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Review of the *Ambrysus stali* La Rivers species complex (Heteroptera: Nepomorpha: Naucoridae) with the description of a new species from Mesoamerica

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Abstract

The Neotropical *Ambrysus stali* La Rivers species complex is reviewed and includes *A. bifidus* La Rivers & Nieser, *A. scoli* La Rivers, *A. stali* La Rivers, and *A. tricuspis* La Rivers. *Ambrysus oblongulus* Montandon is removed as a member of this complex. Features uniting these species are related to male genitalia and associated structures. *Ambrysus maya* n. sp. is the fifth species in the complex and is described from Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico based on specimens from recent collecting and museum collections.

Key words: Naucoridae, *Ambrysus*, new species, Mesoamerica, Belize, Guatemala, Mexico

Introduction

The genus *Ambrysus* (Naucoridae: Cryphocricinae: Ambrysini) currently comprises 79 described species and its range extends from the northern United States (La Rivers 1951) south to Argentina (La Rivers 1971). Throughout much of its range in the Neotropics, the taxonomy of the genus is poorly understood because of the lack of taxonomic keys, comprehensive regional comparative treatments of species, and illustrations of diagnostic characters. Several species complexes within *Ambrysus* have been referenced, although these are not recognized as formal taxa. One such species complex, previously known as the "*oblongulus* group" (La Rivers & Nieser 1972), includes *Ambrysus bifidus* La Rivers & Nieser (1972), *Ambrysus scoli* La Rivers (1970), *Ambrysus stali* La Rivers (1962), and *Ambrysus tricuspis* La Rivers (1974), all of which are known only from South America. In Central America, 14 species of *Ambrysus* are known (Herrera 2013, Sites & Shepard 2015), of which only *A. oblongulus* Montandon from Costa Rica was in this complex, but is being removed herein.

Presented here are a review of species in the *Ambrysus stali* species complex and the description of *Ambrysus maya* n. sp., a member of this complex from streams in Mesoamerica.

Materials and methods

Specimens were obtained from museum collections, a project concerning aquatic associates of mosquito larvae and pupae in the Sibun and New rivers in Belize, and from collections in Belize by RWS to document the naucorid fauna of the country.

Photographs of the type locality in Belize identified as L-1740 are available in a Locality Image Database via a link from the internet site of the Enns Entomology Museum, University of Missouri. The holotype was measured for body length and width and major structures, and all measurements are in mm. Body length and width also are given as a mean and range for paratypes. Length of the body is measured from the anterior margin of the head to the posterior margin of the abdomen, and width at the widest point, usually across the embolia. Abdominal segment numbers are expressed as Roman numerals. Images of all species were obtained by use of a Leica MZ16 stereo microscope coupled with the Leica Application Suite V4.4 Extended Depth of Focus module, followed by image preparation with Photoshop CS5 (Adobe Systems Inc., San Jose, California). The margin of the subgenital plate is