



Taxonomy of the Neotropical leafhopper genus *Exogonia* with description of seven new Brazilian species (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Cicadellini)

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Abstract

Seven new Brazilian species of *Exogonia* Melichar are described from Mato Grosso, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Paraná, and Santa Catarina states. The other four known species of the genus, *E. assimilis* (Signoret), *E. hyalinosparsa* (Melichar), *E. leucampix* (Signoret), and *E. semivitta* (Walker), are redescribed. An identification key with male and female characters and maps with the geographical distribution of the species are given. Taxonomic notes comparing the species are also provided. This genus is apparently closely related to *Hanshumba* Young, specially due to similarities in the male genital apparatus.

Key words: Membracoidea, Auchenorrhyncha, Cicadellinae, sharpshooter, morphology, taxonomy

Introduction

Exogonia was for the first time recognized in Melichar's (1926) key to the Cicadellaria, a group that approximately corresponds to the tribe Cicadellini (sensu Young 1968, 1977, 1986). However, due to Melichar's death in 1924, the genus was not formally diagnosed and the included species remained unknown. This problem affected the majority of Melichar's genera that, although validly published according to the nomenclatural rules of the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature, lacked formal descriptions and type designations (Wilson & Turner 2007). China (1938), based on Melichar's manuscript, designated *Tettigonia assimilis* Signoret, 1853 as the type-species of *Exogonia*.

Only in 1977, with the revision of the Cicadellini published by Young, was *Exogonia* for the first time formally described, including characters of external morphology, male and female genitalia, and a key to species. Young recognized three additional species in the genus: *E. hyalinosparsa* (Melichar, 1932), *E. leucampix* (Signoret, 1853), and *E. semivitta* (Walker, 1851). *Exogonia* is recorded from northeastern, southeastern, and southern Brazil (Young 1977; Zanol & de Menezes 1982; Oman et al. 1990). The genus and the four known species were catalogued by Metcalf (1965), Oman et al. (1990), and McKamey (2007). Actually, Metcalf (1965) included in *Exogonia* the species *Tettigonia assimilis*, *T. leucampix*, *T. germari* Signoret, 1853, and *T. trilineaticeps* Signoret, 1853. The latter was also included in *Exogonia* by McKamey (2007), although it does not belong to this genus (see discussion below). *Tettigonia germari* was reviewed by Young (1977) and is now the type-species of *Trachygonalia* Young, 1977. Finally, *T. semivitta* was treated by Metcalf (1965) in the genus *Amblyscarta* Stål, 1869.