

## A checklist of the Scarabaeoidea (Coleoptera) of Panama

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### Abstract

The 541 species of Scarabaeoidea known to occur in Panama are listed. Synonymies are included when present. Names placed in new synonymy are *Pelidnota hirsutiphallica* Ratcliffe and Jameson (= *P. pubes* Ohaus) and *Bolax vittatus* Casey (= *B. magnus* Bates). All taxa are accompanied by an abbreviated reference to the original literature citation wherein they were described. A list of provinces in Panama in which each species is known to occur is also provided.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Scarabaeoidea, Panama, checklist

### Introduction

The Scarabaeoidea is a large, diverse, cosmopolitan group of beetles. It has about 35,000 species known and almost 200 new species are being described each year. Scarabaeoids have diversified into most habitats, and they are fungivores, herbivores, necrophages, coprophages, saprophages, and carnivores. Even though they are prominent members of the entomofauna, they are still poorly known taxonomically. The first attempt at an identification manual for the Central American Scarabaeoidea was written by Bates (1886-1890) in the *Biologia Centrali-Americana* series. Since that time, nothing of a comprehensive nature has ever been written. The selected insect groups treated in Quintero and Aiello's (1992) *Insects of Panama and Mesoamerica* are only the tip of a very large iceberg, and the volume covered only the Passalidae out of all the scarabaeoids.

This is the first checklist devoted exclusively to the all the scarabaeoid beetles of Panama. It was compiled (with specimen verification wherever possible rather than simply taken at face value from catalogs) from traditional sources such as the *Coleopterorum Catalogus*, Blackwelder's (1944) checklist of the Coleoptera of Mexico, Central America, the West Indies, and South America, and Blackwelder and Arnett's (1974) checklist of the