

Description of a new species and new country records of *Ancognatha* Erichson (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae) from Colombia

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Abstract

A new species, *Ancognatha veliae*, from the Chocó Province, Colombia is described and its morphology and taxonomic position are discussed. The species *Ancognatha atacazo* Kirsch, *A. castanea* (Erichson), and *A. horrida* Endrödi are recorded as new country records for Colombia.

Key words: *Ancognatha*, new species, Coleoptera, Scarabaeoidea, Dynastinae, Chocó, Colombia

Introduction

The genus *Ancognatha* Erichson (Dynastinae: Cyclocephalini) includes a total of 18 species, which are widely distributed from the southwestern United States to Bolivia (Ratcliffe 2003). Although six species have been recorded from Colombia (Endrödi 1966, 1985; Restrepo *et al.* 2003) a recent review of the specimens in the personal collection of the one of us (L.C.P) revealed three additional new country records for *A. atacazo* Kirsch (Quindío, Tolima, Valle), *A. castanea* (Erichson) (Nariño), and *A. horrida* Endrödi (Nariño). Those species along with *A. humeralis* Burmeister, *A. lutea* Erichson, *A. matilei* Dechambre, *A. scarabaeoides* Erichson, *A. ustulata* Burmeister, *A. vulgaris* Arrow, and the new species described herein bring the country total to ten species. With these new discoveries, Colombia now has more than 50% of the known species of *Ancognatha*.

The distribution of *Ancognatha*, in Colombia, is associated with high mountains (Pardo-Locarno 1994, 2000; Pardo-Locarno *et al.* 2003; Restrepo *et al.* 2003). This orogenic pattern coincides with that recorded for the five species found in Mexico (Morón *et al.* 1997) and for the five Panamanian and Costa Rican species (Ratcliffe 2003). In