



The first longhorned beetle record for the Prepuna in the Bolivian Andes and Potosi Department in Bolivia: a new species of *Dirocoremia* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Rhopalophorini)

ROBERT PERGER^{1,3} & FERNANDO GUERRA^{1,2}

¹*Colección Boliviana de Fauna. Casilla 10077, Correo Central. La Paz, Bolivia. E-mail: robertperger@hotmail.com*

²*Instituto de Ecología, Universidad Mayor de San Andrés. Casilla 10077, Correo Central. La Paz, Bolivia*

³*Corresponding author*

Abstract

Compared to other Bolivian ecoregions, the Prepuna and Puna in the Bolivian highlands are distinguished by low precipitation and low biological diversity. These factors have likely contributed to the perception that the Prepuna and Puna are less interesting for entomological studies, and reports of longhorned beetles from these regions remain scarce. Here, the first longhorned beetle record for the Bolivian Prepuna and Potosi Department is reported, an unknown species of *Dirocoremia* Marques, 1994. *Dirocoremia tupizai* sp. n. can be distinguished from congeners by its dark-brown to black metatibiae with short and sparse subapical brushes of hairs.

Key words: Andes, Bolivia, Cerambycidae, *Dirocoremia tupizai*, new species, Prepuna, Rhopalophorini

Introduction

The Prepuna and the Puna in the Bolivian Andes are among the driest ecoregions in Bolivia (annual precipitation of the Prepuna - 300–400 mm, Ibsch & Mérida 2003). In accordance with the trend that floristic diversity decreases with rising levels of aridity, the biological diversity in the Prepuna and Puna is lower than in other major Bolivian vegetation formations. Xeric shrubs and cacti dominate the vegetation, although, single patches of *Acacia*, *Prosopis* and *Polylepis* trees are present at these altitudes (Ibsch & Mérida 2003). Likely because of the perception that the Prepuna and Puna ecoregions are less interesting for entomological studies, reports of wood-boring insects from these areas remain scarce. Checklists for Bolivian Cerambycidae (or longhorned beetles), the best sampled group of wood-boring insects in Bolivia, do not cite any record for Potosi and Oruro departments (see Wappes *et al.* 2006, 2011, 2013), which represent ~16% of the overall area and almost exclusively include the Prepuna and Puna ecosystems (Potosi Department encompasses the largest area of Bolivian Puna) (see Ibsch & Mérida 2003). The subgenus *Dirocoremia* Marques, 1994, was established to include *Coremia bruchi* Gounelle, 1905, *C. simplicipes* Gounelle, 1911 and *C. ingae* Marques, 1994. Based on the relationships between the subgenera of *Coremia* and other genera of Rhopalophorini, Marques & Napp (1996) elevated *Dirocoremia* to genus level, which was also supported by a subsequent cladistic analysis of the Rhopalophorini (Marques & Napp 2003). *Dirocoremia bruchi* (Gounelle, 1905) has been reported from South Brazil, North Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, *D. ingae* (Marques, 1994) from South East Brazil and North Argentina, and *D. simplicipes* (Gounelle, 1911) from East Brazil, Bolivia, and North Argentina (Monné 2015).

In the work presented here, the first record of a longhorned beetle species from the Bolivian Prepuna in Potosi Department is reported. The collected specimens belong to an unknown species of *Dirocoremia* Marques, 1994, which is herein described.