

A Report on Phelomerus aberrans, Sharp.
(Coleoptera-Bruchidae) Found in the Seed Pods of Cassia
in Trinidad.

SECTION 1. Introduction.

Phelomerus aberrans Sharp.

Bruchus aberrans Sharp. 1885.

Phelomerus distinctus Pic. 1912.

Phelomerus aberrans and var. distinctus Pic 1913.

The seed pods of the two ornamental trees Cassia fistula and C. nodosa are known to be attacked by several insects in Trinidad. This report was designed to determine the insects concerned and make a special study of a Bruchid, Phelomerus sp. found among them. The Bruchid was originally identified as P. lineola Chev. from specimens in the I.C.T.A. collection (identified by G.E. Bryant), but was later identified by the British museum as P. aberrans Sharp. Since the species of the genus Phelomerus are very similar, and the previous descriptions of aberrans poor, it was considered necessary to make a detailed description of the Bruchid together with a comprehensive review of the literature.

P. aberrans was found in Cassia fistula, grandis and nodosa and eggs found on Delonix regia, but studied in C. fistula and nodosa. It has previously been reported from Cassia 'beans' and C. grandis pods from British Honduras, Panama and the Canal Zone, but not from Trinidad.