



Article

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Revision of the genus *Scapomegas* Lacordaire, 1854 (Coleoptera: Histeridae: Omalodini)

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Abstract

The Neotropical genus *Scapomegas* Lacordaire, 1854 is revised. All three species are illustrated and keyed, and new distribution records and ecological data are provided. *Scapomegas* can be recognized, among other characters, by a rudimentary supraorbital stria indicated posteriorly; the base of the antennal scapus abruptly expanded and approximately parallel-sided from there to apex; the prosternum slightly emarginated posteriorly; and the anterior, middle and hind tibiae with a row of spines on the outer margin and another on the submarginal region. *Scapomegas aurifer* Marseul, 1887 and *S. gibbus* Marseul, 1855 are associated with the Atlantic Forest biome and have usually been found in rotten meat, whereas *S. auritus* Marseul, 1855 is associated with the Amazon biome and found in carcasses and dendrophilic mushrooms.

Key words: Histerinae, identification key, lectotype, South America, taxonomy.

Resumo

O gênero Neotropical *Scapomegas* Lacordaire, 1854 é revisado, as três espécies são ilustradas, uma chave de identificação é proposta e novos registros de distribuição geográfica e informações sobre sua ecologia são fornecidos. *Scapomegas* pode ser reconhecido, entre outros caracteres, pela estria supraorbital rudimentar, indicada posteriormente; pela base do escapo das antenas expandida abruptamente e subparalela no seu comprimento; pelo prosterno levemente emarginado posteriormente; pelas tíbias anteriores, médias e posteriores com uma fileira de espinhos na margem externa e outra na região submarginal. *Scapomegas aurifer* Marseul, 1887 e *S. gibbus* Marseul, 1855 estão associadas com o bioma Floresta Atlântica e são usualmente encontradas em carne em decomposição, enquanto que *S. auritus* Marseul, 1855 está associada com o bioma Floresta Amazônica e é encontrada em carcaças e cogumelos dendrófilos

Palavras-chave: América do Sul, chave de identificação, Histerinae, lectótipo, taxonomia.

Introduction

Lacordaire (1854) briefly described the genus *Scapomegas*. In his publication, he reported that *Scapomegas* was an unpublished genus of Marseul and cited two species of the genus that would be described by the latter in 1855. Then, Marseul (1855) published complete descriptions of the genus, along with the species *Scapomegas auritus* and *S. gibbus*. In 1887, Marseul described *Scapomegas aurifer*.

Until 1985, *Scapomegas* was listed in catalogues under the subfamily Hetaeriinae (Gemminger & Harold 1868; Lewis 1905; Bickhardt 1910; 1917; Blackwelder 1944; Mazur 1984). Helava *et al.* (1985), during the revision of the New World genera of the myrmecophilous and termitophilous Hetaeriinae, concluded that *Scapomegas* should not be assigned to this subfamily. Subsequently, Mazur (1989) transferred *Scapomegas* to Omalodini and provided a key to the genera of the tribe.