The genus *Erlandia* Aurivillius, 1904 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) in Argentina, with the description of a new species

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Abstract: The genus *Erlandia* (Cerambycinae: Erlandiini) was described by Aurivillius in 1904, containing a single species, *Erlandia inopinata*, distributed in Bolivia, Argentina, and Paraguay. A new species, *E. megacephala*, from Argentina is described, and illustrated here. A key and distribution map of both species are provided, with a generic diagnosis using characters of both species.

Key Words: Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, *Erlandia*, new species, Argentina.

Introduction

The tribe Erlandini (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Cerambycinae) contains one genus, *Erlandia* Aurivillius 1904, until now monotypic (Monné, 1993). *Erlandia inopinata* Aurivillius 1904, was described from Bolivia, although it was later reported from Argentina (Bruch, 1912; Prosen, 1947; Buck, 1959; Viana and Williner, 1974), and Paraguay (Viana, 1972). In this work a new species found in Argentina is described, the known distribution of *E. inopinata* is extended, and a generic diagnosis is provided from characters of both species.

Collections examined: IML: Instituto Miguel Lillo, Tucumán; MACN: Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia", Buenos Aires; MV: Manuel Viana, Rosario de Lerma, Salta; ODI: Osvaldo Di Iorio, Buenos Aires; OG: Oscar Gonzalez, Charata, Chaco.

Key to the species of *Erlandia*

1. Slender; head and pronotum almost as long as wide, shiny reddish brown, slightly darker than elytra; midline of the pronotum differentiated in a smooth, shiny area; mandibles long and thin, projected forward, the basal 2/3 straight, the end curved, tip sharp ..... *Erlandia inopinata*

1'. Robust; head and pronotum wider than long, matte dark reddish brown; midline of the pronotum not differentiated from the rest of the surface; mandibles short, thick, tips blunt (Fig. 2) ..... *Erlandia megacephala*

Erlandia inopinata Aurivillius, 1904

(Fig. 1)

Measurements (mm): head width: 3.00; head length: 2.88; prothorax width: 3.60; prothorax length: 3.60; maximum elytra width across the middle: 4.20; elytra length: 9.00; total length: 15.48.

Literature records: Bolivia: Tatarenda (Aurivillius, 1904); Paraguay: without locality data (Viana, 1972); Argentina: Chaco, Salta, Tucumán (Bruch, 1912); Santiago del Estero: Río Hondo (Prosen, 1947); Salta (Buck, 1959); La Rioja: Patquía (Viana and Williner, 1974).

Material examined: Argentina: **Salta**: Departamento San Martín, Dique Itiyuro, Río Carapari, 13-X-1970, Martínez leg., 1 ex. (ODI); Departamento Coronel Moldes, Cabra Corral, XI-1984, Martínez leg., 1 ex. (ODI); Tacuil (2400 m), 15 to 28-II, 1 ex. (FML); **Catamarca**: 6 km N Belén (Isla del Sauce), 1240 m, Willink, Terán, and Stange leg., Malaise trap, 5 exs. (FML); **La Rioja**: 12 km Chilecito, 1 to 31-III-1969, Stange, Terán, and Willink leg., 1 ex. (FML); Anguinan (Chilecito), 1200 m, 16 to 30-XI-1969, Willink, Terán, and Stange leg., Malaise trap, 4 exs. (FML); Patquía, XI-1959, 1 ex. (MV); **Chaco**: Charata, Gonzalez leg.: 27-XI-91, 2 exs. (ODI), 2 exs. (OG), 4-XII-92, 3 exs. (OG), 8-XII-92, 2 exs. (OG), 16-XII-92, 2 exs. (OG), 3-XI-94, 1 ex. (ODI), Mercury light trap; 26-XI-94, 1 ex. (OG), Black light trap; 21-XI-93, 1 ex. (ODI), 8-XII-93, 2 exs. (OG), Fluorescent tube light trap; 6-XII-93, 2 exs. (ODI), 3 exs. (OG), under felled trunk of *Prosopis kuntzei* Harms (Mimosaceae); **Córdoba**: without locality, "IV-922 / J.S. Perez" leg., 1 ex. (MACN); **San Luis**: Arizona, La Peperina, I-1982, Martínez leg., 1 ex. (ODI); Arizona, 1 ex. (MV).

