

Koleopterologische Rundschau	85	239–242	Wien, September 2015
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Tropicus kolouseki sp.n. from Bolivia (Coleoptera: Heteroceridae)

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Abstract

Tropicus kolouseki sp.n. (Coleoptera: Heteroceridae) from Bolivia is described and illustrated. The occurrence of *Tropicus alcornis* MASCAGNI, 1989 in Bolivia is confirmed.

Key words: Coleoptera, Heteroceridae, taxonomy, *Tropicus*, new species, Bolivia.

Introduction

The family *Heteroceridae* contains at present about 370 known, morphologically uniform species, divided into five tribes, each containing the nominate genus only. All members live on sandy and muddy water banks in tunnels a few millimeters under the surface. Species of *Heteroceridae* with nine-segmented antennae distributed in the New World represent the genus *Tropicus* PACHECO, 1964, which is subdivided into three groups (*pusillus*, *imperator* and *minutus*) sensu PACHECO (1964), based mainly on the aedeagus and spiculum gastrale. Male specimens usually possess a well developed process on the dorsal ridge of the mandibles. This genus contains 55 known species (SKALICKÝ 2008, 2009, 2013, 2014).

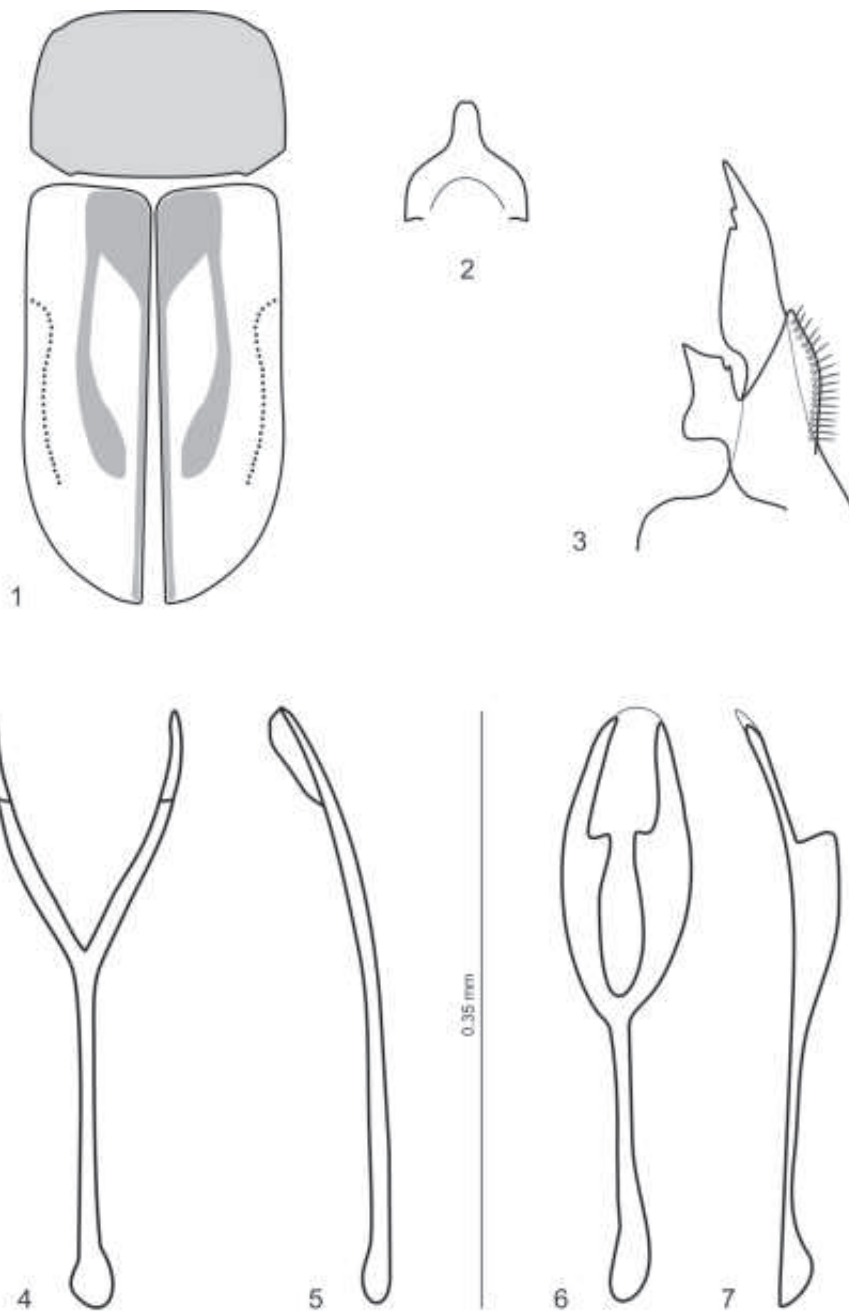
During the study of unidentified *Heteroceridae* collected from the Bolivian state of Santa Cruz I found two species: *T. alcornis* MASCAGNI, 1989 and *Tropicus kolouseki* sp.n., which is described herein. *Tropicus kolouseki* sp.n. is near to *T. maxwelli* SKALICKÝ, 2009 from Peru (SKALICKÝ 2009).

