



New leafhopper species and distribution records of *Gabrita* Walker, 1858 and *Sandersellus* DeLong, 1945 with revised keys to species (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Coelidiinae)

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Abstract

A new species, *Gabrita erwini*, **sp. nov.** in the tribe Gabritini is described and illustrated from Ecuador, representing the first record of the genus and tribe in northwestern South America which extends its distribution across the Neotropical region from eastern localities in the countries of Brazil, French Guiana and Guyana. Three new species of *Sandersellus* in the tribe Sandersellini are described and illustrated: *S. bigladius*, **sp. nov.** from Bolivia, *S. digitatus*, **sp. nov.** from Brazil and *S. bilanceus*, **sp. nov.** from Peru. Brazil is a new record for the genus and tribe and extends the distribution eastward from its formerly known western range in Peru, Bolivia and Panama. Taxonomy is reviewed, a revised key to known males and distribution of the known species of *Gabrita* and *Sandersellus* are provided.

Key words: Cicadellidae, Coelidiinae, Gabritini, Sandersellini, new species, key, distribution, Neotropical

Introduction

The genus *Gabrita* was described by Walker (1858) from a single male specimen from French Guiana, without type designation. Oman (1936) subsequently designated *Gabrita annulivena* Walker as type-species of the genus previously known only from three species from three Neotropical countries, Brazil, French Guiana and Guyana. The genus, *Petalopoda*, junior synonym of *Gabrita*, was established by Spångberg (1879), without type designation. Oman (1936) designated *Petalopoda annulipes* Spångberg (1879) as type-species and later suppressed the generic name as a junior synonym of *Gabrita* (Oman 1938), which was followed by Evans (1947). Metcalf (1964) validated *Petalopoda* as a separate and distinct genus from *Gabrita* in his General Catalogue of Homoptera. Generic synonymy was reinstated following examination of the type specimens in the establishment and revision of the tribe which included four species (Nielson 1983).

Members of Gabritini are unique among coelidiine leafhoppers by virtue of their modified forelegs. The prothoracic femora and tibia are foliaceous and adorned with stout setae along their lateral margins. These features enhance the predatory stance that appears to mimic some predaceous hemipterous species and are believed to be a defense mechanism from natural enemies. All known species have a robust, median, longitudinal clypeal carina which is incomplete and varies in length among species.

The tribe Sandersellini was erected by DeLong (1945) who described and designated *Sandersellus* as type-genus and *S. carinatus* from Peru as type-species. Linnavuori (1956) established the genus *Cixidocoelidia*, designating *C. truncatipennis* as type-species from a single female specimen from Bolivia. In that paper, however, Colombia was cited in his distribution record which does not agree with type locality (Bolivia) on the label. The genus was suppressed as a junior synonym of *Sandersellus* in a revision of the tribe (Nielson 1975).

Members of *Sandersellus* are remarkably similar in general habitus, thus it is virtually impossible to separate males or to accurately associate gender of the same species. However, the male genitalia offer excellent features to separate species. Female characters have not been studied for lack of specimens because all of the known species, except *S. truncatipennis*, were each described from a single male. *S. truncatipennis*