Erlandia megacephala new species

(Figs. 1, 2)

Holotype measurements (mm): head width: 5.28; head length: 4.80; prothorax width: 5.04; maximum elytra width across the middle: 6.00; elytra length: 11.28; total length: 20.64.

Body depressed, robust; head and prothorax almost as long as elytra. Head subquadrate, lateral margins somewhat rounded; base abruptly convergent, smallest width at insertion with prothorax (margins of base oblique). Dorsum of head coarsely

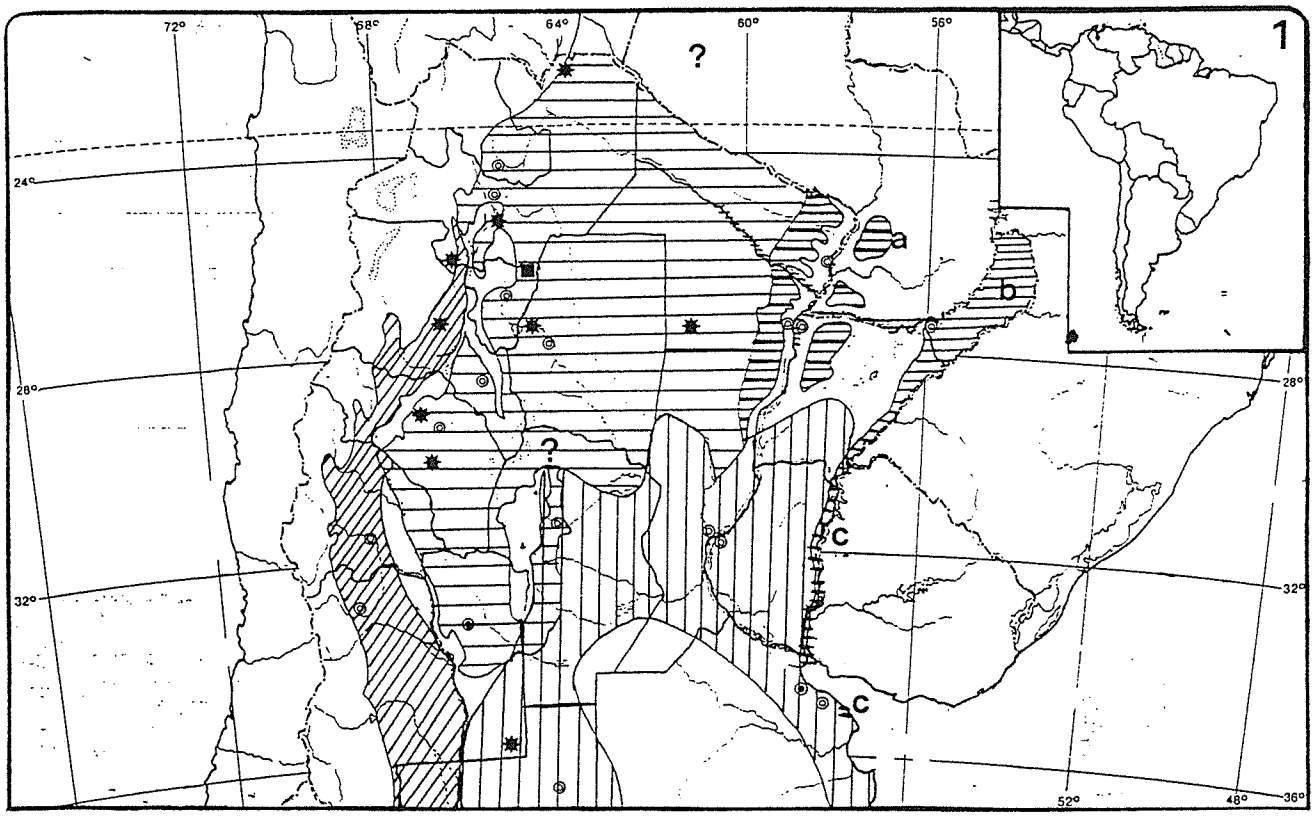

Fig. 1. Geographic distribution of the species of *Erlandia*. Stars: *Erlandia inopinata* (localities mentioned in the literature, and material examined; ? province or country without locality data). Squares: *Erlandia megacephala*. Horizontal wide stipple: Chaco province (according to Prado, 1993); horizontal narrow stipple: Austro-Brazilian Transitional Forests (a), Paranaense (b), and Gallery Forests (c) (several authors); oblique stipple: Monte province (according to Morello, 1958); vertical stipple: Espinal province (according to Lewis and Collantes, 1973).

