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Two new species of the ladybird beetle *Hong* Ślipiński from Chile (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae: Microweiseinae)

GUILLERMO GONZÁLEZ¹ & HERMES E. ESCALONA^{2,3}

¹Noce dal 6455, Santiago, Chile. E-mail: willogonzalez@yahoo.com, www.coccinellidae.cl.

²CSIRO–Ecosystem Sciences, Australian National Insect Collection, GPO Box 1700, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia.

³Museo del Instituto de Zoología Agrícola, FAGRO–Universidad Central de Venezuela, Maracay, Aragua, Venezuela

Abstract

The ladybird beetle genus *Hong* Ślipiński was previously known from a single female specimen from a subtropical forest in South East Queensland, Australia. *Hong guerreroi* **sp. nov.** and *H. slipinskii* **sp. nov.** from a temperate forests of Central and Southern Chile are described and illustrated. A key for the species of the genus and complementary characters, including the first description of males, are provided.

Key words: taxonomy, biogeography, south temperate forest

Resumen

El género de coccinélidos Ślipiński *Hong* era previamente conocido de un único ejemplar hembra procedente del bosque subtropical del sudeste de Queensland, Australia. Las especies *H. guerreroi* **sp. nov.** y *H. slipinskii* **sp. nov.** son descritas e ilustradas y están distribuidas en los bosques templados del centro y sur de Chile. Se incluye una clave para las especies de *Hong* junto a características adicionales, incluyendo la primera descripción de machos del género.

Introduction

The Microweiseinae are minute scale predator ladybirds, and comprise a sister taxon to the remaining Coccinellidae (Seago *et al.*, 2011). In Australia this subfamily is represented by the genus *Hong* Ślipiński, 2007 (type species *H. glorious* Ślipiński, 2007) based on a unique female specimen collected from a patch of subtropical forest in South East Queensland (Ślipiński, 2007).

Escalona & Ślipiński (2012) completed a generic revision and phylogeny of the Microweiseinae. In their analysis, the genus *Hong* formed a clade with the South African genus *Cathedrana* collected in *Podocarpus* forest. Both genera were included in Microweiseini and share the following characters: rostrate head, long maxillary palps, antenna composed of 10 antennomeres, poorly developed prosternal chin-piece that does not cover mouthparts in repose, raised prosternal process, and abdomen of 5 ventrites with postcoxal lines angulate and bordered with coarse punctures.

Research on ladybird beetles from Chile led to the discovery of specimens belonging to Microweiseini *sensu* Escalona & Ślipiński (2012). The general features of the newly discovered species fit well within the genus *Hong*, sharing a suite of unique diagnostic characters such as the antennal club composed of 3 antennomeres, prosternal chin-piece shelf-like, and tarsi cryptotetramerous (4–4–4).

The biogeographical distribution of the genus *Hong* is another example of the well-documented common relationships between the Australian and Chilean insect faunas, including examples from Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, Orthoptera, Mecoptera, Trichoptera, Odonata, Diptera and Coleoptera (Peña 1988). Examples of Coleoptera with Southern South American and Australian or New Zealandic distributions are also common (e. g. Newton 1985, Elgueta 2000, Kuschel 2000, Arias 2000, Ślipiński & Lawrence 1997, Tomaszewska & Ślipiński 1995, Ślipiński & Tomaszewska 2010, Arias *et al.* 2009, Thomas 2010, Ruta *et al.* 2011).