Distributional notes of Heteroceridae in Bolivia

Our knowledge of the heterocerid fauna of Bolivia is poor, only 20 species are known from this country at present: ten species of *Heterocerus* FABRICIUS, 1792 (*H. boliviensis* PACHECO, 1964, *H. meridianus* (PACHECO, 1975), *H. santacruzensis* TRÉMOUILLES, 1999, *H. pachecoi* SKALICKÝ, 2002 from Cochabamba and Santa Cruz Departments, *H. solitarius* PACHECO, 1973 and *H. woodruffi* (PACHECO, 1975) from Santa Cruz Department, *H. danielsoni* SKALICKÝ, 2006 and *H. steineri* SKALICKÝ, 2006 from Beni Department, *H. similis* GROUVELLE, 1892 from La Paz Department and *H. ciliaticollis* STEINHEIL, 1869 from Cochabamba Department) and ten species of *Tropicus* PACHECO, 1964 (*T. alcornis* from Beni, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz and Tarija Department, *T. bertiae* SKALICKÝ, 2006, *T. deuvei* SKALICKÝ, 2006, *T. huachiensis* SKALICKÝ, 2006, *T. imperator* PACHECO, 1964 and *T. taghavianii* SKALICKÝ, 2006 from Beni Department, *T. boukali* SKALICKÝ, 2002 from Beni, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz Departments, *T. squamosus* PACHECO, 1964 from Santa Cruz, Potosi and Tarija Departments, *T. manni* SKALICKÝ, 2008 from Santa Cruz Department and *T. tucumanensis* PACHECO, 1964 from Tarija (PACHECO 1964, 1973, 1975; MASCAGNI & MONTE 2010; TRÉMOUILLES 1999; SKALICKÝ 2006a–b, 2008).

Tropicus alcornis MASCAGNI, 1989

Material examined: 6 exs. (2 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀ CSU): “Bolivia SC [Santa Cruz Department] 6 km S of Puerto Suarez [Germán Busch Province] S18.97 W57.76, near laguna Caceres [Laguna Cáceres] 18.i.2011 light Dvořák lgt”.



Figs. 1–6: *Tropicus kolouseki* sp.n.; 1) pronotum and elytra, dorsal view; 2) visible part of labrum, dorsal view; 3) left mandible, dorsal view; 4) spiculum gastrale, dorsal view; 5) spiculum gastrale, lateral view; 6) aedeagus, dorsal view; 7) aedeagus, lateral view. Figs. 1–3 not to scale.

