



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4039.1.8>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:23C77F3B-CEB3-46CA-9EA2-AF137A9E2A91>

A study on the genus *Agrilaxia* Kerremans, 1903 from Venezuela (Coleoptera: Buprestidae: Buprestinae: Anthaxiini)

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Abstract

Study on the genus *Agrilaxia* Kerremans, 1903 from Venezuela. Altogether eight species were recorded from this country, four of them are described in this paper: *Agrilaxia (Agrilaxia) biformis* sp. nov., *A. (A.) michaeli* sp. nov., *A. (A.) stephani* sp. nov. and *A. (A.) venezuelana* sp. nov. All species are illustrated and new species are compared with the most similar/related species. A male of *Agrilaxia (A.) balloui* Fisher, 1942 is described and the male genitalia are illustrated. New country records are given for *Agrilaxia (A.) balloui*, *A. (A.) costaricensis* Obenberger, 1922, *A. (A.) glabra* Bílý & Brůl 2013 and *A. (A.) simillima* Cobos, 1972.

Key words: taxonomy, Coleoptera, Buprestidae, Anthaxiini, *Agrilaxia*, new species, new country records, Venezuela, Neotropical region

Introduction

A short time ago a survey of the species of the genus *Agrilaxia* Kerremans, 1903 from French Guiana was published (Bílý & Brůl 2013). Now I have had an opportunity to study specimens from Venezuela due to the kind help of my colleagues M. Hornburg and S. Gottwald (both Berlin, Germany), including the specimens from the Museum in Maracay (MIZA). The genus was revised by Cobos (1972) who gathered for his revision specimens from all of the most important institutions and private collections but the material from this part of South America was surprisingly very poor. Quite recently the genus was divided into two subgenera (Bílý, 2013): *Agrilaxia* and *Costiptera* Bílý, 2013. Predictably in the material from Venezuela I found species either from French Guiana or Central America and also four unknown species which are described in the present study.

Material and methods

A Canon D-550 digital camera with attached Canon MP-E65mm f/2.8-5x macro lens was used to capture the colour images.

The body length was measured in the middle of the body following the elytral suture (the same for the pronotal and elytral length); width of body means the maximum body width (usually the maximum span between lateral pronotal margins or span between outer margin of humeral callosities). The morphological terminology follows that by Bílý & Brůl, 2013.

The double slash (//) is used for the separating data on the different labels.

Codens used in the text:

HCLA collection of Henry Hespenehde, Los Angeles, California, U. S. A.

MHCB collection of Michael Hornburg, Berlin, Germany