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A NEW SPECIES OF *CHARIEA* AUDINET-SERVILLE, 1832 (COLEOPTERA, CERAMBYCIDAE, PRIONINAE)

MARCELA L. MONNÉ^{1,2,3}
MIGUEL A. MONNÉ^{1,2,4}

ABSTRACT

A new species of Chariea Audinet-Serville, 1832, C. birai sp. nov., from Peru is described and illustrated. This is the smallest known species of Prioninae.

KEY-WORDS: Anacolini; *Chariea*; Small dimensions; Peru.

INTRODUCTION

Several genera of the tribe Anacolini (Prioninae) have males of very small size (less than 10 mm) as compared to females. Those genera also have the antennae uni- or bilabellate. Two of them, *Chariea* Audinet-Serville, 1832 and *Flabellomorphus* Galileo & Martins, 1990 are distributed in the Amazon Region and they are very scarce in collections. Galileo (1987) pointed out that the differences between *Chariea*, *Anacolus* Berthold, 1827 and *Rhodocharis* Lacordaire, 1868 exist in that the antennae are bilabellate and the abdomen reduced and recurved in *Chariea* while in *Anacolus* and *Rhodocharis*, the antennae are unilabellate and the abdomen is not reduced or recurved. Galileo & Martins (1990) reiterated those differences and described *C. longispina*.

The genus *Chariea* has three species: *C. cyanea* Audinet-Serville from French Guiana, Brazil (Amazonas), Peru and Bolivia (La Paz), *C. lepesmei* Tippmann, 1956 from French Guiana, and *C. longispina* Galileo & Martins, 1990 from Brazil (Pará) and French Gui-

ana (Monné, 2006). Here we describe the male of a new species of *Chariea* from Peru, and it is, to our knowledge, the smallest known member of Prioninae.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Abbreviations cited in the text: USNM, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., United States.

TAXONOMY

Chariea birai sp. nov. (Figs. 1, 2)

Male: Integument dark brown to black with metallic reflections, except antennae orange brownish. Surface of the head with less metallic reflection, densely punctate-reticulate. Eyes deeply notched, finely faceted; lower lobe more than three times as tall as gena

¹ Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Museu Nacional, Departamento de Entomologia, Quinta da Boa Vista, São Cristóvão, CEP 20940-040, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil.

² CNPq Researcher.

³ E-mail: mlmonne2@gmail.com

⁴ E-mail: monne@uol.com.br



FIGURES 1-3: (1, 2) *Chariea birai* sp. nov., holotype male: (1) dorsal habitus; (2) lateral habitus. (3) *Chariea longispina* holotype male.

below it; upper lobes separated by about one and a half times greatest width of scape. Antennae extending to the middle of prothorax, scape subtriangular in shape; articles of the flagellum biflabellate; articles 3 to 11 with dorsal longitudinal carinae extending by the process of each article of the flagellum.

Prothorax with acute lateral projection slightly behind middle; pronotum with oblique ovoid raised prominence each side of the middle. Surface densely alveolate punctate except at the dorsal prominences. Prosternal process projected behind, covering the mesosternum, as large as width of procoxae, densely punctate. Mesosternal process concave in the middle, as broad as width of mesocoxae.

Elytra not covering the membranous wings, with parallel sides, apex largely rounded, the distal marginal angles provided with a minute spine. Surface with dense, fine and confluent punctation.

Legs very short, femorae and tibiae sublinear. Abdomen very reduced, last urosternite with apical margin rounded.

Measurements, in mm, male: Total length (frons to the apex of the elytron), 4.2; prothorax length, 1.2; prothorax width at its widest point, 1.8; elytral length, 2.2; humeral width, 2.8.

Type material: Holotype male, PERU, Madre de Dios: Tambopata Wildlife Reserve, 30 km SW Puerto Maldonado, 12°50' S, 69°20'W, 290 m, 15-31.X.1982, Joseph J. Anderson col. (USNM).

Etymology: The specific name is in honor to Ubirajara Ribeiro Martins de Souza, "Bira", our dear friend who recently passed away.

Remarks: The new species is distinguished from the other three species in the genus as follows: *C. birai* (Figs. 1, 2) differs from *C. cyanea*, *C. lepesmei*, and

C. longispina by the smaller dimensions and coloration, in *C. longispina* (Fig. 3) the prothorax is orange and there are an acute spine in the distal marginal angle of the elytra and in *C. cyanea* the integument is brown reddish with violet blue reflections.

RESUMO

Uma espécie nova de Chariea Audinet-Serville, 1832, C. birai sp. nov., do Peru é descrita e ilustrada; acreditamos que seja o menor Prioninae conhecido.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Anacolini; *Chariea*; Pequenas dimensões; Peru.

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