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***Electribius relictus*, a new extant species of Artematopodidae (Coleoptera: Elateroidea) from Veracruz, Mexico**

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Abstract

Electribius relictus sp. nov. (Artematopodidae) is described from a cloud forest fragment in central Veracruz, Mexico. This species is distinguished from the other extant species known, *E. crowsoni* Lawrence (Mexico) and *E. similis* Lawrence (El Salvador), by the pronotum and elytra completely black, pronotum with margins crenulate at base, fifth abdominal ventrite with distinct median ridge, and the shape of aedeagus. The new species is illustrated and a key for the identification of extant species of the genus and ecological data for the collecting site are provided.

Key words: Elateriformia, Electribiinae, Mesoamerica, leaf litter, riparian forest

Introduction

The family Artematopodidae is a small group of beetles. They are classified in Elateroidea superfamily, where are thought to occupy a basal position (Kundrata *et al.* 2013, 2014). Artematopodidae can be distinguished from other members of Elateroidea by the following combination of characters: antenna submoniliform, filiform to somewhat serrate, rarely pectinate, never flabellate; at least tarsomeres 3 and 4 with membranous lobes ventrally, each elytron internally with interlocking tongue, and abdomen with five connate ventrites (Lawrence 2010). Little is known about the life history of the members of this family, but at least two genera, *Macropogon* Motschulsky and *Eurypogon* Motschulsky (Artematopodinae), are known to feed on mosses (Lawrence 2010). Worldwide, 68 extant species are currently known (Hörschemeyer 1998, Kundrata *et al.* 2013). These are classified in three subfamilies: Electribiinae, Allopogoniinae and Artematopodinae (Bouchard *et al.* 2011).

Electribius is the only genus in Electribiinae. Crowson (1973) described it on the basis of his new species, *Electribius oligocenicus*, found on a piece of Baltic amber, and placed it in the tribe Electribiini of Ctesibiinae. That was the only *Electribius* species known until Lawrence (1995) described two extant species collected in Mesoamerica: *Electribius crowsoni* from San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, and *Electribius similis* from Monte Cristo zone in Santa Ana department, El Salvador. Also, in that work, the tribe Electribiini was raised to subfamily rank. Later on, Hörschemeyer (1998) added three fossil species, also from the amber of the Baltic region. Here we describe a third recent species of *Electribius* on the basis of a specimen collected in a riparian remnant of cloud forest in central Veracruz, Mexico.

Material and methods

The holotype is deposited in the Entomological Collection of the Instituto de Ecología A.C. IEXA—Instituto de Ecología A. C., Xalapa, Mexico. Observation, measurements and drawing of the specimen were made using a Leica MZ 8 Microscope, with a camera lucida attached. The photograph of habitus was generated using a Zeiss SV 6 microscope with a Zeiss Axio Cam ERc 5s camera attached. Composite images were generated using Combine ZP automontage software. Genitalia were extracted, manually cleaned with minuten pins and 10% KOH, and placed on glycerin slide mounts for observation and drawing. The specific description follows the criteria and terms of Lawrence (1995) and Hörschemeyer (1998).

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