



Passalidae (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea) of the Greater and Lesser Antilles

LARRY JIMÉNEZ-FERBANS^{1,2,3,5}, PEDRO REYES-CASTILLO¹ & JACK C. SCHUSTER⁴

¹Instituto de Ecología, A.C. Carretera antigua a Coatepec 351, El Haya, Xalapa, Veracruz, México 91070.

E-mail: larryjimenezferbans@gmail.com; pedro.reyes@inecol.mx

²Universidad de La Guajira, Riohacha, Colombia

³Universidad del Magdalena, Santa Marta, Colombia

⁴Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, Apartado Postal 82, 01901, Guatemala, Guatemala. E-mail: jschuste@uvg.edu.gt

⁵Corresponding author. E-mail: larryjimenezferbans@gmail.com

Abstract

We present a synthesis of the state of knowledge concerning the species of Passalidae (Coleoptera) of the West Indies and we present a key to the species. The recently described genus *Antillanax* Boucher renders the subgenus *Passalus* (*Pertinax*) Kaup paraphyletic, therefore we place *Antillanax* in synonymy with *Passalus* (*Pertinax*) and we propose a new combination for *Passalus* (*Pertinax*) *doesburgi* (Boucher). The island richest in species is Hispaniola, with five species, three of them endemic. Excluding Trinidad and Tobago, the passalid fauna of the West Indies comprises 13 species; this is low richness, but with high endemism (50%), especially for the Greater Antilles.

Key words: bess beetles, West Indies, biodiversity, new species

Resumen

Se sintetiza el conocimiento de las especies de Passalidae (Coleoptera) presentes en las Antillas y se presenta una clave para las especies. La descripción reciente del género *Antillanax* Boucher vuelve parafilético al subgénero *Passalus* (*Pertinax*) Kaup; por tanto, se propone la sinonimia de *Antillanax* con *Passalus* (*Pertinax*) y una nueva combinación para *Passalus* (*Pertinax*) *doesburgi* (Boucher). La isla más rica en especies es La Española, con cinco especies, tres de ellas endémicas. Excluyendo Trinidad y Tobago, la fauna de Passalidae de las Antillas está constituida por 13 especies; lo que indica un nivel de riqueza bajo, pero con alto grado de endemismos (50%), especialmente en las Antillas Mayores.

Introduction

Passalidae is principally a pantropical group that is represented in the Neotropics by the tribes Proculini and Passalini. These tribes include approximately 420 species (Reyes-Castillo & Ibáñez 2008), the majority of which live in rotting tree trunks. Excluding Trinidad and Tobago, which are traditionally considered to be part of the South American continental platform islands (Peck *et al.* 2002), Proculini do not occur the Antilles. Passalini is represented by few species compared with similar continental areas, but with high endemism, especially in the Greater Antilles.

The first reference of passalids in the Antilles was by Palisot de Beauvois (1805) who described *Paxillus pentaphyllus* Palisot de Beauvois from Hispaniola. Later, *Passalus affinis* Percheron and *Passalus dominicanus* van Doesburg were described (both endemic to Hispaniola), as well as *Passalus pertyi* (Kaup) (endemic to Cuba). Leng & Mutchler (1914) cited 25 species for the Antilles, including Trinidad and Tobago. Nevertheless, 12 of these species correspond to invalid synonyms and various records were rejected later. Hincks & Dibb (1935) registered 16 species for the Antilles, excluding many of the synonyms of Leng & Mutchler (1914) list. Since then, various