The tribe Dysoniini part II: The genus Markia (Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae; Phaneropterinae), new species and some clarifications

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Abstract

This paper clarifies the status of the species of the genus Markia White, 1862, also providing new distribution data. It describes M. erinaceus from Peru, M. arizae n.sp. from the Amazonian foothills of Colombia and Ecuador, M. sarriai n.sp. from the Colombian Biogeographic Chocó, M. espinachi n.sp. from Costa Rica; as well as the true male of M. major (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1878), clarifying the real distributional range this latter species. M. longivertex n. syn., is proposed as a synonym of M. major. The colour polymorphism in M. hystrix (Westwood, 1844) is discussed and its distribution range is defined. A key to the species of Markia is provided.

Key words: biodiversity, camouflage, lichen, Neotropics, Phaneropterinae, colour polymorphism, rainforest, Usnea

Introduction

At the time of writing this paper the genus Markia White, 1862 includes three species that are closely related to species of the genera Machima Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1878, Machimoides Rehn, 1949, Apolinaria Rehn, 1949, and Lichenodraculus Braun, 2011. The type species of Markia was described in 1844 by Westwood as Phaneroptera hystrix from an unknown locality in Colombia. Subsequent to White’s description of the Markia, Walker (1869) created the genus Tricala for the very same species. In his 1871 supplement he corrected this error, misspelling the name (Mackia) which was dedicated to the diplomat Edward Walhouse Mark, author of numerous watercolours and drawings depicting Colombian country life and landscapes. Later on in 1878 Brunner von Wattenwyl, obviously still unaware of White’s description of Markia, described the genus Machima, including in addition to “Phaneroptera” hystrix the new species M. major, also from Colombia, and Phaneroptera phyllacantha Burmeister, 1838. Kirby in his catalog (1906), designated the latter as type species of Machima, and included in Markia and Markia hystrix and also Brunner’s Machima major. Finally Márquez Mayaudón (1965) described Markia longivertex from Veracruz, Mexico, extending the distribution of the genus to Central America. The Markia species and their relatives imitate lichens of the genus Usnea in their adult stage (pers. obs.).