



A new species of *Melzerella* Lima from Bolivia (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Lamiinae: Aerenicini) with a key to known species

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Abstract

A new species of *Melzerella* Lima is described from Santa Cruz Department, Bolivia. A key to the four known species is provided, along with color photographs documenting their vibrant patterns.

Key words: key, biodiversity, distribution, longhorned woodborers, neotropics

Resumen

Una especie nueva de *Melzerella* del Departamento de Santa Cruz, Bolivia es descrita. Una clave para las cuatro especies que se conocen es incluida, con fotografías a color para documentar sus patrones vibrantes.

Palabras-clave: clave, biodiversidad, distribución, longicorneos, neotrópicos

Introduction

The genus *Melzerella* Lima, 1931 contains some of the most strikingly colored and patterned Cerambycidae in the world. They are collected uncommonly and most specimens have been taken at lights. The genus was proposed by Lima (1931), based on *M. lutzi* which was described from Brazil. Lima indicated that the genus fit the tribe Aerenicini (Lamiinae) based on the open mesocoxal cavities; third abdominal ventrite much shorter than either the first or fifth; eyes undivided; head not retractile, and presence of bifid tarsal claws. He defined the genus based on the elongate, cylindrical body; short, vertical frons; large, deeply emarginate eyes with lower lobes larger than upper lobes; short genae; cylindrical prothorax without lateral tubercles, and elongate, truncate elytra possessing dentiform or spinose processes at the suture and apicolaterad. Subsequently, a second species, *M. costalimai* from Venezuela, was described by Seabra (1961). A third species, *M. huedepohli* from Bolivia, was described by Monné (1979). In that paper, he reviewed the three known species and provided an identification key. Martins and Galileo (1998) revised the tribe Aerenicini and provided a new key to the species of *Melzerella*. Herein, we describe a fourth *Melzerella* species and provide a key for identification of all the species.

Material and methods

During the last 10 years, numerous collecting expeditions to Bolivia involving many coleopterists were made to multiple localities from September through May. These expeditions are part of an ongoing project to survey the cerambycid fauna and develop an identification guide to the Bolivian species. All known collections of Bolivian Cerambycidae (acronyms and collections listed below) in the USA, Brazil, Bolivia, and Germany were examined