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***Ogyges* Kaup, a flightless genus of Passalidae (Coleoptera) from Mesoamerica: nine new species, a key to identify species, and a novel character to support its monophyly**

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Abstract

Nine new species of *Ogyges* Kaup (Coleoptera: Passalidae) from the mountainous cloud forests of Mesoamerica are described: *O. handali* **new species** and *O. menchuae* **new species** from Guatemala; *O. cavei* **new species**, *O. laurae* **new species**, *O. llama* **new species**, *O. mutenroshii* **new species**, *O. ratcliffei* **new species**, and *O. toriyamai* **new species** from Honduras; and *O. sandinoi* **new species** from Nicaragua, the first objective record of the genus for this country. A key to the adult *Ogyges* is included. The work also shows that *Ogyges* possesses an exclusive autapomorphy: a trituberculate supra-intestinal tooth of each mandible (one long and wide apical tubercle and two connected, small, almost conical, basal tubercles). This character state is found in all known *Ogyges* species and is proposed as a synapomorphy that supports the monophyly of the genus.

Key words: Cloud Forest, Guatemala, Chiapas, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, synapomorphy, autapomorphy, *Proculis*, *Proculus*

dehiscent or worn (in old specimens) (Gravely 1918: 10, Schuster *et al.* 2003: 284, Boucher 2006: 346) long and wide denticle (Fig. 22d–e), absent in all genera of passalids. I consider the form of suprainternal teeth of *Ogyges* an character state exclusive of the genus, found in all known species. Additionally, because this character state is well marked (except in old specimens), it can help to separate *Ogyges* from all other passalid genera in the New World.

Ogyges can be separated from most genera of the Proculini tribe except *Proculus* and *Proculejus*, and some species of *Xylopassaloides*, *Veturius* Kaup, and *Vindex* Kaup, by the presence of two apical teeth on mandible (instead of three). It can be separated from most species of *Proculejus* by the narrow metasternal marginal groove, the well marked profemoral ventral groove (except in some specimens of *O. tzutuhili*), the bare or scarcely setose anterior angles of metasternum, the bare epipleura and the absence of punctate setae along the lateral interstriae and pronotal lateral fossae (except from *P. nudicostis* and *P. obesus*, both species with tridentate mandible). From *Proculus*, it can be separated by its smaller size (18–46 mm, compared with *Proculus* 51–80 mm) and glabrous humeri. Some species of *Ogyges* with well-marked elytral striae can be confused with *Xylopassaloides*, but the circular (instead of squared) lateral punctures, smaller than the width of interstriae, distinguish it from *Xylopassaloides*. From the few flightless species of *Vindex*, it can be separated by the internal tubercles (when present) that do not reach the clypeus and the narrow metasternal lateral groove. From *Veturius* with bidentate apex of mandibles, it can be easily separated by the wider antennal club.

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