New Agrilus Curtis species from mistletoe in México (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

HENRY A. HESPENHEIDE
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Box 951606 Los Angeles, CA 90095-1606.
E-mail : hahiii@ucla.edu

Abstract

Agrilus andersoni Hespenheide, new species, from the genus Phoradendron and A. howdenorum Hespenheide, new species, collected on “mistletoe,” are described, illustrated, and compared to the related A. turnbowi Nelson from Texas which is also known to use the genus Phoradendron as a larval host.

key words: Agrilus, Buprestidae, México, mistletoe, new species, Phoradendron, Viscaceae

Introduction

The plant genus Phoradendron includes a moderately large number of species of mistletoes in the family Viscaceae (or Santalaceae, s. lat.). Anderson (1994) has reviewed the weevil genera that use species of Phoradendron as hosts, including three genera in the Conoderinae (as Zygopinae) and Cionomimus (Burke 1982) and Smicraulax (Burke & Hafernik 1971) in the Anthonomini. Mistletoes are infrequent hosts of Agrilus Curtis, 1825. Nelson (1990) described Agrilus turnbowi from specimens reared from Phoradendron in Texas. The genus Agrilus is by far the largest genus in the Buprestidae in México with literally hundreds of undescribed species (Hespenheide 1989, 1996). Describing small numbers of species of Agrilus is certainly not preferable to larger studies, but the known and interesting biology of this distinct species group warrants their publication.


Agrilus andersoni Hespenheide, new species
(Figs. 1–3)

Description. Holotype male: Moderately robust, flattened above, more convex below in cross section, 5.8 mm long, 1.6 mm wide; purplish-red on most of front, pronotum, half the length of the elytra beyond anterior 1/3, meso- and metasternum, and abdomen beneath, elytra and abdomen with coppery reflections, front metallic olive-green between eyes and on anterior faces of anterior femora, otherwise dark purple, including prehumeral carinae and basal depression of pronotum and apical 1/6 of elytra; setae pale, recumbent and inconspicuous on pronotum and beneath, denser and semi-erect on prosternal process, golden and denser on