



New species and records of *Scolytodes* (Coleoptera, Curculionidae: Scolytinae) from South America

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Abstract

Seventeen new species of *Scolytodes* Ferrari are described from Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Argentina: *Scolytodes cenchros*, *S. concavifrons*, *S. punctatus*, *S. fraterniatratus*, *S. frontocarinatus*, *S. solarius* and *S. trigonus* from *Cecropia* leafstalks; *S. pascopomus* from a fruit husk; *S. obovatus*, *S. clusiaphilus*, *S. clusiapraelatus* and *S. uniseriatus* from *Clusia* litter sifting; *S. grossepunctatus* and *S. fulvus* from general litter sifting; and *S. inusitatus*, *S. sagittarius* and *S. sus* collected by flight intercept traps. The synonymy of *S. imitans* and *S. nitidissimus* is confirmed. Additional South American records are given for *S. chapuisi* (Ecuador), *S. interpunctatus* (Peru), *S. maurus* (Ecuador), and *S. suspectus* (Ecuador), all taken from *Cecropia* leafstalks, and *S. similis* (Peru) and *S. unipunctatus* (Bolivia).

Key words: *Cecropia*, *Clusia*, leafstalk, Neotropics, *Scolytodes*

Introduction

The genus *Scolytodes* Ferrari is a highly diverse genus of bark beetles restricted to the Neotropics (Jordal, 1998b). Almost 200 species are currently known, and are found at all altitudes where moist tropical forest occurs (Bright & Skidmore, 1997, 2002; Bright & Torres, 2006; Wood & Bright, 1992). Nearly all species are true bark beetles, where males and females join as monogamous pairs under bark and where the female lays eggs in pits along a uni- or biramous egg tunnel in bark, phloem or in pith and base of large leafstalks, particularly those of *Cecropia* trees (Jordal, 1998a; Jordal & Kirkendall, 1998).

The high diversity in *Scolytodes* is reflected in high regional endemism, and many of the species are restricted to specific altitudes (Jordal, 1998b). Mountainous regions are particularly rich in *Scolytodes*. Recent collections from leaf litter sifting and by hand collecting from different Neotropical altitudes, especially in the Andes, has revealed many undescribed species which are here described as new to science.

Material and methods

Measurements were made as previously reported in Jordal (1998b). *Scolytodes* is here treated as masculine as originally proposed and later corroborated by Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal (Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal, 2009). All female amended names in Wood (2007) are therefore rejected. Materials studied are deposited in the following institutions:

CMN	Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa.
MSUC	A.J. Cook Arthropod Research Collection, Michigan State University, East Lansing.
MUSM	Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos Natural History Museum, Lima.
NHMW	Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien.
QCAZ	Museo de Zoología, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito.