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The first Amazonian species of *Andranthobius* Kuschel (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), with records of new host palms for the genus

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Abstract

Andranthobius setirostris sp. nov. is the first species of *Andranthobius* Kuschel described from the Amazon. It is distinguished from other species within the genus by an anterior obtuse tubercle on the lateral margin of the pronotum, the rostrum of the males with a lateroventral row of tubercles and comb of setae, and a much larger body. Adult specimens were originally collected in flowers of the palms *Syagrus vermicularis* Noblick and *Syagrus cocoides* Mart., and additional collections suggest that this association is specific. Both species of palms are recorded for the first time as host plants of *Andranthobius*.

Key words: Acalyptini, Notolomina, Weevil, *Syagrus*, Neotropical

Introduction

During a survey of weevils associated with flowers of the palm *Syagrus cocoides* Mart., in the Brazilian Amazon (Monte Alegre, Pará), the first author collected a very peculiar new species of the genus *Andranthobius* Kuschel, distinguished by one lateral tubercle on the prothorax and by distinctive sexual dimorphism in the rostrum. Some years later, additional specimens were collected in flowers from the same host palm in four other distant localities in the Brazilian Amazon: Canaã dos Carajás, National Forest of Caxiuanã, Altamira and São Geraldo do Araguaia, both in Pará. In addition, in Canaã dos Carajás and São Geraldo do Araguaia, the new species of *Andranthobius* also was collected in flowers of another species of *Syagrus* Mart., *S. vermicularis* Noblick.

Andranthobius are associated specifically with flowers of palms, including other species of *Syagrus*: *S. botryophora* (Mart.) Mart., *S. coronata* (Mart.) Becc. and *S. romanzoffiana* (Cham.) Glassman, and other genera of palms: *Acrocomia* Mart., *Bactris* Jacq. ex Scop., *Butia* (Becc.) Becc., *Cocos* L., *Mauritia* L. f., *Oenocarpus* Mart., *Phytelephas* Ruiz & Pav. and *Sabal* Adans. ex Guersent (Franz & Valente 2005). The larvae feed on the anthers of closed male flowers while the adults feed on pollen of open flowers (Hustache 1940; Bondar 1940a, 1940b). Some species are recognized as pollinators, such as *Andranthobius palmarum* (Champion) in peach palm (*Bactris gasipaes* Kunth) in Central America (Mora-Urpí & Solis 1980; Mora-Urpí *et al.* 1997), and unidentified species of *Andranthobius* in *Oenocarpus bataua* Mart. in the Colombian Andes (Núñez-Avellaneda & Rojas-Robles 2008), in *Acrocomia aculeata* (Jacq.) Lodd. ex Mart. (Scariot *et al.* 1991) and in *Acanthococos emensis* Toledo (Silberbauer-Gottsberger 1990), both in the Cerrado biome in Brazil.

The species of *Andranthobius* are distinguished easily from other Notolomina by the dorsoventrally depressed body, subglabrous, sparsely and finely punctured; prosternum with one posteriorly directed projection, generally smaller in the females; trapezoidal prothorax; antennal scape not reaching eye; and tarsal claws free (Kuschel 1952; Franz 2006). *Andranthobius* occurs in the Neotropical Region, with two nominal species recorded in Central America from Mexico, Panama and Costa Rica (Champion 1902; O'Brien & Wibmer 1982; Franz & Valente 2005) and four nominal species in southern South America from Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil, in the Caatinga and Mata Atlântica biomes (Hustache 1939, 1940; Bondar 1941, 1949; Wibmer & O'Brien 1986; Franz & Valente 2005). Interestingly, the distribution seemed to be disjunct, since no species of the genus was known from the Amazon.

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