



The Middle American species of *Peridinetus* Schönherr (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Baridinae)

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Abstract

The weevil genus *Peridinetus* Schönherr is reviewed for mainland Middle America. *Conophoria* Casey is included in *Peridinetus* as a new junior synonym. Twenty-six species are recognized. *Peridinetus ecuadoricus* Casey **stat. res.**, *P. frontalis* Chevrolat and *P. pictus* Kirsch are newly recorded for the study area. Newly described are *P. illabes* **sp. n.** (Panama), *P. imperialis* **sp. n.** (Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador), *P. lugubris* **sp. n.** (Costa Rica, Ecuador), *P. notabilis* **sp. n.** (Costa Rica), *P. odone* **sp. n.** (Costa Rica, Panama), *P. pena* **sp. n.** (Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama), *P. rubens* **sp. n.** (Costa Rica, Panama) and *P. wyandoti* **sp. n.** (Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador). The overlooked precedence of *P. jelskii* Chevrolat over *P. maculiventris* Chevrolat is reestablished. *Conophoria cana dispersa* Casey is a new junior synonym of *P. canus* Champion. Habitus images for most species and an identification key are provided.

Key words: weevils, taxonomy, Piperaceae, Neotropics, Middle America

Introduction

This paper contributes to the knowledge of baridine weevils associated with Piperaceae in the Neotropical Region. It continues a series of similar studies (Prena 2001, 2003a, 2005, 2006, 2009b), wherein I reviewed other diverse genera in this lineage, which also includes morphologically similar weevils that develop in Rubiaceae (Prena 2003b, 2009a) and Annonaceae (Bondar 1946; Prena, unpublished). The preliminary results may ultimately lead to a phylogenetic study testing the monophyly of these and the numerous small, mostly undescribed or unrecognized genera and their putative palaeotropical relatives, which are currently scattered over no less than seven tribes. Most *Peridinetus* species are common, widespread, comparatively large and with charismatic color patterns. Many of them occupy a rather wide ecological niche and can be found on many *Piper* species, while a few seem specialized on *Peperomia* at high elevations. Several of those widespread generalists include morphologically deviant subpopulations, which can be easily overlooked. Herein, I review the species from Middle America, including the Pacific side of Colombia and Ecuador. I do not include the West Indies, which were treated separately (Prena 2009b). This study contributes to the national inventory of biodiversity in Costa Rica and to the Arthropods of La Selva (ALAS) project.

Material and methods

The study covers the region from central Mexico to Panama and the Pacific side of Colombia and Ecuador. Additional records from outside the study area are included for the widespread species. Some of the latter represent poorly differentiated species complexes, which need to be studied in more detail over their entire range. The species are ordered in the systematic part the way they come out in the key; their synonyms are listed chronologically. Unavailable names, like misspellings or manuscript names, are also included in the lists of synonymy and indicated as such by annotations set in square brackets. Collecting data are arranged by country (starting in the north and then going southward) and administrative units. Collecting dates and collectors are given only for the new taxa. Complete data for INBio material can be accessed online at www.inbio.ac.cr/en/default.html (>Biodiversity, >Biodiversity).

Approximately 2,300 specimens were studied from the following collections: **AMNH**, American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA (L. Herman Jr., S. Lodhi); **BMNH**, The Natural History Museum, London, England (M. Barclay, R. Thompson); **CHAH**, Henry A. Hespenheide personal collection, Los Angeles, USA; **CMNC**, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada (R. Anderson, F. Genier, H. & A. Howden); **CNCI**, Canadian National Collection of Insects, Ottawa, Canada (D. Bright, P. Bouchard); **CWOB**, Charles W. O'Brien personal collection, Green Valley, Arizona, USA; **DEI**, Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg, Germany (L. Behne, L. Zerche); **FSCA**, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, USA (P. Skelley, M. Thomas); **GBFM**, Museo de Invertebrados G.B. Fairchild, Panama City, Panama (D. Quintero); **HPSC**, Henry P. Stockwell personal collection, Ancón, Panama; **INBC**, Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, Santo Domingo de Heredia, Costa Rica (A. Solís, E. Ulate); **JPPC**, Jens Prena