



A new North American genus of Hetaeriinae (Coleoptera: Histeridae), with descriptions of six new species from the U.S.A. and Mexico

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Abstract

Renclasea n. gen., a genus of the Hetaeriinae (Histeridae), with six species, *R. skellei* n. sp. (United States: Florida and Georgia), *R. falli* n. sp. (United States: California), *R. helavai* n. sp. (United States: Arizona), *R. mexicana* n. sp. (Mexico: Hidalgo), *R. occidentalis* n. sp. (United States: Arizona and New Mexico) and *R. cazieri* n. sp. (United States: Arizona), are described, illustrated and diagnosed. The status of two female specimens of *Renclasea* from western Texas, apparently closely related to *R. occidentalis*, remains uncertain. The only host record available for the genus is an association of *R. mexicana* with undetermined species of *Neivamyrmex* army ants.

Key words: Coleoptera, Histeridae, Hetaeriinae, *Renclasea*, new genus, new species, myrmecophily, *Neivamyrmex*

Introduction

Although the North American fauna of the obligate myrmecophilous and termitophilous histerid subfamily Hetaeriinae has attracted and fascinated taxonomists and naturalists for a long time (e.g., Wheeler 1908) and is not overwhelmingly rich, its species remain largely unrevised (Kovarik & Caterino 2001). The existence of numerous undescribed species has been reported (Kovarik & Caterino 2001). Moreover, even the process of initial species discovery may be incomplete in light of the collection of a new species of *Hippeutister* Reichensperger, 1935, a genus new to the US fauna, in California in the mid 2000s (Caterino & Tishechkin 2008). Revisions for only three genera are published (*Hetaerius* Erichson, 1857; Martin 1922; *Terapus* Marseul, 1862; Hinton 1945; *Hippeutister*: Caterino & Tishechkin 2008), but the former two are outdated and poorly illustrated and so not reliable for species identification.

The major taxonomic impediment with the North American hetaeriine fauna has been incorrect and poorly justified generic assignment of some species. One such case was resolved recently with the description of the genus *Aritaerius* Kovarik & Tishechkin (2004) for a species previously referred to *Chrysetaerius* Reichensperger, 1923. Another is the case of North American species of *Euclasea* Lewis, 1888. This neotropical genus has had a confused status dating back almost to the date of its erection. Most of the taxonomic confusion and species misplacements in *Euclasea* were clarified by Tishechkin (2007). The only remaining taxonomic problem revolves around the placement of several similar, undescribed North American hetaeriine species. Their membership in *Euclasea* was first proposed by Helava *et al.* (1985: 252–254), who did not study authentic material for this genus, incorrectly basing their concept of *Euclasea* on those North American species. This mistake was perpetuated by Kovarik and Caterino (2001). Tishechkin (2007) noted that species of *Euclasea sensu* Helava *et al.* (1985) belong to an apparently undescribed genus, but did not take any other actions.