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***Collaria columbiensis* Carvalho, 1984, a newly recognized synonym of *Collaria scenica* (Stal, 1859) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae)**

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Abstract

The authors propose a new synonym between *Collaria scenica* (senior synonym) and *Collaria columbiensis* (junior synonym) based on external morphology and genitalia characteristics of male and female adults of both species. There was no significant difference found to believe that they are two different species.

Key words: *Collaria* species synonymy, diagnosis, Stenodemini

Introduction

The species *Collaria columbiensis* Carvalho, 1984 is reported in several papers as a pasture pest causing wide economic damage to producers in northeastern Antioquia and the Altiplano Cundiboyacense of Colombia (França 1995; Barreto 1996; Barreto *et al.* 1996; Abril 2002). Carvalho (1984) described *C. columbiensis* based on specimens collected in kikuyo grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) from Antioquia. Martinez and Barreto (1998) collected specimens of the genus *Collaria* in the same locality type and host plant (Carvalho 1984), and the specimens were identified as *Collaria scenica* (Stal, 1859). In order to clarify the identity of the species, studies were done with paratype specimens of *C. columbiensis* deposited in the Museo Entomológico Francisco Luis Gallego of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia (MEFLG), Medellín. The original descriptions gave no emphasis on a contrast between the species. We compared the descriptions of both species (Carvalho & Fontes 1981; Carvalho 1984), and the external morphology of adults of *Collaria columbiensis* and *Collaria scenica*, as well as their male and female genitalia. We found no significant differences for believing that they are two different species. Therefore, the authors believe that *Collaria columbiensis* Carvalho, 1984 is a junior synonym of *Collaria scenica* (Stål, 1854).

Material and methods

Taxonomic studies were conducted to compare male and female genitalia of *C. scenica* specimens identified by Carvalho with *C. columbiensis* paratype specimens, all deposited in Museo Entomológico Francisco Luis Gallego of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia (MEFLG), Medellín.

To study the male and female genitalia, the abdomen was removed and dipped in cold 10% KOH for 24 hours. Afterward, the material was washed in distilled water and placed in glycerin to study and make drawings of parameres and characters of the aedeagus.

The illustrations were performed using a camera lucida attached to a Leica stereoscope MZ95. The genitalia digital photos were based on male and female paratype specimens of *Collaria columbiensis* only, because both *C. columbiensis* and *C. scenica* have the same structures. The digital photos were made under an Olympus CX31 microscope. The exemplars of *C. columbiensis* were wetted in a humid chamber for 24 hours. The abdomen segments 7–10 were detached and dipped in hot 5% NaOH - for a few minutes. Afterwards, the genitalia were dissected under a Nikon SMZ 745