



A new sap beetle (Nitidulidae: Nitidulinae) genus from the Neotropics, with commentary on the *Pocadius* complex of genera

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Abstract

Neohebascus tischeckini, **new genus/new species**, is described based on three specimens, one from French Guiana and two from Ecuador. This new taxon is the first nitidulid known from the New World with a lamellate-like antennal club in both the male and female. The genus/species is illustrated and diagnosed from other Neotropical Nitidulinae. A discussion of *Pocadius* complex circumscription and classification also is provided.

Key words: Nitidulidae, Nitidulinae, *Pocadius* complex, taxonomy, sap beetle

Introduction

Neotropical Nitidulidae possess some of the most speciose genera in the family, e.g. *Camptodes* Erichson and *Colopterus* Erichson. However many monotypic genera are also endemic to the region, e.g. *Amborotubus* Leschen & Carlton, *Hyleopocadius* Jelínek, *Lordyrops* Reitter, *Niliodes* Murray, and others. Some globally distributed taxa are also known to have their highest species diversity in the Neotropics, e.g. *Pocadius* Erichson and *Stelidota* Erichson, which both have more than 50% of their species diversity in the region. The former was recently monographed and revised (Cline 2008), and the latter is currently under revision.

Pocadius complex genera found in the New World include: *Hebascus*, *Hyleopocadius*, *Pocadius*, and *Teichostethus* (sensu Cline 2008, based on Kirejtshuk & Leschen 1998 and Kirejtshuk 2006). Herein, a new genus is described that possesses affinities to *Hebascus* Erichson, which is currently regarded as a close relative of *Pocadius* based on external and internal morphological characters (Cline 2005, Cline unpublished data). The most recent treatment of *Hebascus* was completed by Jelínek (1975), wherein the genus was fully described, the type species for the genus was designated (*Hebascus helvolus* Erichson), the inclusive species were listed and characterized, and the genus was comprehensively and clearly differentiated from the genus *Teichostethus* Sharp. The new genus *Neohebascus*, although externally most similar to *Hebascus* and somewhat similar to *Teichostethus* and *Pocadius*, is characterized by significant differences in antennal, mouthpart, and genitalic features. No definitive characters suggest a close relationship to *Hyleopocadius*. However, Jelínek (1977) provided an accurate definition and diagnosis of this taxon as well.

Methods

Dissection, identification, and analysis of more than 5,000 exemplars of New World *Pocadius* complex taxa, representing all known New World genera/species, were undertaken to thoroughly describe and diagnose the new taxon. Drs. Alexey Tischechkin (LSAM) and Zack Falin (SNEC) provided the three specimens from which the new taxon is described. The following museums were instrumental in providing other comparative