The Neotropical genera Oxycrepis Reiche and Stolonis Motschulsky: a taxonomic review, key to the described species and description of new Stolonis species from Ecuador (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Loxandrini)

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Abstract

Five species of Stolonis (Carabidae: Loxandrini) are newly described: S. yasuni Will, sp. n., S. spinosus Will, sp. n., S. catenarius Will, sp. n., S. tapiai Will, sp. n. from Yasuni Scientific Station, Orellana Province (previously part of Napo Province), Ecuador and S. scortensis Will, sp. n. with its type locality Reserva Faunística Cuyabeno, Sucumbios Province, Ecuador. A key to adults of Stolonis and Oxycrepis species is provided. Generic concepts for these taxa are briefly reviewed.

Key words: Neotropical ground beetles, species key, female reproductive tract

Introduction

Among Neotropical wetland-inhabiting carabid beetles, members of Loxandrini are prominent. The numerous species in the group, many of which are not easily recognized, offer a substantial taxonomic challenge. One assemblage of species distinctive from other loxandrines is that of Oxycrepis Reiche and its putative relatives.

Stolonis Motschulsky, including Prostolonis Mateu, is currently treated by most authors as a genus of Loxandrini and synonymous with Oxycrepis Reiche (Straneo 1979, Lorenz 1998). Many authors apparently have followed the idea of van Emden (1949:880) that these genera form a group separate from other loxandrines based on “the formation of the pronotum . . . which becomes Anchomenini-like, and the real hind angles . . . lie well in front of the base.” Oxycrepis and Stolonis were ranked as subgenera by van Emden (1949) and Allen and Ball (1980). Additionally, Allen and Ball (1980) discuss the variation in elytral setation and pronotal form and conclude that Oxycrepis is not well