



## New mole crickets of the genus *Scapteriscus* Scudder from Colombia (Orthoptera: Gryllotalpidae; Scapteriscinae)

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### Abstract

Two new mole crickets of the genus *Scapteriscus* Scudder (Orthoptera: Grylloidea: Gryllotalpidae) are described from Colombia: *S. cerberus*, **sp. nov.** and *S. zeuneri*, **sp. nov.** The first species can be recognized by its robust appearance, large pronotum and small separated ocelli. In contrast, the second species is characterized by its large ocelli which are very close together.

**Key words:** Ensifera, Scapteriscinae, South America, Neotropics, taxonomy

### Resumen

Se describen dos nuevas especies del género *Scapteriscus* (Orthoptera: Gryllotalpidae) provenientes de Colombia, denominadas *S. cerberus*, **sp. nov.** y *S. zeuneri* **sp. nov.** La primera se reconoce fácilmente por su apariencia robusta, el gran tamaño del pronoto y los pequeños ocelos, muy separados entre sí, mientras la segunda se caracteriza por presentar grandes ocelos, muy cercanos uno del otro.

**Palabras clave:** Ensifera, Scapteriscinae, Suramérica, Neotropico, taxonomía

### Introduction

The mole crickets (Gryllotalpidae) are an unusual and highly autopomorphic group of basal Grylloidea (Heads and Leuzinger, 2011). These distinctive crickets use their shovel-like forelegs to excavate and construct elaborate subterranean galleries where they spend much of their lives. With the exception of the diminutive and rather aberrant genus *Gryllotalpella* Rehn, mole crickets are large-bodied and characterized by a number of extraordinary morphological and behavioral adaptations to their underground existence, including an enlarged shield-like pronotum, somewhat reduced hind legs and highly modified fossorial forelegs. Here we describe two new mole cricket species of the genus *Scapteriscus* Scudder, 1868 from the Andean and Amazonian regions of Colombia.

### Material and methods

Specimens were studied with a Zeiss Stemi 2000C stereomicroscope and photographs taken using a Canon G9 digital camera. The following traits were measured using an ocular micrometer: ocellar length, interocellar distance, ocular-ocellar distance, interdactyl distance, interocular distance, pronotal length, pronotal width, total length and trochanter blade length, following Nickle (2003). All metrics presented in the descriptions are given in millimeters and followed by a range of minimum and maximum values. Illustrations were made by one of us (FR)