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Revision of *Bondariella* Hustache & Bondar (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), with descriptions of the first species from the Amazon and notes on natural history

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Abstract

Bondariella Hustache & Bondar, 1942 is revised. In addition to the redescription of the genus and its four previously known species, we report and describe the first species from the Amazonian region: *Bondariella rudicula* sp. nov. and *Bondariella crenata* sp. nov. We also provide a key to the species, illustrations and notes on natural history. All six species of *Bondariella* have been collected on palm flowers from Brazil, with the previously known species having only been recorded from species of *Syagrus* Mart. from the Atlantic Forest and Caatinga biomes. The two new species have only been recorded from species of *Euterpe* Mart. from the Amazon biome. Future work may prove if the associations with *Syagrus* and *Euterpe* are specific to the biomes.

Key words: weevil, Baridinae, palm tree, systematic, *Syagrus*, *Euterpe*

Introduction

The baridine weevil genus *Bondariella* Hustache & Bondar, 1942 was originally proposed to accommodate three new species collected from palm flowers from Brazil: *Bondariella mimica* Hustache & Bondar, 1942 (type species by original designation), *Bondariella ruschiana* Bondar, 1942 and *Bondariella torresi* Bondar, 1942 (Bondar 1942). It is unusual that Bondar is a co-author of the genus named in honour of himself, but the facts that led to the name and to the description of *Bondariella* are clarified in Bondar (1942: 19–20) and summarized here. The first specimens of *Bondariella* were collected in the years of 1939–1940 by Gregorio Bondar on flowers of *Syagrus schizophylla* (Mart.) Glassman in the State of Bahia, and some of them (voucher number 2589) were sent by Bondar himself to Alphonse Hustache, of France, for identification. In a letter to Bondar, Hustache identified the specimens with a stouter rostrum as a new species of *Nicentrus* Casey, which he would name as *Nicentrus mimicus* (nomem nudum). He considered the specimens with an abruptly thin rostrum to be a new genus, which he would name as *Bondariella*, in honour of Bondar. However, Bondar believed that these specimens belonged to a single species of baridine with a notably sexually dimorphic rostrum. He studied the male and female terminalia, observed adults mating on the palm flowers and confirmed that the specimens with the abruptly thin rostrum were females while the specimens with the broader rostrum were males, both belonging to a single species of the new genus suggested in Hustache's letter to be named as *Bondariella*. In addition, Bondar collected two additional species of this new genus on flowers of two other palms from Brazil. Following this new finding, the communication between Bondar and Hustache was interrupted due to World War II. Therefore, Bondar (1942) decided to describe the new genus, *Bondariella* Hustache & Bondar, 1942, and its type species, *Bondariella mimica* Hustache & Bondar, 1942, adopting the names mentioned in Hustache's letter, and considering himself as co-author and Hustache as the first author of the new genus and its type species. In the same paper, Bondar described the two new species of the genus already discovered by himself as *Bondariella ruschiana* Bondar, 1942 collected on flowers of *Syagrus ruschiana* (Bondar) Glassman from Espírito Santo State, and *Bondariella torresi* Bondar, 1942 collected on flowers of *Syagrus vagans* (Bondar) A. D. Hawkes from Bahia State, and he provided an identification key to the three species of *Bondariella*.