

A remarkable new species of *Trirammatus* Chaudoir (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Pterostichini) from the Valdivian Forest of Chile

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Trirammatus torqueotrochantus* is described from Caramávida, Chile. Males of this species are distinguished by unique femur-length, twisted and falcate trochanters, which are a form unlike that of any described pterostichine. Both sexes are recognizable from other species of *Trirammatus* by the combination of short metepisternum and bicolored legs. The species is included in *Trirammatus* based on the shared condition of having paired sub-tarsal claw setae. The status and characters of genera thought to be near relatives of *Trirammatus*, the evolution of elongate metatrochanters and their relationship to wedge-pushing are briefly discussed. The hind legs of *T. torqueotrochantus*, *Pterostichus (Cylindrocharis) acutipes acutipes*, *P. (Steropus) moestus* and *Acanthoferonia ferox* are illustrated to show relative trochanter lengths.

Key words: Coleoptera, Carabidae, *Trirammatus torqueotrochantus*, new species, Chile

INTRODUCTION

Currently the genus *Trirammatus* Chaudoir includes 22 species arrayed in four subgenera: *Trirammatus* s. str.; *Meraulax* Tschitschérine, *Plagioplatys* Tschitschérine and *Pachymorphus* Chaudoir. This assemblage of species and their division into these groups is entirely a historical vestige and inspection of type specimens and additional material has begun to reveal some clues as to a preferable and character-based system. As in many insect groups, this study of museum specimens suggests a significant undescribed diversity. It would be preferable to describe most of these species in monographs, providing a complete treatment of the systematics and taxonomy of the group. This is a prospect for the future. However, given the highly unusual sex-specific morphological characteristics of individuals of the species described herein and the unfortunate situation that none of the specimens are from natural areas currently managed or protected in Chile, there is a necessary urgency in