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Four new species of the genus *Thoracophorus* Motschulsky, 1857 for the Neotropical region (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Osoriinae)

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Abstract

Four new species of the genus *Thoracophorus* Motschulsky, 1857 of the Neotropical region are described: *T. verhaaghi* **n. sp.**, *T. zicsii* **n. sp.**, *T. struyvei* **n. sp.**, and *T. perplexus* **n. sp.** The new species originate from French Guiana, Peru, and Ecuador. Similar species *T. filum* Sharp, 1887, *T. proximus* Irmler, 1985, *T. exilis* (Erichson, 1840) and *T. aequalis* Sharp, 1887 are compared to discuss differences between them and the newly described species and their known distribution.

Key words: new species, zoogeography, Neotropics, Osoriinae

Introduction

Specimens of *Thoracophorus* Motschulsky, 1857 collected by T. Struyve, Belgium, in French Guyana included species with several specimens that resembled *T. filum* Sharp, 1887, *T. proximus* Irmler, 1985 and *T. exilis* (Erichson 1840). However, they looked slightly different and inspired me to initiate a detailed study of similar species. Unfortunately, the type series of *Thoracophorus filum* collected by Champion in Guatemala contains only five female specimens. Nevertheless, my study demonstrated that several similar species exist in the Neotropics and can be differentiated mainly by genital characters. In this study new species are described and the differentiating characters of previously known species are provided together with locations known to me.

Material and methods

The material studied in this study is deposited in the following museums and private collections.

AMNH	American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA
BMNH	Natural History Museum, London, Great Britain
FMNH	Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, USA
IRSB	Institute royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique, Brussels, Belgium
KNHM	Kansas Natural History Museum, Snow Entomological Collections, Lawrence, Kansas, USA
NHMH	National Museum of Natrural History, Hungary, Budapest
NHMW	Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria
UIC	Private collection of Ulrich Irmler, Plön, Germany
TSC	Private collection of Tim Struyve, Mechelen, Belgium
MSC	Private collection of Michael Schülke, Berlin, Germany

For the photographs a Makroskop M 420 (Wild Herbrugg) was used in combination with a digital camera (Leica EC3) and CombineZ5 (Hadley 2006) for optimising the depth of focus. The length was measured along midline of tagmata: the head from the anterior margin of clypeus to the posterior edge, the pronotum from the

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