

Synopsis on Passalidae family (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea) of Brazil with description of a new species of *Veturius* Kaup, 1871

CLÁUDIO RUY VASCONCELOS DA FONSECA^{1,2} & PEDRO REYES-CASTILLO³

¹ Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia — INPA, Coordenação de Pesquisas em Entomologia, Caixa Postal 478, 69011-970 Manaus, AM, Brasil. rclaudio@inpa.com.br

² Universidade do Estado do Amazonas — UEA; Escola Superior de Ciências da Saúde; Av. Carvalho Leal, 1777, Cachoeirinha - Edifício Adriano Jorge - CEP 69065-001 Manaus/AM

³ Instituto de Ecología A.C., Apartado Postal 63, 91000 Xalapa, Veracruz, México. reyespe@ecologia.edu.mx

Abstract

Even though a huge area of the country remains untouched, two tribes, eight genera and ninety-eight species of Passalidae are found in Brazil until now. Specialists described many taxa and gave both immature and adult taxonomic characteristics, showing bionomic aspects, which are shown in this paper. A checklist of Brazilian species is presented in this study with geographic distribution data. *Veturius criniferous* sp. nov. from Rondônia, Brazil is described and illustrated.

Key words: Brazil; Coleoptera; Passalidae; Taxonomy; Bionomics; *Veturius*

Introduction

Passalidae are Coleoptera insects belonging to the Scarabaeoidea, which present morphological uniformity, pan-tropical distribution, xylophagy and sub-social behavior (Reyes-Castillo, 2000). Six hundred-fifty (650) species are currently known and from these nearly 50% are distributed throughout the Americas. Adult and immature specimens are easily collected from degrading logs and pieces of wood always appearing in large numbers in entomological collections. Conversely, it is a group that has been little studied in Brazil, partly on account of a lack of expert researchers and partly because of raising no commercial interest whatsoever. Nevertheless, scientific literature presents some important contributions provided by Brazilian authors (Moreira 1922; 1925; Luederwaldt 1931a, 1931b; 1941; Pereira 1939; 1941; Pereira & Kloss 1966; Bührnheim 1978; Costa & Fonseca 1986; Bührnheim & Aguiar 1991; Fonseca 1988; Fonseca & Ribeiro 1993; Mouzinho & Fonseca 1998). This opportunity has been taken to compile and synthesize some previous