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The egg morphology of some species of *Sennius* Bridwell (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Bruchinae) based on scanning electron micrographs[1]

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Abstract

Eggs of *Sennius crudelis* Ribeiro-Costa & Reynaud, *S. nappi* Ribeiro-Costa & Reynaud and *S. bondari* (Pic) are described based on scanning electron micrographs and compared with eggs of other species of Bruchinae (Chrysomelidae).

Key words: *Sennius*, Bruchinae, eggs, scanning electron micrograph

Introduction

The pattern and sculpturing of the surface of insect eggs are useful taxonomic characters to identify species when adults can not be found. The egg morphology of Bruchinae (Chrysomelidae) has been very rarely studied. Wightman and Southgate (1982) made a significant contribution, based on scanning electron micrographs, by describing the eggs of nine species that damage stored legumes. The same technique was used by other authors to study the eggs of three species of *Megacerus* Fåhraeus, *Gibbobruchus mimus* (Say), *Pygiopachymerus lineola* (Chevrolat) and *Sennius leptophyllicola* Ribeiro-Costa & Costa (Pfaffenberger *et al.* 1984; Pfaffenberger 1986; Ribeiro-Costa & Costa 2002).

Sennius Bridwell encompasses 48 species occurring in the Neartic and Neotropical regions (Silva *et al.* 2003) and according to Johnson (1984) most of the species feed in the leguminous seeds of *Senna*.

The egg morphology of *Sennius* has been studied by Bondar (1937), Center and Johnson (1973), Terán and L'Argentier (1979) and Ribeiro-Costa (1998). Nevertheless, all these works are only a beginning in studies of egg structures of Bruchinae beetles.

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