



Three new species of Neotropical *Tropisternus* Solier (Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae)

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The water scavenger beetle genus *Tropisternus* Solier, 1834, is one of the most common and recognizable taxa of aquatic beetles in the New World. As presently defined, the genus contains 60 species (Hansen 1999, Short & Hebauer 2006) and ranges from northern Canada to the southern tip of South America. The senior author (PJS) conducted a full revision of this taxonomically difficult genus for his PhD dissertation nearly fifty years ago (Spangler 1960). For the next several decades, PJS continued to update, revise, correct, and incorporate new material into this massive work. This paper makes available three new names of *Tropisternus* in preparation for the eventual publication of this authoritative treatment of the genus. It should be noted for those using the keys given in Spangler (1960) that the interpretation of some of the names proved incorrect following the examination of types; the key should be used with extreme caution particularly for Neotropical taxa.

A total of 14 specimens of the three new species were examined for this study, which are deposited in the following institutions: AMNH: American Museum of Natural History (L. Herman), KSEM: University of Kansas Natural History Museum (A. Short), MCZ: Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (P. Perkins), NMNH: National Museum of Natural History (W. Steiner). The term meso- and metaventrite and their derivatives replace the more familiar terms meso- and metasternum.

Tropisternus (Pristoternus) phyllisae Spangler & Short, sp. n.

Type material: Holotype (male): “SURINAM; Krakka/ Phedra road, x-25-62/ tiny forest pool/ Borys Malkin” (NMNH). **Paratypes (2)**: same data as holotype 1 female, 1 male (NMNH, KSEM).

Diagnosis: This species is similar to *T. apicalpis* (Chevrolat, 1834) and *T. chalybeus* Castelnau, 1840 but differs from both of those species by the much larger pubescent area on the metafemur, the broader and less convex body form, and the base of the pronotum that is narrower than the base of the elytra.

Description: Body length 9.9–10.2 mm; greatest body width 5.9–6.1 mm. **Color:** Dorsal surface of head, pronotum, and elytra black with greenish tinge; elytral margins appearing slightly bronzed. Pronotum with two small, elongate, black spots near basal margin, each spot about half way between midline of pronotum and lateral margins. Labrum dark reddish brown. Basal 6 antennal segments testaceous, remainder dark reddish brown. Labial and maxillary palpi testaceous but apices slightly darker. Ventral surface black except inflexed portion of pronotum, epipleura, trochanter, sternal keel between forecoxae, femoral apices, and tarsi dark reddish brown. **Male: Head:** Finely, densely punctate except an interocular series of 24 to 28 coarse, setigerous punctures and an anterolateral series of 22 to 24 coarse, setigerous punctures. Labrum finely, moderately densely punctate. Last segment of maxillary palpus with sensory region very small, confined to apex. Mentum moderately coarsely, densely punctate; submentum similarly punctate laterally. **Thorax:** Pronotum weakly sinuate laterally, bisinuate basally, slightly narrower at base than base of elytra; posterolateral angles obtuse, feebly rounded; finely densely punctate similarly to head but a few coarser punctures intermingled laterally; finer punctures separated by their width; mediolateral series of 15 to 19 coarse, setigerous punctures and an anterolateral series of 9 to 12 coarse, setigerous punctures coalesced into a single setigerous pit. Elytra finely, densely punctate; punctures at base similar to those on pronotum, discal and apical punctures finer; with 3 series of coarse, setigerous punctures, 1 sutural, 1 medial, and 1 lateral; also a dense row of coarse punctures adjacent to epipleura; and 9 rows of fine punctures