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A new species and key to species of the agriculturally important sharpshooter genus *Sonesimia* Young (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Cicadellini)

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Abstract

The new sharpshooter species *Sonesimia nessimiani* is described from Bolivia based on specimens collected on sugar cane. An identification key to males and females of all known species of the genus is given. In addition to the external morphology, color pattern, and male genitalia, female genital structures are also described and illustrated. Notes comparing the new species with the remaining six *Sonesimia* species are provided.

Key words: Auchenorrhyncha, Bolivia, leafhopper, morphology, taxonomy

Introduction

The sharpshooter genus *Sonesimia* Young is known from southeastern and southern Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina, and includes six previously described species (Young 1977; Cavichioli & Sakakibara 1984): *S. chinai* (Costa Lima, 1963), *S. cleusae* Cavichioli & Sakakibara, 1984, *S. dimidiata* Young, 1977, *S. grandis* (Walker, 1851), *S. grossa* (Signoret, 1854), and *S. rafaeli* Cavichioli & Sakakibara, 1984. Some species of *Sonesimia* are of known agricultural importance. According to Costa Lima (1963), *S. chinai* is harmful to millet and other plants. The type-species, *S. grossa*, is a known vector of the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa* Wells *et al.*, 1987, which causes the Citrus Variegated Chlorosis—CVC (Fundecitrus 1999). The latter species can also play an important role in the transmission of *X. fastidiosa* in coffee plantations (Silva *et al.* 2007).

Species of *Sonesimia* can be distinguished by the following combination of features: (1) body with ground color yellow to brownish-yellow, generally with pair of posteriorly divergent dark brown to black stripes on crown and pronotum; (2) hind femur generally with several microsetae on apical portion; (3) subgenital plates short and triangular, with numerous microsetae regularly dispersed on ventral surface; (4) aedeagus with one or two basal processes on shaft; (5) female abdominal sternite VII with pair of posterolateral processes; (6) second valvulae of ovipositor without teeth.

In this paper a new species of *Sonesimia* from Bolivia is described and illustrated based on specimens collected on sugar cane. An identification key to males and females of all known species of the genus is given. Notes comparing the new species with the remaining *Sonesimia* species are also provided.