A NEW SPECIES OF LEPIDOCNEMEPLATIA KASZAB FROM BRAZIL WITH DISTRIBUTIONAL NOTES ON OTHER SPECIES IN THE GENUS (COLEOPTERA: TENEBRIONIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

A new species, Lepidocnemeplatia denticulata, is described from Brazil. Lepidocnemeplatia sericea (Horn) is reported from Mexico (8 states) for the first time, and L. laticollis (Champion), described from Panama, is now known from Costa Rica and Venezuela.

The genus Lepidocnemeplatia was first proposed by Kaszab (1938) as a subgenus of Cnemeplatia Costa, consisting of two Western Hemisphere species, C. (L.) sericea Horn and C. (L.) laticollis Champion. In 1942, Kaszab raised Lepidocnemeplatia to full generic rank and described L. szekessyi from Burma. Viana (1960) described a third Western Hemisphere species, L. crenata, from Argentina. In 1966, Kaszab reviewed the world fauna and included a key to the species; he described as new L. murina (Chile), L. vianai (Argentina), L. kulzeri and L. imadatei (Thailand).

At the present time, the genus consists of 8 species—3 from Southeast Asia and 5 from the Western Hemisphere. The following description of a ninth species is the first record for the genus Lepidocnemeplatia in Brazil.

Lepidocnemeplatia denticulata Triplehorn, new species

DESCRIPTION. Holotype male. Elongate, subparallel, somewhat depressed dorsally, dark reddish-brown, clothed with yellowish-brown, silky, appressed, scale-like setae, with longer, pale, appressed setae occurring in rows along elytral intervals. Head not quite twice as broad as long, almost truncate behind; epistoma narrowly and distinctly emarginate, narrowly but strongly reflected from eye to eye and fringed with long, recurved, scale-like setae; eyes large and coarsely faceted, separated ventrally by slightly more than diameter of one eye; antennae (Fig. 2) short and stout, apical 3 segments large and perfectly cylindrical, abruptly differentiated from preceding segments. Pronotum trapezoidal, narrowed basally, convex from side to side; apical and basal angles rounded, the latter strongly obtuse; deep median basal fovea opposite scutellum and transverse basal fovea on each side; long, conspicuous setae arising laterally and from ventral side of pronotum. Elytra punctate-striate, punctures rather coarse and each bearing a conspicuous seta similar to those of intervals; intervals flat on disc but distinctly convex apically; margins fringed with long conspicuous setae, most of which arise from epipleura; coloration consists of a sinuate band of darker appressed scales across basal half of elytra and a wider band of similar scales across apical third. Ventral vestiture similar to dorsal with a few patches of long, erect or recurved setae along midline of prosternum and apical slope of mesosternum; prosternal process with apex porrect; protibia (Fig. 4) triangular and flattened, apicolateral angle abruptly narrowed behind, finger-like, lateral
margin with 3 small, acute, well-separated denticles; apical spurs stout, unequal in size. Length 3.5 mm, width 1.3 mm.

**Types.** Holotype (male) and 6 paratypes, Brazil, Piracicaba, São Paulo, 11 November 1965, C. A. Triplehorn (blacklight trap); 2, same data except 9 October 1965; 1, same data except 6 October 1965; 1, same data except 27 January 1966 (in Ohio State University Collection of Insects and Spiders); 4, Brazil, Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, October 1951, M. Alvarenga; 1, same locality and collector, January 1952 (in Departamento de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo); 1, Brazil, Goiânia, Goiás, 17 September 1952, F. Lane; 1, Brazil, Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, April 1921, E. C. Green, at light (in United States National Museum of Natural History).

Two specimens from Creavaux, Bolivia, Rio Pilcomayo, 5–11 August 1964, B. Malkin (in Universidade de São Paulo) also belong to this species, but are not considered paratypes.

**Variation.** No external characters distinguishing the sexes were discovered. The basic pattern of coloration prevails throughout the series. In some, the transverse elytral bands are very broad, the anterior one extending almost to the elytral base and the posterior one covering most of the elytral apex. In one specimen the bands are very pale and scarcely evident. The marginal hairs on the pronotum and elytra are sometimes matted and not prominent. Several specimens have 4 denticles instead of 3 along the outer margin of the protibia and there is some variation in size of the denticles. Range in size: length 3.2–3.8 mm, width 1.2–1.5 mm.

