



***Buprestis bruchi* Obenberger 1928, a new synonym of *Buprestis striata* Fabricius 1775 (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)**

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A single species of the nominate genus *Buprestis* Linnaeus 1758 (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) was described from South America: *B. bruchi* Obenberger 1928. Recently, in response to a request, images of the type specimen (Fig. 1) and attendant labels were sent by colleagues at the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Buenos Aires, Argentina, where the type is housed. Although subgeneric placement was not given in the recent world catalogue (Bellamy 2008), it is clear from this photograph that it should be placed in the subgenus *B. (Cypriacis)* Casey 1909 and in fact is conspecific with *B. striata* Fabricius 1775. The two color forms of *B. striata* (Figs. 2, 3) are from specimens in the first authors' collection.

Buprestis striata Fabricius 1775: 217; Obenberger 1930: 411; Helfer 1941: 144; Nelson, *et al.* 2008: 88; Bellamy 2008: 1072.

Buprestis impedita Say 1833: 36; Nelson, *et al.* 2008: 88; Bellamy 2008: 1072.

Buprestis canadensis Casey 1909: 124; Nelson, *et al.* 2008: 88; Bellamy 2008: 1072.

Buprestis obscura Casey 1909: 125; Nelson, *et al.* 2008: 88; Bellamy 2008: 1072.

Buprestis bruchi Obenberger 1928: 183; 1930: 409; Blackwelder 1944: 313; Bellamy 2008: 1031. **New Synonymy**

Published type locality: "Argentinien, Prov. Buenos Ayres, Habitation Sra Merkle, 28.VIII.1919 (Carlos Bruch)".

Published dimensions: length ("long."): 15.2; width ("lat."): 5.4 mm.

We have examined 34 specimens of *B. striata*. Nine of them are colored like the typical *B. aurulenta* Linnaeus 1767, though usually not so brightly (Fig. 3). Twenty-one look like *B. bruchi*, though all have faint greenish and coppery reflections (Fig. 2); four specimens are clearly intermediate in color. This color variation was discussed in the last revision of the North American species (Helfer 1941). The lack of these same reflected colors on the image (Fig. 1) of *B. bruchi* likely is due to a different lighting system or chemicals that the specimen may have been exposed to subsequent to capture.

This species is widely distributed in the U.S. and Canada, from Manitoba to Texas and eastward, with additional records for Haiti (Perez-Gelabert 2008) and the Canary Islands (Cobos 1953), both undoubtedly introductions. The larvae are known to feed in pines, *Pinus* spp., and eastern hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis* (Linnaeus) Carrière (Nelson *et al.*, 2008).

At the time of the original description, Obenberger (1928) compared his new species with North American species of what he termed "the *B. impedita* Say group", that taxon currently a junior synonym of *B. striata*, and also briefly with *B. lauta* LeConte 1854 and *B. radians* LeConte 1854, both junior synonyms of *B. aurulenta*. We suppose he assumed that since the specimen before him was from Argentina, then it could not have been the same species as one from North America; so close and yet so far!

On the page before the description of *B. bruchi*, Obenberger (1928: 182) recorded a specimen of the eastern North American *B. lineata* Fabricius 1781 that also was found in Argentina by Carlos Bruch. In addition to a wide distribution in North America, *B. lineata* has also been recorded from Cuba, Egypt, Guadeloupe, Mexico, Puerto Rico (Bellamy 2008, Westcott 2008); the Egyptian record is surely an introduction but the others may be natural occurrence with native pines present in those Caribbean and Mexican habitats. We suppose that there are several possible ways for two North American species of *Buprestis* to make it to Argentina, possibly the importation of timber or processed lumber of pines.