guiana, 1915, vol. ix, p. 23.

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organs. Cephalon convex above, cephalic lobes inconspicuous; epistome somewhat long. Eyes prominent, situated dorso-laterally. Antennulae 3-jointed. Antennae (Fig. 1) of medium length; flagellum 3-jointed, with sub-equal divisions and terminal style. First maxillae (Fig. 2), outer lobe terminating in four large curved spines and four single-pointed smaller ones; inner lobe very short, with widely expanded distal portion on which are two short, thick setose spines. Maxillipedes very similar to those in *C. bodkini*. The segments of the mesosome have their pleural plates much as in *C. bodkini*. Metasome narrower than in *C. bodkini*, pleural plates not produced backwards. Uropoda (Fig. 3) somewhat flattened with raised anterior margin on the basal



Calycuoniscus spinosus, n. sp.

Fig. 1. Dorsal view of the right antenna. Fig. 2. Terminal portion of the inner and outer lobes of the right first maxilla.

Fig. 3. Dorsal view of the left uropod.

plate; exopodite elongated and longer than the endopodite; both have three or four long terminal setae. Telson short and triangular.

Length 3 mm. Colour orange-yellow.

Hub.—In the nests of the Guacharo and mostly in the guano. Guacharo Cave, Trinidad, 23-iv-16 (C. B. Williams).

This species differs from *C. bodkini* in possessing a smaller number of the peculiar chitinous cup-shaped organs on the segments of the body, and they are also more elongated; in the form of the cephalic lobes, which are exceedingly small; the longer epistome; the longer and narrower metasome, and the truncate ending of the pleural plates; and in the form of the uropoda and telson.