punctate, denser laterally, extending down sides and to base; confined toward base on ventral side, sparser to midline, smooth and shiny; gular area with transverse grooves converging laterally, and touching margin of inferior ocular lobe, and becoming obsolete before attaining superior ocular lobe, not visible from above. Punctation sparse among grooves. Inferior ocular lobe reniform, extending upwards in arched triangle with apex rounded. Dorsally, in front of superior ocular lobe, an area with very dense, thick punctation. Clypeus narrow, anterior margin strongly arched, laterally thickened. Antennal tubercles projecting anteriorly on arched margin. Frons very narrow, located in depression between antennal tubercles, midline smooth and shiny, extending slightly beyond posterior limit of antennal tubercles. Genae projected downwards on thick, robust prominence with blunt ends, and small tooth with obtuse tip on the anterior face. In front of gular area, between genal projections, labiogular suture in form of transverse carina, very robust and jutting out. Mandibles robust, tips blunt.

Antennae with 11 antennomeres, not surpassing scutellum. Scapus pyriform, long; antennomere II very small, rounded; antennomeres III to VI pyriform, IV shorter than III, antennomeres V, and VI almost as long as III; antennomeres VII to XI parallel-sided, VIII shorter than VII, IX, and X; XI longer than rest, slightly arched.

Pronotum rectangular, wider than long; anterior margin slightly concave at midline; margins subparallel, angles rounded; base narrows abruptly, margins parallel. Margins with small conical blunt tooth just after middle. Pronotum coarsely punctate, sparser medially, denser posteriorly, and laterally, both areas distinctly separated. Prosternum with transverse grooves from anterior margin to anterior coxae, extended slightly towards sides anteriorly but not visible from above; grooved area of triangular shape. Prosternal process with rough surface, widened pos-

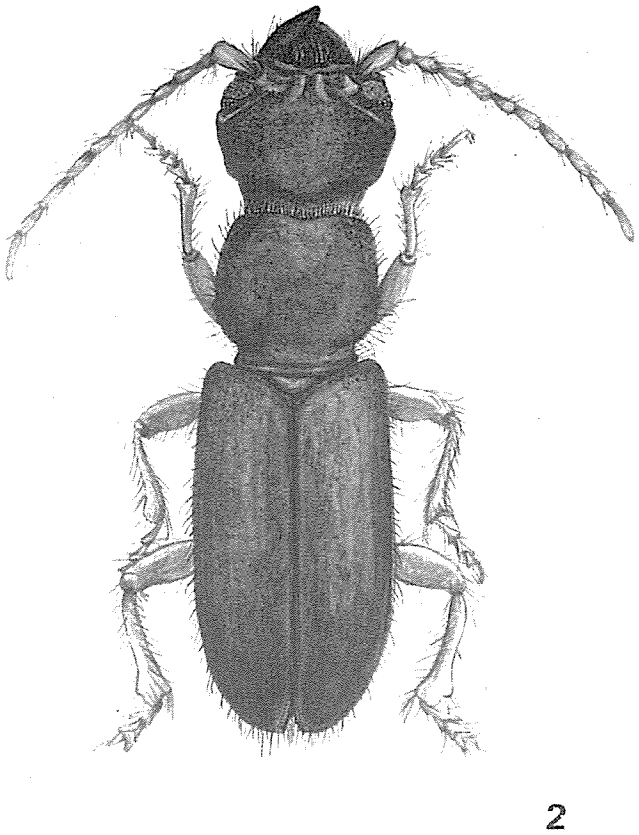

Fig. 2. *Erlandia megacephala* new species (holotype).

teriorly, posterior margin arched and indented, slightly behind anterior coxae.

