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New species of *Anchastus* LeConte, 1853 from South America (Elateridae, Elaterinae, Ampedini, Physorhinina)

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Abstract

Seven new species of *Anchastus* LeConte, 1853 are described: *A. brunneifinibus* sp. nov. (Bolivia), *A. cuiabamus* sp. nov. (Brazil), *A. flavonigrothoracicum* sp. nov. (Bolivia), *A. rubrithoracicum* sp. nov. (Brazil, Bolivia), *A. thoracoferrugineus* sp. nov. (Bolivia), *A. transverseplagiatus* sp. nov. (Bolivia) and *A. uniplagipennis* sp. nov. (Bolivia). The female genitalia of *A. bouleardi* Chassain, 2010 is described and three species are redescribed: *A. moratus* (Candèze, 1863) (Mexico, Guyana, Brazil, Bolivia), *A. quadrimaculatus* Candèze, 1889 (Guyana, Brazil, Bolivia) and *A. unitinctus* Candèze, 1889 (Brazil). New records for *A. touroulti* Chassain, 2010 are presented. A provisional identification key for South American species is provided.

Key words: checklist, distribution, female, genitalia, male

Introduction

LeConte (1853) erected *Anchastus* to include two new species from the USA: *A. digittatus* (from Pennsylvania) and *A. recedens* (from San Francisco, California) [the latter considered a synonym of *A. cinereipennis* (Eschscholtz, 1829) by Candèze, 1859]. He characterised the genus and stated that it differed from *Dicrepidius* Eschscholtz, 1829 by having a simple tarsomere II and from all the other genera of true Elateridae, by the extensive dilatation of the metacoxal plates internally, the posterior margin rather oblique, although not as sinuate as in *Dicrepidius* and *Elater* Linnaeus, 1758.

Candèze (1859) recharacterised the genus, including new diagnostic characters and indicating that the species of this genus are easily recognised by the large size of the prosternal channel, dilatation of inner area of metacoxal plate, structure of tarsi and direction of the carina of hind angles of the pronotum. Candèze (1859) divided the species of the genus into two sections based on the position of carina of hind angles of the pronotum. In “Section I”, he included those species with hind angles of pronotum unicarinate, where only the external carina persists, and usually running parallel or near the lateral margin. In this section three species were included: *A. hilaris* (Brazil), *A. phedrus* (Brazil) and *A. rufiventris* (Cuba); the first two were subsequently transferred to *Anchastomorphus* Champion, 1895, when it was erected. In “Section II”, Candèze (1859) included species with hind angles of pronotum not divergent and bicarinate or unicarinate, but when unicarinate, the internal carina persists, away from the lateral margin anteriorly. He included 15 species in Section II, from which 6 species have hind angles of pronotum unicarinate, and none is known from the Neotropical Region.

Candèze (1891) catalogued 75 species of *Anchastus* divided into six groups, according with geographical distribution: “1^{er} Groupe (“European”), 2^e Groupe (“Asian”), 3^e Groupe (“African”), 4^e Groupe (“Australian and Melanesian”), 5^e Groupe (“North America”), 6^e Groupe (“South America”)”. The last group included 14 species, nine of which are from Brazil and five are from “Nouvelle Grenade [New Granada]”. Five of these species were transferred to *Anchastomorphus* by Champion in 1895, one (*A. fasciatus* Candèze, 1881) has the hind angles of pronotum not carinate and another (*A. brevis* Candèze, 1881) probably belongs to *Physorhinus* Eschscholtz, 1836 because it has the antennomeres 2 and 3 equal in size. The remaining species are listed below.

Champion (1895) presented several additional diagnostic characters for *Anchastus* including that the anterior