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Three new Central and South American Histeridae

(Coleoptera)

With 6 text figures

By the kindness of Dr. GAEDIKE of the Institute for Plant-Protection, Department of Taxonomy of Insects (former D.E.I.) I have had the opportunity of examining some interesting specimens of Histeridae from various countries of the world. Among these materials there were three new species from Central and South America. One of these, belonging to a new genus, is the next example of evolutionary specialization of myrmecophilous Saprini. The second belongs to a genus which has not been represented as yet in South America, and the third has an epistomal tubercle which is characteristic in the genus *Epiurus* ERICHSON for *planulus* group.

The descriptions of new species are given below.

Myrmeosaprinus gen. nov.

Body elongate oval, rather strongly convex, upper side strongly punctate (fig. 2). Head without frontal striae (fig. 1). The 1st segment of antennae not distinctly dilated. Pronotum without lateral striae, marginal stria distinct, impressed at sides. Elytrae longer than pronotum, covered nearly completely propygidium. Dorsal striae distinct, impressed. Prosternum with antennal foveae in front of the anterior tibiae. Prosternal striae distinct, carinal ones united with the laterals. Ventral surface strongly punctate. Legs not especially dilated.

This genus belongs to a group of myrmecophilous section of Saprini and in some characters resembles *Platysaprinus* BICKHARDT, but differs from it by elongated body, strongly punctate upper side, not margined forehead and not dilated middle and posterior tibiae.

Type species: *Myrmeosaprinus brasiliensis* spec. nov.

Myrmeosaprinus brasiliensis spec. nov.

Body copper-brown, elongate, convex. Head large, forehead strongly and coarsely punctate, the punctures in anterior half of the head and on the epistoma confluent in thick, transverse wrinkles (fig. 1). Frontal stria absent, supraorbital one present. Scapus not dilated, antennal club elongate, pubescent. Mandibles distinctly punctate.

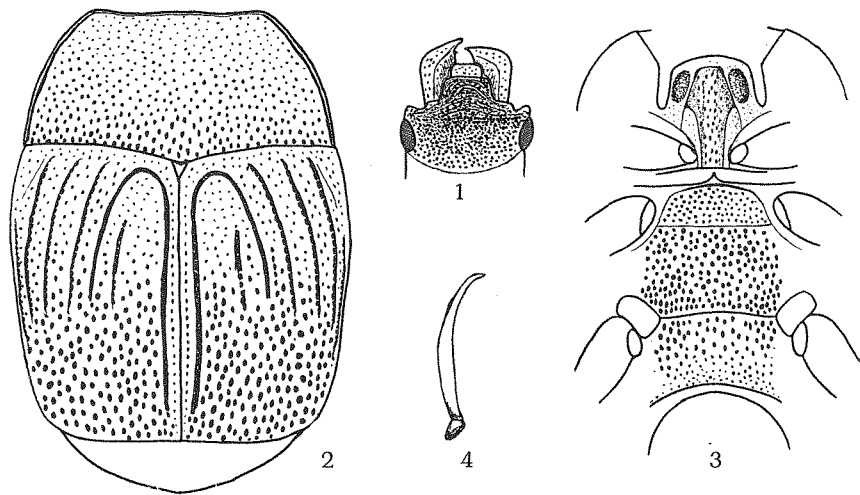
Pronotum convex, rounded at sides, coarsely punctured. The punctures on the pronotal base large, a little elongated, become progressively feebler in anterior part. Marginal stria complete, impressed at sides. Pronotal base in front of scutellum a little depressed. Epipleura not ciliate.

Elytrae 1.5 longer than pronotum, nearly parallel at sides and covered the propygidium. Punctuation of elytrae in posterior half extraordinarily thick, in anterior part feebler. Dorsal striae strongly impressed, crenulately punctate, reaching a little beyond the middle. The 4th united with a little anteriorly abbreviated sutural stria. There is a row of distinct punctures between the sutural stria and the suture. Apical stria absent. In the 4th interval there is also an additional fragment of the 5th dorsal stria composed with several large punctures. Lateral margins of the 3rd, 2nd and 1st stria strongly margined (fig. 2). Humeral stria indistinct, inner subhumeral one abbreviated posteriorly and anteriorly, elytral and epipleural striae complete.

Pygidium convex, coarsely punctate at the base, the punctation of the pygidial apex distinctly feeble.

Prosternum (fig. 3) a little compressed, covered with elongate punctures, prosternal striae very distinct. Carinal striae ascending and joining lateral striae which are united anteriorly.

Mesosternum short, coarsely and thickly punctate, marginal stria complete. Meso-metasternal suture indistinct. Metasternum as well as the base of first abdominal segment coarsely punctate. Metasternum strongly longitudinally concave (sexual dimorphism?). Edeagus as in figure 4.



Figs. 1—4. *Myrmeosaprinus brasiliensis* spec. nov.: Fig. 1. Head. — Fig. 2. Dorsal surface. — Fig. 3. Ventral surface. — Fig. 4. Edeagus

Legs like colored as body, the middle and posterior tibiae not dilated. Anterior tibia with 6—7 fine teeth, the middle with 6, the posterior with 4—5 spinules.

Length: PE — 2,7 mm; total: 3,5 mm. Width: 2,1 mm.

Holotype: A male, collected by dr WITTE in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, of the nest of *Trigona rufictus* LATREILLE. In the collection of the Institute for Plant Protection, Department of Taxonomy of Insects (former D. E. I.).

***Epierus guyanensis* spec. nov.**

Body oval, rather convex, dark brownish-pitch-black. Head finely punctate, the forehead and epistoma concave. The epistoma brown, with a small tubercle (similarly as in *planulus* group).

