A new brachypterous genus of Platypyllini (Orthoptera, Tettigoniidae, Pseudophyllinae) from Colombia

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Abstract

Brachyplatyphylloides riosi gen. et sp. nov. from the eastern Andean foothills of Colombia is described. Among the Platypyllini it is exceptional for having greatly reduced wings. As in several other members of the tribe, only the male sports a conspicuous coloration, which is briefly discussed.

Key words: sexual dimorphism, night vision in insects, Andean foothills

Introduction

A new species of Pseudophyllinae from the eastern Andean foothills of Colombia has been discovered. The brachypterous katydid with sexually-dimorphic coloration apparently belongs to the neotropical tribe Platypyllini. This is one of the larger tribes of the mostly tropical and very diverse subfamily Pseudophyllinae. It so far comprises 16 genera and 65 valid species (Eades et al.), which usually can be fairly easily recognized by the typical shape of the tegmina: in lateral view of the insect the dorsal or anal margin of the tegmen is curved, especially its rear end, while the ventral or costal margin is almost straight. Only some of the conspicuously spiny and robust species of the genus Choeroparnops have reduced tegmina. To accommodate the delicate new species with strongly reduced tegmina it is necessary to create an additional genus. With the discovery of this katydid the number of genera and species of Platypyllini known from Colombia rises to 8 and 14 respectively (corresponding to an updated checklist, Chamorro et al. in prep.). And there are species waiting to be described.