



Two new flea beetle genera: *Alasia alpina* gen. et sp. nov. from a Costa Rican cloud forest and *Pseudostenophyma* gen. nov. from Brazil (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Alticinae)

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Abstract

Alasia alpina is described as a new genus and species from high altitude cloud forests in Heredia, Costa Rica. Morphologically it is distinctive by its overall smooth shiny surface, dark-brown to black coloration, elongate body form; very long antennae, long, slender femora, broadly triangular, subconcave frons with shagreened surface, elytra weakly striate, and structure of the genitalia and metafemoral spring. It apparently prefers Melastomataceae host plants in the forest understory. It is most similar to *Pseudostenophyma modesta* com. nov. from which it differs in morphology, color, size, altitude of occurrence, and habitat. *Stenophyma elegans* Baly (type species) was discovered not to be congeneric with the other species in that genus *S. modesta* Weise, resulting in *Pseudostenophyma* being established as a new generic name for this taxon (*P. modesta*).

Key words: ALAS Project, flea beetle, host plants, Melastomataceae, Gunneraceae, Gentianaceae

Resumen

Se describe *Alasia alpina* como un género y especie nuevos de la selva nublada alta en Heredia, Costa Rica. Morfológicamente se distingue por la superficie lisa y brillante, de coloración parda a negra, cuerpo alargado, antenas muy largas y fémures largos y delgados, frente ampliamente triangular, semicóncava y finamente rugosa (shagreened), élitros débilmente estriados, por la genitalia y resorte metafemoral. Aparentemente prefiere como planta hospedera a Melastomataceae del sotobosque. La especie más parecida es *Pseudostenophyma modesta* com. nov. de la que se distingue en morfología, color, tamaño, elevación, y hábitat. Se descubrió que *Stenophyma elegans* Baly (especie tipo) no es congénérica con *S. modesta* Weise, la otra especie en este género, por lo que se describe *Pseudostenophyma* como un género nuevo, resultando la combinación: *P. modesta*.

Introduction

The genus *Stenophyma* Weise has been known from two species, the type species *S. elegans* Baly, 1877, and *S. modesta* Weise, 1921, both described from Brazil. Based only on published data, the geographical distribution of *Stenophyma* is poorly known. As part of the Arthropods of La Selva project (ALAS) in Costa Rica, *S. modesta* has recently been recorded for the first time from Central America (Furth et al., 2003) from a lowland tropical rainforest canopy, collected primarily by fogging of *Pentaclethra macroloba* (Willd.) O. Ktze. (Fabaceae), *Virola koschnyi* Warb. (Myristicaceae), as well as a few other trees. Nothing further is known about the distribution or habitat of *S. elegans*.