



## New species of Cleridae (Coleoptera) from Morelos, Mexico

JACQUES RIFKIND<sup>1</sup>, VÍCTOR H. TOLEDO<sup>2</sup> & ANGÉLICA Ma. CORONA<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Associate, California State Collection of Arthropods, 3294 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA 95832, U.S.A.

E-mail: clerid@aol.com

<sup>2</sup>CIByC, Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Morelos, Av. Universidad 1001, Col. Chamilpa, Cuernavaca, 62209 Morelos, Mexico.

E-mail: victor.toledo@uaem.mx; acorona@uaem.mx

### Abstract

The new species *Pennasolis opitzi* n. sp., *Cymatodera ignava* n. sp. and *C. tlahuica* n. sp. are described from the Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra de Huautla in Morelos, Mexico.

**Key words:** Clerid fauna, Sierra de Huautla, Epiphloeinae, Tillinae, *Pennasolis*, *Cymatodera*

### Resumen

Se describen como especies nuevas a *Pennasolis opitzi* n. sp., *Cymatodera ignava* n. sp. and *C. tlahuica* n. sp. de la Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra de Huautla in Morelos, México.

**Palabras clave:** fauna de cléridos, Sierra de Huautla, Epiphloeinae, Tillinae, *Pennasolis*, *Cymatodera*

### Introduction

The clerid fauna of Mexico is diverse and speciose, comprising approximately 135 described species (Rifkind, unpublished data). Like Belize and Honduras (Rifkind, 1995, 1996), and the rest of Central America, most of Mexico is still in the exploratory phase cleridologically. With the exception of one report based on collections from north central Mexico (Vaurie, 1952), there have been no recent inventories of its clerid fauna. The incompleteness of our knowledge is highlighted by the fact that even accessible, historically well-collected areas regularly produce previously unseen taxa. This paper describes several new Cleridae species in order to provide names for a systematic faunistic and biogeographic survey of beetles from the seasonal tropical dry forest (TDF) of the Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra de Huautla (REBIOSH), Morelos, Mexico.

Tropical dry forest is the dominant vegetation type in the Mexican Pacific lowlands and adjacent interior regions, such as the Balsas Basin where REBIOSH is located (Rzedowski, 2006). Recent studies have demonstrated that the Mexican TDF possesses great biological diversity and high levels of endemism (Flores & Gerez, 1994; Ceballos & García, 1995; Challenger, 1998). This biodiversity is at risk of degradation because the TDF is threatened by human activities and, most specifically, by a high rate of deforestation (Trejo & Dirzo, 2000). It is therefore imperative that we catalog and describe the biotic component of this diminishing habitat as quickly as possible.

REBIOSH consists of 59,000 hectares of land, including TDF principally. Within its boundaries 939 species of native vascular plants, distributed among 478 genera and 130 families have been recorded (Dorado *et al.*, 2005). The most species-rich families in the reserve are Fabaceae, Poaceae, Asteraceae and Burseraceae. Dominating the landscape are *Conzattia multiflora* Standley, *Lysiloma acapulcense* Benth., *L.*