



Studies on neotropical Phasmatodea VIII: Revision of the genus *Decidia* Stål, 1875 with the description of a new species from Colombia (Phasmatodea: Pseudophasmatidae: Pseudophasmatinae: Anisomorphini)

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Abstract

The genus *Decidia* Stål, 1875 is revised with an updated description of the genus, descriptions of all four known species, illustrations and keys are provided. The male of the type-species *Decidia soranus* (Westwood, 1859) is described and illustrated for the first time and a re-description of the females is given. Examination of the Colombian *Peruphasma doylei* (Caudell, 1906) has shown this to belong in *Decidia* (**n. comb.**); the male is re-described and the previously unknown female described and illustrated for the first time. Also *Autolyca blapoides* Redtenbacher, 1906 from South Ecuador has proven to belong in *Decidia* and is here transferred (**n. comb.**) with the female re-described and unknown male described and illustrated for the first time. These two species show the genus *Decidia* to contain not only winged but apterous species as well. A very colourful new species, *Decidia magnifica* **n. sp.** from the central Cordillera of Colombia, is described and illustrated from both sexes. The eggs of *Decidia* remain as yet unknown. *Decidia* appears to be restricted to the Andean regions of Central and Southern Colombia and Ecuador above an altitude of 2000 metres, referred to as the biogeographical province Cauca. The genus shows close relation to the Central American *Autolyca* Stål, 1875 and is hence re-transferred from Pseudophasmatini to the tribe Anisomorphini (**rev. stat.**).

Key words: Phasmatodea, Pseudophasmatidae, Pseudophasmatinae, Anisomorphini, *Decidia*, *Decidia blapoides* **n. comb.**, *Decidia doylei* **n. comb.**, *Decidia magnifica* **n. sp.**, *Decidia soranus*, new species, new combination, descriptions, keys, Colombia, Ecuador

Introduction

The present paper is the eighth part of an on-going study of the neotropical Phasmatodea and provides a revision of the rarely known Colombian genus *Decidia* Stål, 1875 (Pseudophasmatidae: Pseudophasmatinae: Anisomorphini). The genus was erroneously placed in the tribe Pseudophasmatini by Zompro (2004) but is obviously very close to the Central American *Autolyca* Stål, 1875, a member of the tribe Anisomorphini. Hence, *Decidia* is here re-transferred to the tribe Anisomorphini (**rev. stat.**).

Decidia was previously known only from the female of its type-species, *Decidia soranus* (Westwood, 1859). *Brachyelena hirsuta* Hebard, 1933, the type-species of *Brachyelena* Hebard, 1933 and also described merely upon a female from central Colombia, was synonymized with *D. soranus* (Westwood) by Zompro (2004). Examination of material in the collections of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia (ANSP)