



A remarkable new species of flesh-fly mimicking weevil (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Conoderinae) from Southeastern Brazil

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Abstract

Timorus sarcophagoides, new species (type-locality: Brazil, Minas Gerais, Santana do Riacho - Serra do Cipó, 43°35'W 19°17'S, 1200–1300m ASL), is described and illustrated. The new species can be distinguished mainly from the other species of the genus by the sexual dimorphism of the male rostrum armed with a hooked tubercle at the base of the dorsal carina, while the tubercle is absent in the female and the corresponding region of the carina is only tumid. The new species has a striking pattern of coloration and behavior that mimics flesh-flies in the family Sarcophagidae. Observations on the natural history of the new species are reported and discussed.

Key words: mimicry, natural history, Sarcophagidae, Serra do Cipó, taxonomy, *Timorus*, Zygotini

Resumo

Timorus sarcophagoides, nova espécie (Localidade-tipo: Brasil, Minas Gerais, Santana do Riacho - Serra do Cipó, 43°35'W 19°17'S, 1200–1300m), é descrita e ilustrada. A nova espécie pode ser distinguida das outras espécies do gênero principalmente pelo marcante dimorfismo sexual no rostro dos machos armados com um tubérculo em forma de gancho na base dorsal da carina, enquanto nas fêmeas o tubérculo é ausente e a região correspondente da carina é apenas intumescida. A nova espécie possui um notável padrão de coloração e comportamento que mimetiza moscas da família Sarcophagidae. Observações sobre a história natural da nova espécie são apresentadas e discutidas.

Introduction

The subfamily Conoderinae 1833 (until recently known as Zygotinae Lacordaire, 1866) includes more than 200 genera and approximately 1,500 species worldwide (Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal, 1999). Most of the genera of Conoderinae were described in the 19th or early 20th century and have never been revised. The only available keys for genera of Conoderinae of the world were provided by Heller (1894, 1895). The delimitation of genera is very difficult because of the lack of a phylogenetic hypothesis of the subfamily and becomes even more difficult with the discovery of large numbers of undescribed species that link genera or do not fit current concepts (Hespenheide, 2009).

Weevils in the Conoderinae are known often for their distinct color patterns related to predator avoidance (Hespenheide, 1995). For instance, in Panama and Costa Rica nearly 20% of species are involved in mimicry complexes based on putative models such as flies, ants, beetles and bees (Hespenheide, 1995). However, most mimetic species in Conoderinae resemble flies (Hespenheide, 1995). Hespenheide (1973) first described a mimicry complex involving Neotropical beetles and flies, and listed nearly 60 species in 21 genera in six families with a conver-