



Immature stages of *Homophileurus tricuspis* Prell (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae: Phileurini) with notes on natural history and distribution in Colombia

JHON CÉSAR NEITA MORENO¹ & BRETT C. RATCLIFFE²

¹Instituto de Investigaciones Ambientales del Pacífico, Grupo de Sistemática de Insectos-Agronomía, Museo Entomología UNAB, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Ciudadela Universitaria Bloque 500, Bogotá, COLOMBIA. E-mail: cneitaj@unal.edu.co

²Systematics Research Collections, W436 Nebraska Hall, University of Nebraska Lincoln, NE 68588-0514, U.S.A. E-mail: bratcliffe1@unl.edu

Abstract

The larva and pupa of *Homophileurus tricuspis* Prell (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae: Phileurini) are described for the first time based on specimens from Colombia. A key to the known third-stage larvae of New World Phileurini species is provided. Notes on the natural history and distribution of *H. tricuspis* in Colombia are also included.

Key words: larvae, pupae, taxonomy, natural history, distribution

Resumen

Por primera vez se describen la larva y la pupa de *Homophileurus tricuspis* Prell (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae: Phileurini) basadas en especímenes de Colombia. Una clave para las larvas de tercer estadio de las especies de Phileurini del Nuevo Mundo es proporcionada. Se incluyen notas sobre la biología y distribución de *H. tricuspis* en Colombia.

Introduction

Homophileurus Kolbe consists of nine species. Four species are found exclusively in South America, one is endemic to Cuba, another was previously thought to be endemic to Mexico but is now known also from El Salvador, and two occur from Mexico to Brazil (Endrödi 1978, 1985; Ratcliffe 2003; Ratcliffe & Cave 2006). Adults in the genus are distinguished by the tubercles of the frons located near the lateral margins of the head, by the quadridentate protibia, and by the apex of the metatibia with three large teeth.

Some of the larger species in the genus *Phileurus* Latreille are similar in overall appearance to those of *Homophileurus*, including some with quadridentate protibia, but *Phileurus* species do not have three large teeth on the apex of the metatibia as in *Homophileurus* species. Endrödi (1978, 1985) comprehensively reviewed the genus *Homophileurus*, but the larvae and pupae have only been described for the Brazilian species, *H. luederwaldti* (Ohaus) (Costa *et al.* 1988), and little is known of the natural history of any of the species. The larvae of some species probably live in rotting wood, while others are known to live in the nests of termites (Luederwaldt 1911; Vanin *et al.* 1983; Costa *et al.* 1988). Adults are attracted to lights at night.

Herein we describe the larvae and pupae of *Homophileurus tricuspis* Prell. Identification of these immature specimens was confirmed by their association with adults. Terms and characters used in the larval description are those of Ritcher (1966) and Morón (1987). The material studied is deposited at the University of Nebraska State Museum (Lincoln, Nebraska, USA) and in the collection of JCN (Bogotá, Colombia).