



## A new species of *Eleodes* (*Eleodes*) from Mexico, with ecological and phenological notes (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae)

CHARLES A. TRIPLEHORN<sup>1</sup> & PAULINA CIFUENTES RUIZ<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Museum of Biological Diversity, The Ohio State University, 1315 Kinnear Road, Columbus, OH 43212 USA

<sup>2</sup>Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Apartado Postal 70-153, Delegación Coyoacán, C. P. 04510, México, D. F.

The genus *Eleodes* is the largest among the Tenebrionidae of North America, with more than 200 known species. Some are widespread, ranging from Canada to Mexico while others have a more restricted distribution. The larvae of the species, known as false wireworms are very damaging to crops in irrigated farmland. The following new species is a surprising addition to the Mexican beetle fauna, especially since it was discovered in an area where much fieldwork has been done over the years.

This work is based upon specimens deposited in the following collections: C.A. Triplehorn Insect Collection, Columbus, OH, U.S.A. (OSUC); California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA, U.S.A. (CASC); California Insect Survey, Berkeley, CA (CISC); Colección Nacional de Insectos, Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Delegación Coyoacán, Mexico, D. F. (CNIN); National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC, U.S.A. (NMNH).

### *Eleodes curvidens* Triplehorn & Cifuentes, n. sp.

Figures 1–2

**Description.** Holotype, female: broadly oval, robust, black, shiny. Head finely and sparsely punctate, epistomal margin subtruncate, labrum deeply notched, rugosely punctured; eyes narrow, elongate; antennae stout, three antennomeres extending caudad beyond pronotal base; mentum trapezoidal, coarsely, densely punctate. Pronotum 1.25 x broader than long, lateral margins arcuate, narrowing slightly toward base, widest anterior to middle, both basal and apical angles rounded, apical margin shallowly emarginate, basal margin rounded, surface with extremely minute, widely spaced punctures; hypomera smooth with a few wrinkles and minute punctures; prosternal process convex between procoxae. Elytra robust with rounded lateral margins, strongly convex from side to side, surface with ill-defined striae of fine punctures. Ventral surface smooth, finely, densely punctate, abdominal sterna finely wrinkled; legs stout, femora shiny, finely punctate, tibiae all muricately punctured, profemur with strong, abrupt emargination at apical 1/5, all tarsi with stout setae on plantar surfaces. Length: 20 mm; width: 11 mm.

Allotype, male: similar to female, but more slender and elongate, and with strong profemoral teeth which are curved downward at apex. Length: 22 mm; width: 9 mm.

**Types.** Holotype, female: Mexico, Morelos, Quilamula, Sierra de Huautla, 18°30'37.1"N 99°00'10.7"O, 1167 m. a. s. l., P. Cifuentes, coll. Allotype: same data as holotype. Both holotype and allotype deposited in the Colección Nacional de Insectos, Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Delegación Coyoacán, Mexico, D. F. (CNIN). Paratypes: 15 males, 9 females all with same data as primary types, but different collecting dates (Jan 20 to April 22) deposited in NMNH, OSUC.

**Remarks.** The type series is the only record for this species that we have encountered in our studies, except for: one female labeled "Mexico, Gro, Taxco, 25 June, 1970, Peter M. Jump" (OSUC); one male labeled "Mex. Puebla, Acatlan, 45 mi. n., VII-30-63, J. Doyen" (CISC); 1 female labeled "Mex, Puebla, 8 mi. s. of Izúcar de Matamoros, XII-10-1948, E. S. Ross" (CASC); and 1 female labeled "México, Michoacán, S. Jose Purúa, 4800', VII-27-1955, G. H. Dieke" (OSUC). These are not designated as paratypes, but appear to be conspecific.

**Variation.** Except for size and slight difference in elytral punctures, there is little variation in the type series and other specimens examined. Females: Length: 18–20 mm, width: 8.5–11 mm. Males: 18.5–22 mm, width: 7.8–9 mm.