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A description of the Larva of *Metapteron xanthomelas* (Lucas, 1857) from the Restinga Forest of Southeastern Brazil (Coleoptera: Lycidae, Calopterini)

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Abstract

The last instar larva of *Metapteron xanthomelas* (Lucas, 1857) is described. This is the first description of a larva for the genus. Two live larvae collected in the Brazilian Atlantic coast Restinga Forest of Itanhaém, São Paulo, were reared, one to adult and one was fixed in the last instar. This larva differs from the known Calopterini larvae by the absence of urogomphi, the dorsal abdominal segments undivided and strongly alveolate ornamentation on the head.

Key words: Elateroidea, Lycid beetle, Calopterini, Larva, Neotropical region

Introduction

When reviewing the Coleoptera Immatures Collection of the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (CIC–MZUSP) (Barbosa *et al.* 2013) the authors noticed a small reared larva associated with an adult of an undetermined Lycidae. The authors concluded that the adult specimen belongs to the genus *Metapteron* Bourgeois, 1905, tribe Calopterini (Ferreira & Costa, 2013). The genus *Metapteron* (ca. 20 Neotropical species, 9 of them occurring also in Brazil) (Kleine, 1933; Nascimento, 2013; Ferreira & Nascimento, *in press*), is in need of a taxonomic review. According to Bocakova (2003) adults of *Metapteron* are distinguished from other known Calopterini by the very small second antennomere, the third antennomere being as long as fourth (Fig. 1), a median longitudinal areola on the basal 2/3 of the pronotum with a constriction in the basal third, and elytra with reticulated cells strongly demarcated and almost square (Fig. 2). The specimens were tentatively identified as *Metapteron xanthomelas* (Lucas, 1857).

The Calopterini currently comprises 18 genera in the Neotropical region (Bocak & Bocakova, 2008). There are about 400 described Calopterini species (Bocakova, 2003), and a great part of this diversity cannot be identified since most of the early species descriptions were ambiguous and inaccurate. Contemporary taxonomic papers on certain genera (Nascimento & Bocakova, 2009, 2010; Barancikova *et al.*, 2010; Bocakova *et al.*, 2012) are revisions of small groups and less common genera, e.g. *Falsocaenia* Pic, 1922, *Cartagonum* Pic, 1922, *Ceratopriomorphus* Pic, 1922, and *Lycomorphon* Pic, 1922.

Larvae of Calopterini are poorly known, just a few immatures of the genera *Calopteron* Castelnau, 1838 and *Caenia* Newman, 1838 are known (Costa *et al.*, 1988; Miller, 1988; Bocak & Matsuda, 2003). Here, the last instar larva of *Metapteron xanthomelas* is described for the first time.

Material and methods

One larva and two exuviae were dissected in water under a stereomicroscope. Drawings were prepared with help of a camera lucida adapted to a binocular microscope Zeiss Standard WL and with photographs that were taken using a Zeiss Microscope Axionskop 2 coupled to a computer, and with a SEM Zeiss LEO 440 and Leica M205C®

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