



## Description of a new species of *Laccodytes* Régimbart, 1895 (Coleoptera, Dytiscidae, Laccophilinae) from Cuba

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### Abstract

*Laccodytes coabrinae* sp. n. is described from Cuba, which brings to 11 the number of species included in the Neotropical Laccophilinae genus *Laccodytes* Régimbart, 1895. Description and illustration of the new species are provided along with a discussion of its ecology and systematic position. The unexpected discovery of a new species in Cuba represents the first mention of *Laccodytes* in the Caribbean area, which extends considerably the distribution of the genus in the Neotropics. Such finding suggests that other species of *Laccodytes* could be found elsewhere in the Caribbean or Antilles as well as north of the Orinoco basin.

**Key words:** Dytiscidae, Laccophilinae, *Laccodytes*, new species, Cuba, Neotropical Region

### Introduction

Members of the endemic Neotropical Laccophilinae genus *Laccodytes* Régimbart, 1895 are small beetles (1.6–2.4 mm long), which are generally collected in streams among layers of decaying leaves and debris (Toledo *et al.* 2010). This recently revised genus includes 10 species (excluding *L. pumilio* (LeConte) from Florida, which is postulated to belong to an undescribed genus) (Toledo *et al.* 2010), all of which are recorded from northern continental South America (the Guyana Shield, south of the Orinoco Basin, and central and northern Brazil). The discovery of an eleventh *Laccodytes* species, from Cuba, provided the impetus to this study, which aims at describing this species and providing new insight on the biogeography of the genus in the Neotropics. *Laccodytes*, therefore, is here recorded for the first time in Cuba and the whole Caribbean area.

### Material and methods

Description, taxonomic conclusions, and geographical distributions reported in this paper are based on examination of seven specimens from Cuba. The following codens represent collections from which specimens were received for study or in which specimens are deposited, or both.

CMT Mario Toledo collection, Parma, Italy.

CZCTR Museo de Historia Natural "Charles Ramsden", Universidad de Oriente, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba.

USNM United States National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC, USA. D.G.

The terminology for the orientation of the aedeagus follows Miller & Nilsson (2003), described and figured in its anatomical position, with the concave (dorsal) side above and the convex (ventral) side below; thus, what is often named "right" side of the median lobe becomes "left" side and what is named "right" paramere becomes "left" paramere. These criteria were not followed in the revision of *Laccodytes* (Toledo *et al.* 2010).