Pronotum convex, finely but distinctly punctate, strongly narrowed anteriorly, the anterior angles jutting. Marginal stria complete.

Elytrae rounded at sides, very finely punctate. Dorsal striae fine, 1—4 complete, the 5th abbreviated extends 3/4 of elytral length, the sutural one a little longer. Humeral stria oblique, the subhumeral ones absent, the elytral and epipleural ones present.

Propygidium and pygidium distinctly but rather sparsely punctate, the propygidium with an indistinct fovea at apex.

Prosternal lobe (fig. 5) punctate, finely sinuous anteriorly and distinctly margined. Prosternum flat, finely punctate, its posterior margin arcuate. Carinal stria present, convergent a little at the base and divergent anteriorly.

Mesosternum finely sinuous anteriorly, with a strong transverse, semicircular stria. Marginal stria interrupted. Mesometasternal suture indistinct. Metasternum finely and rather thickly punctate on the disc, distinctly more coarsely and sparsely at sides. First abdominal segment similar punctate as on metasternum.

Legs paler than body, reddish-brown, the anterior tibiae multispinulose.

Length: PE — 3,8 mm; total: 4,5 mm. Width 2,6 mm.

Holotype: A male, collected by LE MOULT in French Guiana at the banks of Maroni river. In the collection of the Institute for Plant-Protection, Department of Taxonomy of Insects (former D. E. I.).

The species is closely related to *Epierus patruelis* LEWIS from Guatemala, but distinguished from it by having the epistomal tubercle, the concave forehead and by being the carinal striae not parallel.

Margarinotus (Paralister) neotropicus spec. nov.

Body oblong, rather convex, the upper side finely and sparsely punctate. Forehead flat, sparsely punctate. Frontal stria distinctly bisinuous (resembling that of *Margarinotus neglectus* GERMAR).

Prosternum narrowed anteriorly, anterior angles jutting. The prosternal base with a very short stria in front of scutellum. Internal lateral stria complete, a little curved laterally. Marginal stria interrupted behind the head, extends to the middle of marginal length.

Elytrae nearly parallel with indistinct subapical depressions. Dorsal striae present, 1—3 complete, the 4th not extending the middle, the 5th shorter. Sutural stria abbreviated basally, extends 1/3 of elytral length. Outer subhumeral stria a little abbreviated basally. Epipleural fossa punctate, elytral and epipleural striae present.

Propygidium coarsely and rather sparsely punctate (the punctures separated by 1—3 their diameters), with a fine microsculpture and with 2 foveae at sides. Pygidium similary punctate as on propygidium.

Prosternal lobe (fig. 6) finely and sparsely punctate, strongly margined anteriorly and laterally. Prosternum depressed, carinal striae absent, lateral divergent anteriorly. Mesosternum widely sinuous, very finely and sparsely punctate, marginal stria complete. Meso-metasternal as well as metasternal longitudinal suture distinct and strong impressed. Metasternum with a fine transverse stria at apex.

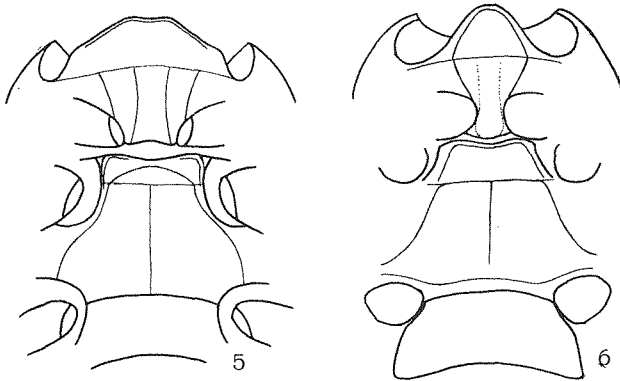


Fig. 5. Ventral surface of *Epierus guyanensis* spec. nov.

Fig. 6. Ventral surface of *Margarinotus (Paralister) neotropicus* spec. nov.

Anterior tibia with 5 fine teeth, the middle with 6—8, the posterior with 8 spinules.

Length: PE — 6,2 mm; total: 8,0 mm. Width: 4,2 mm.

Holotype: A female, collected in Córdoba, Argentina.

This is the first species of this genus known from South America and can be compared with any American species. In some characters it traces rather to European *Margarinotus (Paralister) neglectus* (GERMAR).

Zusammenfassung

Aus der Sammlung des Instituts für Pflanzenschutzforschung, Abteilung Taxonomie der Insekten, werden drei neue Arten (*Myrmeosaprinus brasiliensis* spec. nov., *Epierus guyanensis* spec. nov. und *Margarinotus (Paralister) neotropicus* spec. nov.) der Histeridae (Col.) für Mittel- und Südamerika beschrieben. Eine dieser Arten wird in eine neue Gattung gestellt (*Myrmeosaprinus*).

Summary

From the collection of the Institute of Research on Plant Protection, Department of Taxonomy of Insects, three new species of Histeridae (Col.) — *Myrmeosaprinus brasiliensis* spec. nov., *Epiurus guyanensis* spec. nov., and *Margarinotus (Paralister) neotropicus* spec. nov. — are described for Central and South America. One of these species is placed in a new genus (*Myrmeosaprinus*).

Резюме

Из коллекции Института Исследования Защиты Растений, отд. таксономия насекомых описываются три новых вида (*Myrmeosaprinus brasiliensis* spec. nov., *Epiurus guyanensis* spec. nov. и *Margarinotus (Paralister) neotropicus* spec. nov.) семейства *Histeridae* для Средней и Южной Америки. Один из этих видов ставится в новый род (*Myrmeosaprinus*).