***Tropicus kolouseki* sp.n.**

TYPE MATERIAL: **Holotype** ♂ (CSU): “Bolivia SC [Santa Cruz Department] 6 km S of Puerto Suarez [German Busch Province] S18.97 W57.76, near laguna Caceres [Laguna Cáceres] 18.i.2011 light Dvořák lgt”. **Paratype** ♀ (CSU): same data as holotype.

DESCRIPTION: Holotype ♂: Total length 2.80 mm (incl. labrum); elytra 1.55 mm long, 1.00 mm wide across shoulders. Ground colour pale brown, elytron with darker diffuse spots around labrum, suture narrowly brown to black (Fig. 1), tibiae dark brown laterally. Ventral side brown. Labrum (Fig. 2) relatively small, apex without serrations, surface finely granular, without larger intermixed punctures; setae fine, adjacent with intermixed dense longer erect setae. Mandibles (Fig. 3) short, dentate, dorsal subapical tooth short, pointed, process of dorsal ridge long and well developed with sparse, short yellow setae. Prosthema without central tooth with series of sparse teeth. Clypeus oblong, without pair of anterior horns; finely granular, setae short, semierect. Head finely granular, with long erect setae above eyes. Antennae 9-segmented, with 6-segmented club. Antennomeres 1 and 3 with erect setae as long as club. Pronotum 1.50 times wider than long, slightly wider than base of elytra; lateral margins almost parallel, pronotal base completely rimmed. Surface of pronotum finely granular without larger punctures, punctures approximately 0.5 of a diameter of the eye facets. Setae of pronotum yellow, sparse, short, with intermixed longer setae laterally. Scutellum triangular, anterior corners rounded, posterior corners pointed. Elytra without longitudinal furrows, without scutellar depressions, humeral depressions shallow, extending obliquely almost to midlength of elytra. Surface of elytra very finely granular with intermixed coarse granules approximately 1.2 times as large as eye facets; each elytron with a series of coarse granules on lateral side (Fig. 1) (granules concealed by setae, but clearly visible when wet); setae short, semierect, yellowish and sparse. Epipleural ridge absent. Metaventricle without post-mesocoxal ridge. Mesoventrite neither spinose nor tuberculate in front of each mesocoxa. Transverse ridge of mesoventrite thick, V-shaped. Prosternal spine triangular, pointed. Post-metacoxal line absent. Stridulatory arch marked with sparse striae. Protibia and mesotibia with nine stout spines, metatibia with uncertain number of thin spines. Spiculum gastrale 0.35 mm long; Y-shaped as in Figs. 4–5, posterior arms ending in semi-sclerotized spine. Aedeagus 0.35 mm long, simple, consisting only of median plate with partially inflexed lateral margins, without other sclerotized structures. Shape as in Figs. 6–7.

Paratype ♀: Total length 2.90 mm (incl. labrum); elytra 1.70 mm long, 1.20 mm wide across shoulders. Mandibles without process of dorsal ridge. Externally similar to male.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS: Due to the shape of its aedeagus and spiculum gastrale, *T. kolouseki* sp.n. belongs to the *T. minutus* group sensu PACHECO (1964) and it is probably related to *T. maxwelli* SKALICKÝ, 2009 from Peru. It differs from the latter in the ground colour and elytral pattern (brown to black without pattern in *T. maxwelli*), shape of the dorsal ridge in mandibles (very short simple spine in *T. maxwelli*) and in the morphology of the male genitalia (see Figs. 1–7; and SKALICKÝ 2009: figs. 1–5).

ETYMOLOGY: The new species is named after my lovely tomcat Koloušek.

Acknowledgements

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Josef Jelínek (National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic) and Dr. Manfred A. Jäch (Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Austria) for valuable comments and for improving the English text.

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Jahr/Year: 2015

Band/Volume: [85_2015](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Skalicky Stanislav

Artikel/Article: [Tropicus kolouseki sp.n. from Bolivia \(Coleoptera: Heteroceridae\) 239-242](#)