Scutellum small, wider than long, posterior end rounded. Humeral width larger than width of prothorax at base; rounded humeri, projected slightly forwards. Elytra almost as long as head and prothorax together; margins subparallel, somewhat arched in middle, wider than the pronotum; external apical angle perfectly rounded; internal apical angle right with elytral suture, slightly dehiscent.

Mesosternal process triangular, narrowed posteriorly, anterior margin arched, with a blunt triangular medial projection anteriorly; surface sparsely, coarsely punctate. First visible abdominal sternite twice as long as second; rest narrow; last visible sternite with posterior margin slightly arched. Last visible abdominal tergite projected very little beyond last visible sternite and elytra. All abdominal sternites with thick yellowish hairs on sides, becoming thinner and sparser toward midline.

Legs short, robust; femora only narrowed at base. Tibiae slightly shorter than femora, distal end oblique; front tibiae with small spatulated lobe on external apical angle; internal face of middle, and hind tibiae with thick yellowish hairs, becoming longer and denser toward apex, forming a tuft. Two short blunt spines at sides of insertion of tarsi, internal spine larger than external. Last tarsal segment 1.5 or 2 times as long as first.

Head dorsum, and pronotum dark reddish brown, almost black, matte; mandibles, genal projections, lateral carinae, and apical spines of tibiae, margins of scutellum, and a thin line of same color along elytral sutures from scutellum to internal apex of elytra. Elytra, central area of scutellum, ventral side of head, thorax, coxae, and abdomen of similar color but lighter than dorsum of head and pronotum. Three basal antennomeres same color, lighter apically. Legs, labial and maxillary palpi light reddish brown. Thick, light yellow hairs on edge of clypeus projected forward to cover insertion of mandibles, on margins of elytra, and very sparse on their surfaces; anterior margin of pronotum with very short hairs, all of same length.

Material examined: **Argentina**: **Tucumán**: Departamento Burruyacu, Chilcas VIII-1975 (white label), 1 ex. (ODI), labelled "*Holotypus*", and "*Erlandia megacephala* sp. nov. Di Iorio det. 95" (red labels).

Generic diagnosis: body long, depressed; prognathous; base of head and prothorax strongly narrowed, with transverse grooves on ventral face toward anterior margin; genae projecting downward; each lateral margin of prothorax with a small tubercule just behind middle of its length; posterior margin of prosternal process indented; elytra with parallel margins, slightly arched toward middle, external apex rounded, internal apex straight, somewhat dehiscent; humerus rounded, projected forward; antenna with 11 antennomeres, ending in front of apical 1/3 of elytra; legs short, robust; femora narrowed at base; tibiae almost as long as femora, distally widened, obliquely truncate; front tibiae with small spatulate lobe on external apical angle; 2 short blunt spines at sides of insertion of tarsi, internal spine larger than external; first visible abdominal sternite twice as long as second.

Biogeography and biology: *Erlandia inopinata* is distributed from Bolivia to San Luis, Argentina (Fig. 1); the majority of localities are in the Chaco phytogeographic province. To the east it reaches Charata (Chaco), a site located on the ecotone between the dry or Occidental Chaco, and the humid or Oriental Chaco. Two sites (Belén, Tacuil) are situated in the Monte phytogeographic province. Stange, *et al.*

(1976) describe briefly the environment, and vegetation of these sites. Toward the south, in the province of San Luis, *E. inopinata* reaches the Espinal. *Erlandia megacephala* is found in the Dry Chaco, in the province of Tucuman (Fig. 1).

No hosts are known for either species. Their long, depressed body, and short legs and antennae, would suggest adaptations to living under bark or fallen tree trunks (*E. inopinata* was found underneath a felled *Prosopis kuntzei* trunk) like other Cerambycidae (*Parandra*) and Cucujidae (*Catogenus*, *Passandra*) of similar body form. The attraction to light and general coloring suggest nocturnal habits. The dates of capture in light trap at Charata suggest that *E. inopinata* has a short flight period, from the end of November to middle December.

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