Zootaxa 3587: 65–77 (2012)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:5BDF9E47-DC9C-4A56-9810-93E12F375BE9

Immatures of *Dicrepidius* Eschscholtz, 1829 and *Dipropus* Germar, 1839 (Elateridae, Elaterinae, Ampedini: Dicrepidiina)

SÔNIA A. CASARI[1,2] & GABRIEL BIFFI[1]

[1]*Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, Caixa Postal 42494; 04218-970 São Paulo, São Paulo, BRAZIL*
[2]*Corresponding author. E-mail: casari@usp.br*

Abstract

The larva of *Dicrepidius ramicornis* (Palisot de Beauvois) and pupa of *Dipropus brasilianus* (Germar) are described. The larva of *D. brasilianus* is redescribed. The immatures of both species are illustrated. Comparisons among the known larvae of *Dipropus* species and between the two genera are presented. A provisional key to Dicrepidiina genera with known larvae is provided.

Key words: Brazil, Coleoptera, genera, key

Introduction

The subtribe Dicrepidiina includes 35 genera and about 1,520 species, distributed in every tropical area of the world. Sixteen genera and about 380 species are recorded from the Neotropical Region. The genus *Dicrepidius* Eschscholtz is formed by 12 species, occurring on North, Central, and South America, and the Antilles. Two species are recorded from Brazil and their immature forms are unknown. The genus *Dipropus* Germar includes about 150 species occurring in North, Central and South America, and the Antilles. About 30 species are recorded from Brazil (Blackwelder 1944; Casari 2008, 2009).

The immature forms of this group are poorly known. The majority of the studies on larvae are related to the characterization of subfamilies and tribes, and typically based on a limited diversity of taxa. A phylogeny of the Elateridae based on larval characters was conducted by Hyslop (1917), and the Elaterinae larvae were characterized by body cylindrical or subcylindrical, ninth abdominal segment never emarginate and the pleural areas always concealed or reduced. The larvae of the tribe Elaterini (including Dicrepidiini) were characterized by nasale unidentate, ninth abdominal segment ending in a conspicuous spine and transverse muscular impressions on the abdominal tergites very conspicuous. The presence of these tergal impressions separate the two subtribes: in Elaterina they are parallel with the anterior and posterior margins of the tergites, while in Dicrepidiina they are obliquely placed upon the tergites. Böving & Craighead (1931) presented a key and a brief characterization to subfamilies of Elateridae. Stibick (1979) analyzed the relationships and classification of the subfamilies and tribes of Elateridae based on adults and larval characters. He presented keys to subfamilies for adults and larvae, but only to tribes for adults.

According to Becker (1991) larvae of Ampedini (that includes Dicrepidiina) usually have the nasale unidentate, the ninth abdominal segment ending in a short but conspicuous spine, and conspicuous transverse muscular impressions on abdominal tergites. In Dogger's (1991) key, the *Dipropus* larva is characterized as: "A9 tergite with tubercles smaller than punctures; striae of abdominal striate impressions straight and parallel" and *Dicrepidius* larva as: "A9 tergite with tubercles larger than punctures; striae of abdominal striate impressions frequently appearing bent or broken".

Up to now, larvae of only three genera and eight species of Dicrepidiina were described. The majority of described larvae belong to the genus *Dipropus* (described as *Ischiodontus* Candèze): *Dipropus oblitus* (Candèze) (later synonymyzed under *D. simplex* (LeConte)) from USA, was illustrated to characterize the tribe Elaterini

Accepted by S. Wells: 29 Oct. 2012; published: 17 Dec. 2012