

Three new species of *Empoasca* (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Typhlocybinae: Empoascini) from northern South America

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Abstract

Three new species of the leafhopper genus *Empoasca* are described and illustrated from Ecuador and Colombia. The species are placed in a previously published key and relationships to other species of the genus are discussed.

Key words: new species, *Empoasca*

Introduction

In a previous study of the leafhopper genus *Empoasca* in eastern Peru, (Southern 1982) treated 61 species or species groups. The project that resulted in that paper was originally intended to cover all of South America but was subsequently narrowed geographically due to limitations of time. Several probable new species from countries other than Peru were set aside. Three of those species are described and illustrated here. All fall within the genus concept as expressed by Young (1952) and key to *Empoasca* in that work.

Currently, 146 species of *Empoasca* (and 8 species currently placed in *Solonasca* Ghauri 1974) are known from South America. It is likely that additional species known from Central America (some from Panama) and the Caribbean area occur there as well. Moreover, many additional undescribed species are known to the author. Southern (1982) reviewed the literature related to *Empoasca* of South America. Since that review, DeLong (1982) described two additional *Empoasca* species from Peru, and Paradell (1995) provided a key to the species in Argentina, redescriptions and illustrations of some species, and original descriptions of the females of some species.

Comprehensive studies of the genus *Empoasca* and the tribe Empoascini are needed to clarify species and generic relationships and to provide adequate identification tools (of which almost none exist). Nevertheless, the cosmopolitan distribution of these groups and