



A new miniature species of the milliped genus *Cleidogona* from Costa Rica (Diplopoda, Chordeumatida, Cleidogonidae), with a review of Central American Cleidogonidae

WILLIAM A. SHEAR

Department of Biology, Hampden-Sydney College, Hampden-Sydney VA 23943, USA. E-mail: wshear@hsc.edu

Abstract

Cleidogona huebnerae, n. sp., is described from La Gamba Tropical Research Station, Costa Rica. A total of sixteen species in three genera of Cleidogonidae are known from Central America (Guatemala south to Panama), and they are reviewed here.

Key words: New species, *Dybasia*, *Solaenogona*, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama

Introduction

The milliped family Cleidogonidae is the largest family in the Order Chordeumatida in number of species, and is probably basal to the order (Shear 1972, 2000; Hoffman 1999). Species of cleidogonids occur from the northeastern United States (Connecticut; Shear & Shelley 2004) south to peninsular Florida, and in the Mississippi River Valley from Illinois and Indiana to the Gulf Coast. With a brief hiatus in much of Texas, the distribution resumes in the Rio Grande Valley, extending into northeastern México, where many of the species are troglobionts, and thence south to Panama (Shear 1972), with the apparent southern limit near the former Canal Zone, though it is certainly possible that the family occurs in northern Columbia. Two of the included genera, *Cleidogona* Cook 1895 and *Pseudotremia* Cope 1869, each contain more than 50 species, and *Cleidogona* species occur throughout the entire North American range of the family except for Panama, where four species of the satellite genus *Dybasia* Loomis 1964 seemingly replace *Cleidogona*.

Troglobiotic Mexican species of *Cleidogona* rank among the largest of all chordeumatidans, at between 30–35 mm in length, but most species of the genus are around 15–25 mm long, with the smallest previously known being *Cleidoogona minutissima* (Kraus), at 11 mm long. Thus it was interesting to receive a collection of a new species of *Cleidogona* from Costa Rica that is a miniature, only about 7 mm long. This species is described below as *C. huebnerae*. Sixteen species of cleidogonids in three genera (*Cleidogona*, *Dybasia* and *Solaenogona* Hoffman 1950) have now been recorded from Central America, and I take this opportunity to review them and provide a key to the genera.

A new miniature *Cleidogona* species

Cleidogona huebnerae, n. sp.

Figs. 1–4

Types: Male holotype and two male and female paratypes, with other, juvenile specimens from Tropenstation La Gamba, Costa Rica, collected in 2008 by Barbara Hübner. Types deposited in Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Austria.