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Xenogeniates, a New and Unusual Genus of Geniatine Scarab (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Rutelinae: Geniatini) from Brazil

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ABSTRACT A new genus and species of geniatine scarab is described from southeastern Brazil. The genus Xenogeniates is characterized by the unusual shape of the mesosternum, which is strongly invaginated and concave. Unusual characteristics of the taxon are discussed in relation to the Rutelinae and the Scarabaeidae.

RESUMEN Se describe un nuevo género y especie de escarabajo geniatine del sureste de Brazil. El género Xenogeniates se caracteriza por la forma inusual del mesosterno que es profundamente invaginada y concava. Características inusuales de este taxon se discuten en relación a Rutelinae y Scarabaeidae.

KEY WORDS Scarabaeidae, Rutelinae, Geniatini, systematics, taxonomy, Brazil

The tribe Geniatini is one of six tribes in the scarab subfamily Rutelinae, and it contains 12 genera and ≈318 species that are endemic to the Neotropics (Villatoro 2001, Villatoro and Jameson 2001). Adults of most species are 1–2 cm in length, tan to black in color, lack elaborate horns and armature, and are attracted to lights at night. Aside from the catalogs of Machatschke (1972, 1974) and Blackwelder (1944) and scattered taxonomic literature on some members of the tribe (Frey 1976, Lacroix 2000, Machatschke 1965, Martínez 1964a, Martínez 1964b, Ohaus 1931), there have been few taxonomic studies for members of the group. For this reason, systematics research on the tribe was initiated (Villatoro 2000). This paper is a result of ongoing research on the phylogeny, biogeography, and taxonomy of the Geniatini.

Within the subfamily Rutelinae (see Jameson 1990 and 2001b for keys to tribes of Rutelinae), the tribe Geniatini is characterized by the following combination of characters: (1) labrum vertically produced with respect to the clypeus and with an apicomedial projection, (2) male protarsomeres usually dorsoventrally flattened, enlarged, and densely setose ventrally, (3) elytral margin with or without membrane, (4) terminal spiracle positioned in the pleural suture, and (5) protibia with apical protibial spur (Jameson 2001a). With the addition of the new genus, described here, the tribe Geniatini includes 13 genera.

Materials and Methods

Specimens for this research are deposited at MACN (Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Buenos Aires, Argentina), CMNC (Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada), HAHC (Henry and Anne Howden Collection, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada), MZSP (Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil), and BMNH (The Natural History Museum, London, England).

Body measurements, puncture density, puncture size, and density of setae are based on the following standards. Body length was measured from the apex of the pronotum (at the middle) to the apex of the elytra. Body width was measured across the elytral humeri. Puncture density was considered “dense” if punctures were nearly confluent to less than two puncture diameters apart, “moderately dense” if punctures were from two to six puncture diameters apart, and “sparse” if punctures were separated by more than six puncture diameters. Puncture size was defined as “small” if punctures were 0.02 mm or smaller; “moderate” if 0.02–0.07 mm, “moderately large” if 0.07–0.12, and “large” if 0.12 mm or larger. Setae were defined as “dense” if the surface was not visible through the setae, “moderately dense” if the surface was visible but with many setae, and “sparse” if there were few setae. The interocular width measures the number of transverse eye diameters that fit between the eyes.

The phylogenetic species concept (Wheeler and Platnick 2000) was applied in this work: “A species is the smallest aggregation of (sexual) populations or (asexual) lineages diagnosable by a unique combination of character states.”
Xenogeniates Villatoro & Jameson, new genus
(Figs. 1-14)

Type Species. Xenogeniates martinezi Villatoro and Jameson, n. sp. (here designated)