**Remarks.** *Lepidocnemeplatia denticulata* is very similar to *L. murina* and will run to that species in Kaszab’s 1966 key. These two species, along with *L. crenata*, are the only ones with a finger-like apicolateral angle on the protibia. *Lepidocnemeplatia denticulata* and *L. murina* have a similar color pattern and have the lateral margins of the pronotum and elytra densely fringed with long setae.

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**Figs. 1–4.** *Lepidocnemeplatia* spp. 1, 2, left antennae; 3, 4, left protibia and tarsus. 1, 3, *L. sericea* (Horn); 2, 4, *L. denticulata*, n. sp.
Lepidocnemeplatia murina was described from a unique specimen. I have not seen it but, judging from Kaszab's detailed description, it differs from L. denticulata in enough respects to warrant separation. Lepidocnemeplatia denticulata does not have spots of colored scales on the frons and pronotum as Kaszab describes for L. murina; the terminal 3 antennal segments in L. denticulata are more abruptly differentiated from preceding segments and are more uniform in size; the outer margin of the protibia bears 3 (sometimes 4) distinct denticles, not merely “etwas uneben” as described for L. murina; and L. denticulata lacks a horseshoe-shaped impression on the terminal abdominal sternum. There are other discrepancies in the description which I cannot ascribe to L. denticulata, but larger series of specimens of both species are needed to establish relationships and variation.

New Distributional Records

In preparing this manuscript, I encountered several interesting distributional records for other species of Lepidocnemeplatia. Kaszab (1966) lists L. sericea only from California. Boddy (1965:170) reports L. sericea from eastern Washington and Oregon where it is “increasing as a pest of stored food products.” Andrews (1973) states that it is common and widely distributed in California, Arizona, Washington, Oregon and Nevada. He reports that in Fresno County, California, it is a pest of stored lettuce seed and that large numbers come to lights throughout the San Joaquin Valley. I have seen one specimen from Hidalgo County, Texas.

Apparently L. sericea is widespread in Mexico, although it has not been reported from that country before now. I have seen specimens from Yautpec (Morelos), 27 miles south of Caballos (Durango), 5 miles south of Chipilo (Puebla), Huasteca Canyon (Nuevo León), Cocorit (Sonora), Lake Catemaco (Veracruz), 12 miles north of Escalon (Chihuahua), and near El Cien (Baja California Sur).

Lepidocnemeplatia laticollis, described from 3 specimens, has been reported only from Panama. The United States National Museum of Natural History collection yielded the following records for this species: Costa Rica: (1) San José (1,000–1,200 m), 25 May 1925, F. Nevermann (at light); (2) La Caja, San José, February 1932, N. Schmidt; (1) San José (1,000–1,200 m), 14 March 1930, F. Nevermann (flying in house); (1) same locality, 3 February 1931, F. Nevermann (at light). Panama: (2) Taboga, June 1910, A. H. Jennings (from sawdust rat bedding). Venezuela: (2) Guar., near Calabozo, 6–12 February 1969, P. & P. Spangler.

LITERATURE CITED


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SCIENTIFIC NOTE

NOTES ON THE OCCURRENCE OF XYLEBORINUS GRACILIS (EICHHOFF) IN THE UNITED STATES (COLEOPTERA: SCOLYTIDAE)

In 1982, B. C. Weber reported the first occurrence of Xyleborinus gracilis (Eichhoff) in the United States. Her specimens were from McDowell County, North Carolina; one collected in April and one collected in September 1981. Because of the widely separated collecting dates, Weber suggested that the species was introduced and established in the United States. The species was previously known from Argentina, Brazil and the Galapagos Islands.

In the same year, Wood (1982) recorded Xyleborinus aspericauda Eggers from Biscayne Bay, Florida, with additional locations in Central America and South America. This species was placed as a synonym of X. gracilis by me (1985).

Recently, a specimen was seen labeled: “USA, Louisiana, Stuart Nat. Forest, 3 km SW Pollack, 13.V.–3.VI.1985, Flt. trap, H. and A. Howden, C. Scholtz.” Thus the distribution of this species is extended from southern Florida and North Carolina to Louisiana. The specimen is in the Canadian National Collection of Insects, Ottawa.

The species is not introduced; instead it is probably now extending its range northward from southern Florida, or it occurs naturally in the southeastern United States but has been overlooked. I believe the former explanation to be correct since considerable collecting has been done in the southeastern states in the past and the species has only recently been found.

Weber (1982) should be consulted for additional information concerning this species.

LITERATURE CITED


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