



Histerid beetles of French Guiana. V. Revision of the genus *Ebonius* Lewis (Coleoptera, Histeridae, Omalodini)

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Abstract

The Neotropical histerid genus *Ebonius* Lewis, 1885 is revised. Characters are provided for the recognition of the genus and its species. All three species are illustrated and keyed and information about the collection methods is given. *Ebonius* can be recognized by the "U"-shaped carinal stria, sutural region of elytra concave, first abdominal sternum stria present anteriorly and laterally, and middle region of pygidium with a transverse elevation.

Key words: flight interception trap, Histerinae, lectotype, taxonomy

Resumo

O presente trabalho tem como objetivo realizar uma revisão do gênero *Ebonius*. São fornecidos caracteres para o reconhecimento do gênero e de suas espécies. Todas as espécies são ilustradas, é fornecida uma chave de identificação e informações sobre os métodos para sua coleta. *Ebonius* pode ser reconhecido pela estria carenal em forma de "U", região sutural dos élitros côncava, estria do primeiro esterno abdominal presente anteriormente e lateralmente, e pigídio com uma elevação transversal na região mediana.

Palavras-chave: Armadilha de interceptação de voo, Histerinae, lectótipo, taxonomia

Introduction

The histerid beetle fauna of French Guiana presently contains a smaller number of known species than France: about 124 species against 152 for metropolitan France (Degallier 1979; 1981; 1982; 2004a,b; Degallier & Kanaar 2001; Gomy & Secq 1998; Degallier et al. 2010). In French Guiana, where the climatic and ecological conditions should be very favorable for a high level of biodiversity, this comparatively low species richness is probably due to poor collecting or a lack of interest from entomologists in this quite discrete family (Degallier & Gomy 1983).

In the Neotropical region, the tribe Omalodini includes 70 described species, distributed among four genera: *Omalodes* Erichson, 1834 (including three subgenera), *Sphyracus* Marseul, 1853, *Scapomegas* Lacordaire, 1854, and *Ebonius* Lewis, 1885 (Mazur 1997). With the exception of *Omalodes* (*Omalodes*), few specimens of these genera are found in collections. Consequently, little is known of the taxonomy, ecology and methods of capture of the Omalodini, particularly those outside *Omalodes*. *Ebonius* is one of these groups for which few specimens are known aside from the type specimens. The genus is composed of three species: *Ebonius politus* Lewis, 1885 (the type species), *Ebonius lineiger* (Marseul, 1870) and *Ebonius aequatorius* Lewis, 1910.

Marseul (1870) described *Omalodes lineiger* and in the same publication he commented: "Curieux insecte qui représente pour le faciès un *Platysoma* allongé, ou le *Cylistix cylindricus*, mais présente tous les caractères du genre *Omalodes*", and, therefore, suggested that it could form a separate group. Lewis (1885) proposed the genus *Ebonius* and suggested that it could be placed next to *Omalodes*. However, he differentiated *Ebonius* from *Omal-*