Description. Scarabaeidae: Rutelinae: Geniatiini. Form (Fig. 1). Body elongate oval, sides subparallel, dorsum convex, pygidium exposed, elytral apex broadly rounded. Head. Surface punctate. Frons weakly concave. Frontoclypeal suture complete, straight. Eye canthus simple, not carinate. Clypeus with apex reflexed, lacking bead. Mandible (Fig. 4) with baso-external edge round, apex with one reflexed, round tooth; inner teeth present or lacking. Labrum (Fig. 2) apicomedially with forward-projecting tooth. Maxilla (Fig. 5) with baso-external edge of mala round, with reduced teeth; stipes weakly produced mediolaterally. Mentum (Fig. 3) in ventral view subhexagonal; deep sulcus present near insertion of palpus (extending to lateral margin), margin lateral of insertion with rounded angle. Apex with median, dorso-superior produced tooth; tooth indented at apex (appearing bifid). Antenna 9-segmented with 3-segmented club; club obovate (wider toward apex) in lateral view (Fig. 6). Pronotum. Widest at middle; anterior angles slightly acute. In frontal view, dorsal surface weakly convex. Surface variably punctate. Marginal bead complete. Scutellum. Parabolic, apex weakly acute, length subequal to width; surface variably punctate. Elytron. Surface with poorly defined punctures and striae. Elytral suture length subequal to width of both elytra. Margins beaded; bead obscured at base and apex. Elytral apex weakly rounded. Epipleuron rounded in cross section; ventral side bare, lacking setose ridge or hairs, membrane present from metacoxa to apex. Pygidium. Shape subtriangular. Surface variably sculptured. Margin with sides and apex beaded. Venterstereal shield present, posteriorly produced, hidden between procoxae. Mesometasternal keel lacking. Mesosternum invaginated, strongly concave and forming a broad, rounded pit (Fig. 7). In lateral view, male abdominal sternites flat, female abdominal sternites weakly convex. Terminal sternite (Fig. 10) in male with apex weakly emarginate or not. Legs. Protibia with three teeth, basal tooth reduced, weakly removed from other teeth; inner apex with spur; base without notch. Male protarsomeres 1-4 (Fig. 8) dorso-ventrally flattened, densely setose ventrally; setae short, tawny. Protarsomere five cylindrical, lacking ventral pilosity, inner apex lacking longitudinal slit. Protarsus with inner, modified claw unequally split dorso-ventrally (Fig. 9); unguinactor plate cylindrical, weakly exposed beyond apex of protarsomere 5, bisetose. Female protarsomeres missing, not observable. Meso- and metatarsomeres each weakly expanded apically (mesotibial apex slightly more expanded in females): external edge with two weakly developed carinae; apex with spurs and spines; two spurs at inner apex placed in depression. Surface variably punctate, metatibia more clearly sculptured than mesotibia. Male meso- and metatarsomeres 1-4 ventrally flattened, setose ventrally (less setose than protarsomeres), setae short, tawny; mesotarsus with outer claw subequally split dorso-ventrally; meso- and metatarsomere five cylindrical, lacking ventral pilosity, inner apex with weak longitudinal slit. Metafemur with dorsal, apicolateral area smooth, lacking stridulatory file. Female meso- and metatarsomeres missing, not observable. Hind Wing (Fig. 12). Well developed hooks on precostal membrane present. Anterior edge from medial fold to apex of wing lacking setae. Vein AA1 ÷ AA2 = 1 2 length of vein AA3-4. Parameres (Figs. 13-14). Symmetrical. Female Gonocoxites (Fig. 11). Symmetrical.

Diagnosis. Xenogeniates is easily distinguished from other genera of Geniatiini by the following combination of characters: mesosternum strongly invaginated and concave (Fig. 7), lack of longitudinal slit at inner apex of protarsomere 5, and antennal club obovate-shaped in lateral view (Fig. 6).

Distribution. Brazil.

Remarks. Specimens were found in the collection of Antonio Martinez (now at CMNC) with Martinez’s label name of “Xenogeniates.” We have proposed Martinez’s label name in his honor and because it is descriptive of the taxon. Xenogeniates is unusual among all Scarabaeidae for its concave and invaginated mesosternum. Among the Rutelinae it is unusual because it lacks or has only a weak longitudinal slit at the apices of the fifth tarsomeres, a character that allows for the independent movement of both claws and that is synapomorphic in the Rutelinae. In addition, the onychium is cylindrical (rather than laterally flattened as...
Xenogeniates martinezi Villatoro & Jameson, new species

(Figs. 1–15)


Holotype. MALE. Form (Fig. 1). Length 9.6 mm; width 5.3 mm. Color. Head, pronotum, scutellum, pygidium, and venter castaneous; elytra tan. Head. Frons emarginated subapically; emargination rounded (Fig. 10). Legs. Protarsomeres 2–3 weakly elongate (maximum width subequal to five-sixths length), dorsal surface convex; protarsomere five elongate (length exceeds 1/2 length of protarsomeres 2–4). Metatibiae with posterior margin at apex weakly extended, rounded. Metatibiae with posterior margin at apex weakly extended, rounded. Metatibiae with posterior margin at apex weakly extended, rounded.

Fig. 15. Distribution of X. martinezi Villatoro & Jameson.
Horizonte. Brazil. Parameres. Tarsomeres five absent; and distinct shape of the male tawny (elytra); longitudinal slit at inner apex of prothorax (head, pronotum, scutellum, pygidium) and tan or blackened and concave; dorsal coloration castaneous or blackened; laterals and apical tawny (elytra); longitudinal slit at inner apex of prothorax more five absent; and distinct shape of the male parameres.

Paratypes. Length 9.3–8.7 mm; width 4.9–4.3 mm. Paratypes (3 males) differ from the holotype in the following respects. Color. Elytra tawny or brown. Head. Maxilla with 2–4 reduced teeth. Legs. Metatarsomeres 1–3 subequal in length; fourth two-thirds length of preceding segment; fifth lacking medial protuberance or longitudinal raised line.

Diagnosis. Xenogeniates martinezi is distinguished from other geniatine scarabs by the following combination of characters: mesosternum strongly invaginated and concave; dorsal coloration castaneous or blackened; laterals and apical tawny (elytra); longitudinal slit at inner apex of prothorax five absent; and distinct shape of the male parameres.

Distribution (Fig. 15). Southern and southeastern Brazil.


Temporal Data. November (1).

Etymology. Xenogeniates martinezi is named in honor of Antonio Martínez for his significant contributions to the knowledge of the Geniatini.

Remarks. The function of the mesosternal invagination observed in X. martinezi is unknown, but we observed that the invagination contained many dead nites in the female holotype specimen. A species profile (habitats pictures and a distributional map) is available on-line (http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/Guide/Rutelinae/Geniatini/Xenogeniates/X.martinezi.htm).

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