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Review of the New World species of the genus *Argopistes* Motschulsky (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Galerucinae: Alticini)

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Abstract

The New World species of the genus *Argopistes* Motschulsky, 1860 are reviewed, illustrated and a key for their identification is provided. Two new species are described: *A. turnbowi* (Bahamas Islands) and *A. woodleyi* (Dominican Republic). The lectotype of *A. scyrtoides* LeConte is designated.

Key words: Flea beetles, new species, USA, Caribbean

Introduction

The genus *Argopistes* Motschulsky, 1860 includes middle-sized (3–4 mm), round, and strongly convex flea beetles (Chrysomelidae: Galerucinae: Alticini). Motschulsky (1860) described the genus with the type species *A. biplagiata* Motschulsky, 1860, from Siberia, by monotypy and compared the habitus to that of lady beetles (Coccinellidae). *Argopistes* is easily recognized among world flea beetles based on a round body (Fig. 1), an opistognathous head without the anterofrontal ridge (Fig. 10) with a very long and flat frons having a thin, sharp (along the edge) frontal ridge (fig. 4), plane of frons forming acute angle with respect to plane of vertex in lateral view, clypeus membrane-like, labrum transverse, 11 antennomeres, open procoxal cavities, greatly enlarged metafemora (Fig. 45) and a short, curved in lateral view, metatibia with the metatarsus and spur attached before the apex (Fig. 45). Males *Argopistes* can be differentiated from females, as many other flea beetle genera, based on a relatively wide first protarsomere, which is much narrower in females.

According to our data and including the species described in this paper, a total of 38 valid *Argopistes* species are known in the Afrotropical (nine species), Australian (three), Neotropical (six), Oriental (22), and Palearctic (three) Regions. All six New World species occur in the Caribbean and south Florida: *A. coccinelloides* (Suffrian) (Cuba), *A. coronatus* Blake (Puerto Rico), *A. rubicundus* Blake (Mexico), *A. scyrtoides* LeConte (Florida, USA), *A. turnbowi* sp. nov. (Bahamas), and *A. woodleyi* sp. nov. (Dominican Republic). The first described Caribbean species, *A. coccinelloides* (Suffrian 1868), was found in Cuba and originally placed in *Argopus* Fischer von Waldheim (Suffrian 1868). Harold (1877), based on Suffrian's description, placed it in a small, containing two species, South American genus *Sophraena* Baly. Blake (1934) examined the Cuban specimens and, after confirmation by Bryant, correctly placed them in *Argopistes*. Later Blake (1951) described *A. coronatus* from Puerto Rico and reported the following host plants for the Caribbean species: *Forestiera rhamnifolia* Griseb. (Cuba) and *Mayepea domingensis* Lam (Puerto Rico), which are members of the family Oleaceae (Blake 1934, 1951). Interestingly, Asian species of *Argopistes* are also known to feed on Oleaceae plants: *Fraxinus* L., *Osmanthus* Lour., and *Ligustrum* L. (Gressitt and Kimoto 1963).

Dissecting techniques, measurements, and terminology follow Konstantinov (1998). Male genitalia that are illustrated here constitute the median lobe of the aedeagus, that for simplicity we call "aedeagus". Observations were made with a Zeiss Discovery V20 microscope and digital images were taken with an AxioCam HRC digital

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