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First record of *Platambus* THOMSON, 1860 from El Salvador (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae: Agabini)

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Abstract

Platambus americanus (AUBÉ, 1838) is recorded for the first time for El Salvador (San José del Sacare, Chalatenango Department), which marks the southern most record of the genus in the New World. Altogether 66 species of the genus are known worldwide, with two species in Central America.

Zusammenfassung

Der Schwimmkäfer *Platambus americanus* (AUBÉ, 1838) wird zum ersten Mal für El Salvador gemeldet (San José del Sacare, Department Chalatenango), welches zugleich den südlichsten Verbreitungspunkt der Gattung in Amerika markiert. Diese historischen Exemplare wurden bereits im Februar 1927 von dem verstorbenen Säugetierexperten Ruben Arthur STIRTON gesammelt. Weltweit sind bisher 66 Arten aus der Gattung *Platambus* beschrieben, davon sind zwei Arten endemisch in Zentralamerika.

Introduction

The genus *Platambus* THOMSON, 1860 includes several representatives historically placed in the genus *Agabus*, especially in the Nearctic region, before the generic reclassification by NILSSON (2000). However, the group as so defined appears not to be monophyletic (RIBERA 2004). The genus currently includes 66 species, with 13 species in the Nearctic region, and two species south to Mexico and Guatemala (NILSSON & HÁJEK 2018). The Nearctic and Central American species can be identified using the key in LARSON et al. (2000) and the Palearctic and Oriental species were revised by BRANCUCCI (e.g. 1982; 1984; 1988; 1990; 2006; 2007) and HENDRICH & PRZEWOŻNY (2015). Most species are lotic and were recorded from creeks, springs and vegetated margins of streams and rivers (BRANCUCCI & HENDRICH 2006). Some Holarctic species are known from lentic situations and lakeshores (LARSON et al. 2000; MILLER & BERGSTEN 2016) as well.

Here, we report on the first record of the genus from El Salvador in Central America, which is the southern most record of the genus in the New World.

Material and methods

The specimens included in this study are deposited in the Zoologische Staatssammlung München, Munich, Germany (ZSM).

Photos and illustrations. The beetles were studied with a Leica MZ 12.5 stereo microscope at 10-100x. Images of the habitus was taken with a digital imaging system, composed of a Nikon camera, attached to a Leica Z6-APO focus lens. Image stacks were generated using a StackShot macro rail and images assembled with the computer software Helicon Focus 4.77TM.



Figure 1. *Platambus americanus*, male, total length 8.2 mm: **a)** dorsal habitus; **b)** ventral habitus; **c-e)** male genitalia in lateral view, scale bar = 1.0 mm: **c)** right paramere; **d)** left paramere; **e)** median lobe.

***Platambus americanus* (AUBÉ, 1838) (Figure 1)**

Agabus americanus AUBÉ, 1838b: 334; TL: Mexico; Holotype ?; DESCR.: LARSON et al. 2000: 544; N. COMB.: NILSSON 2000: 33. *Gaurodytes americanus* var. *obscurior* ZIMMERMANN, 1919a: 212; TL: Central America [not given]; 1 syntype ZSM; preoccupied by J.R. SAHLBERG 1875: 199; N. SYN.: NILSSON 2000: 33. *Platambus americanus* (AUBÉ, 1838): NILSSON & HÁJEK (2018): 31.

Type locality. “Mexico” (AUBÉ, 1838).

Material studied. 1 ♂ and 3 ♀, “Los Esesmiles, Sacare Chalatenango, El Salvador C.A 2.27.27 [February 1927], RA Stirton” [printed]; “*Platambus americanus*, Y. S. Megna, M. Balke & L. Hendrich det. 2018” [printed]; deposited in ZSM.

Distribution. *Platambus americanus* was so far only recorded from Mexico (Chiapas, Oaxaca), and Guatemala (LARSON et al. 2000). The specimens collected in the northern part of El Salvador are the first report of this species for that country.

Habitat and collecting circumstances. According to BURT & STIRTON (1961: 11) the four specimens have been collected between 6,400 feet (base camp during their expedition in 1927) and 9,000 feet (summit of mountain). The authors described the area as follow: “This short range of mountains merges to the north with the Honduran highlands. The southern exposure is arid with pines and oaks up to 8,700 feet. The northern slope and summit are humid, dripping wet throughout the year. Here are large oaks covered with epiphytes and with an understory of tree ferns, shrubs, small ferns, and moss. It is a cloud forest. Several small streams carry seepage down to the Rio Lempa. Near camp, on the east side of the mountain, were patches of corn and wheat. Also, some areas were grassy and others covered with berry vines and ferns. Dense clumps of berry vines were common along the banks of small streams.”

The collecting circumstances and the exact habitat of the species are unknown.

Remarks. The specimens of *P. americanus* from El Salvador differ slightly from specimens from Mexico. The head is missing a large frontal spot (Fig. 1a). Also, they have a slightly different colour pattern, lighter than those specimens from Mexico. However, the specimens from El Salvador belong to *P. americanus* because the prosternal process has the lateral bead broadly inflated posterior of procoxae; the pronotum and the elytron in dorsal view have the lateral margin slightly discontinuous (Fig. 1a); the protarsal claw of male is elongate, subequal in length to the length of the protarsomere V (Fig. 1b); the median lobe of the aedeagus in lateral aspect narrow, arcuate and with reflexed apex (Fig. 1e).

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