



A new genus and three new species of Neotropical Tanyproctini (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae)

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Abstract

A new genus of scarab beetle, *Eideria* Neita & Ocampo, and three new species, *E. pentaphylla* Neita & Ocampo, *E. glabripennis* Neita & Ocampo, and *E. pedroantonioi* Neita & Ocampo, are described based on specimens collected in the drylands of Colombia and rainforests of Ecuador. Based on the evaluation of morphological characters and within the context of the current classification of the subfamily Melolonthinae, this genus is placed in the tribe Tanyproctini (formerly called Pachydemini). Diagnostic characters, illustrations, and an identification key are provided for the new species. The relationships of *Eideria* with other Neotropical Tanyproctini genera are discussed.

Key words: Colombia, Ecuador, drylands, morphological characters, taxonomy

Resumen

Se describe un nuevo género de escarabajo, *Eideria* Neita & Ocampo, y tres nuevas especies, *E. pentaphylla* Neita & Ocampo, *E. glabripennis* Neita & Ocampo y *E. pedroantonioi* Neita & Ocampo, basadas en especímenes colectados en áreas secas de Colombia y bosques del Ecuador. Este género es ubicado en la tribu Tanyproctini (anteriormente denominada Pachydemini) en base a la evaluación de caracteres morfológicos y dentro del contexto actual de la clasificación de la subfamilia Melolonthinae. Se proveen caracteres diagnósticos, ilustraciones y una clave para la identificación de las nuevas especies. Se discuten las relaciones con otros géneros de Tanyproctini Neotropicales.

Introduction

During one collecting event at the municipality Mariquita (Tolima, Colombia) a specimen of a new species of an undescribed genus of Melolonthinae was collected. Later, on a visit to the collection of the Institute Alexander von Humboldt in Villa de Leyva specimens of a second species of this new genus were found. Finally, 55 specimens of a third new species were found in the Canadian Museum of Nature collection.

According to the current classification of the subfamily Melolonthinae (Evans 2003, Bouchard *et al.* 2011), and based on morphological evidence, this new genus is placed in the tribe Tanyproctini (formerly called Pachydemini).

The tribe Tanyproctini (as was defined by Lacroix 2007 and Evans 2003 [as Pachydemini]) is classified in Melolonthinae (Scarabaeidae) and includes 118 genera and 575 valid species worldwide. The group is distributed in all major biogeographic regions except Australia. In the Neotropics, Tanyproctini is currently represented by 17 genera and 29 species (Ocampo & Smith 2006, Ocampo & Ruiz-Manzanos 2007, Ocampo *et al.* 2010).

Among the Melolonthinae, the taxonomy of the tribe Tanyproctini is particularly difficult (Sanmartín & Martín-Piera 2003, Ocampo & Ruiz-Manzanos 2007). In most cases, genera are recognized by characters of male external morphology and are based on very few specimens. Females are difficult to collect and are only known for a few species, and most of the genera with known females have strong sexual dimorphism.