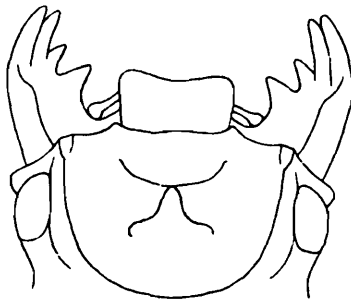


XX ON THE OCCURRENCE OF A SYMMETRICAL SPECIES OF *EPISPHENUS*
(PASSALID COLEOPTERA) IN ANNAM

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Of the four species of *Episphenus* already described, *E. moorei* is symmetrical and appears to be confined to Ceylon, where it is not very abundant. *E. comptoni* is slightly asymmetrical and is much more abundant in Ceylon, to which island it also appears to be confined. *E. neelgherriensis* and *E. indicus* are more markedly asymmetrical, and appear to be confined to the Indian Peninsula, where both are abundant. In Annam, as in other parts of tropical Continental Asia, east of the Gangetic delta, *Episphenus* is replaced by the allied genera *Ophrygonius* and *Aceraius*, in whose most highly specialized forms asymmetry is even more pro-



Head of *Episphenus annamensis* ($\times 4$).

nounced. The occurrence of a symmetrical species of *Episphenus* in Annam is therefore somewhat remarkable. An almost symmetrical species of *Ophrygonius* has, it is true, recently been described¹ from Tonkin, but the hair on the sides of its elytra and its horizontally divided left anterior lower tooth, as well as traces of asymmetry, clearly show that it has been derived from one of the highly asymmetrical species transitional between the more typical species of *Ophrygonius* and the genus *Aceraius*, and not from a primitive symmetrical species like *Episphenus moorei* and the species which I have now to describe.

***Episphenus annamensis*, n. sp.**

Four specimens collected by Mr. C. Boden Kloss in Southern Annam in 1918, and presented by him to the Indian Museum.

Length 33–37 mm.

¹ *O. aequalis*, *Mem. Ind. Mus.* VII, 1918, p. 88, fig. xi (1).

This species differs from *E. moorei*, the only other symmetrical species of the genus known, in having six instead of five well-developed antennal lamellae, all somewhat short and stout. The cephalic ridges between and in front of the frontal tubercles are absent. The frontal tubercles are situated as in *Episphenus*, not as in *Tiberiodes* (also symmetrical) from Assam and adjoining the hills. The central tubercle is more strongly elevated than in *E. moorei*, with shorter parietal ridges. The punctures and hair on the lower surface of the prothorax are very feebly developed. The large punctures on the posterior intermediate areas of the metasternum are somewhat shallower than in *E. moorei*, and the puncturing of the grooves on the elytra is less coarse.

