

A new species of *Coleophora* (Lepidoptera: Coleophoridae: Coleophorinae) from the Galápagos Islands, Ecuador

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Abstract

Coleophora darwini sp. nov., is described from the Galápagos Islands. This is the first record of the family Coleophoridae for the Galápagos. Adults were reared from larvae found mining leaves of *Amaranthus andersonii* Howell (Amaranthaceae) on Pinzón Island. Adults of the species also were collected at light on the islands of Española and Pinta. *Coleophora darwini* is similar to *C. intexta* Meyrick, 1917 from Peru. Adults, and male and female genitalia of both species, as well as the larval case of *C. darwini*, are illustrated and morphological characters distinguishing the two species are presented. A lectotype is formally designated for *C. intexta*.

Key words: *Coleophora*, Coleophoridae, Galápagos, *Amaranthus*

Introduction

Coleophora is one of the largest genera of Lepidoptera with 1326 described species and numerous undescribed ones worldwide (Baldizzone *et al.* 2006). The larvae of most species of *Coleophora* are leaf miners or seed miners in various primarily dicotyledonous plants. Most species occur in the Northern Hemisphere. In contrast, only 11 species have been reported from the Neotropical Region (Pastrana 1963; Frías *et al.* 1996; Wolf 1999). Although numerous undescribed species from the Northern Hemisphere reside in collections, the number of undescribed species from the Neotropical Region appears to be very small (J.-F. Landry, unpublished data) and probably reflects a much lower diversity in that part of the world. The material forming the basis of this study was collected by Bernard Landry, who has conducted extensive surveys of Lepidoptera in the Galápagos Islands, documented the first records of several families of microlepidoptera, and described many new endemic species from these islands (Heppner & Landry 1994a; Heppner & Landry 1994b; Landry & Landry 1998; Landry & Neunzig 1998; Landry 2001a; Landry 2001b;