

A new genus and species of Epiphloeinae from Brazil (Coleoptera: Cleridae)

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Abstract: A new genus and species of Cleridae, *Opitzius thoracicus*, from Brazil is described and illustrated. Its unique features and variability are indicated.

Introduction

A specimen of this new, readily recognizable genus and species has been on hand for many years. Relatively recently, I received additional specimens of this from my colleague Weston Opitz, a specialist in the subfamily Epiphloeinae. He is in agreement that a name should now be proposed for it in order that the genus and species can be incorporated into his current studies.

Opitzius Barr, new genus

Description: Epiphloeinae. Body of moderate size, rather slender and elongate. Head, in dorsal view, rectangular, broader than long, flattened in front and slightly swollen dorsally; eyes large, situated laterally, widely separated in front, finely faceted and with a broad, subtriangular, shallow emargination above antennal base; antennae 11-segmented with the three terminal segments forming a loose and subflattened club; maxillary palpus with last segment subcylindrical, labial palpus smaller and slightly narrowed apically. Pronotum subquadrate, slightly longer than broad, with a rounded lateral lobe present behind middle; front, lateral and hind margins finely, but distinctly cristate and continuous, front margin arcuate, hind margin transverse; surface finely, densely cribrate, irregularly swollen and faintly undulated across middle; trichobothria and associated depressions not easily discernable. Scutellum large, subtriangular and sub-flattened. Elytra subparallel, gradually narrowing to separately rounded apices; surface with basal third faintly, irregularly swollen and faintly depressed across middle, basal two-thirds with deep, densely and irregularly placed punctations, apical third shallowly punctate; epipleuron narrow and shortened, impunctate; united epipleural fold/elytral margin thickened below humerus, weakly cristate to middle and unmodified on apical half. Legs slender; front margin of protibia spinose; tarsal claws

with a lobed basal tooth; meso- and metatibia with a terminal spine; metatarsus with two apical pulvilli.

Type species: *Opitzius thoracicus* Barr, new species.

Notes: Features that separate this genus from all other New World epiphloeines involve the unique dorsal cribrate condition and the continuous cristate development of the margins of the pronotum. It appears to be most closely related to the widespread and species rich, South and Central American genus *Epiphloeus*.

Etymology: This new genus is dedicated to Weston Opitz (nee Ginter Ekis), a friend and an outstanding contributor to clerid taxonomy.

Opitzius thoracicus Barr, new species (Fig. 1)

Description: Body and legs testaceous, head and pronotum black and elytra with black markings. Head finely and densely punctate, densely clothed with short, subrecumbent pale hairs; clypeus yellow, transverse and shallowly emarginate; labrum rounded and with a median notch in front; antenna with scape yellowish, strongly curved, slender and slightly expanded apically, pedicel brownish, subglobular and longer than broad; flagellum brownish, segments subfiliform (slightly expanded apically), its segment 3 longer than individual segments 2, and 4-8, segments 1 and 2 of club triangular, each shorter than ovate terminal segment. Pronotum densely clothed with short, erect and suberect, stiff black hairs; sides, viewed from above, emarginate behind front margin and lateral lobe. Scutellum testaceous. Elytra with a dominant, irregularly margined black fascia that extends from lateral margin to lateral margin and with a faint, transverse, subapical darkening; pubescence on basal two-thirds scattered, with short to

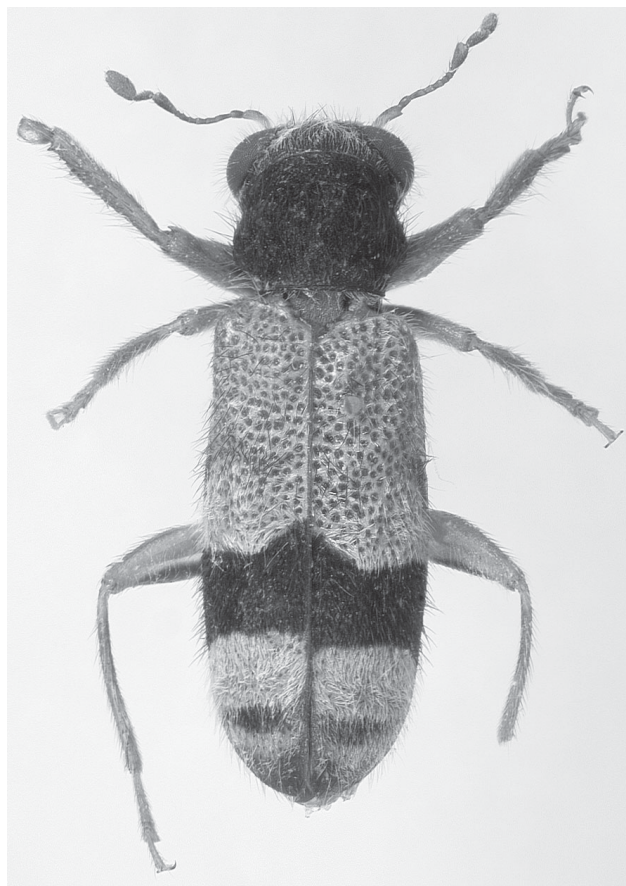


Figure 1. *Opitzius thoracicus* Barr, n. sp., habitus.

long, suberect and erect black hairs intermixed with more abundant pale hairs and with several concentrations of subrecumbent, light refractive, very short hairs in front of fascia; subapical pubescence consisting of a transverse concentration of light refractive hairs intermixed with erect pale hairs behind hind margin of fascia. Legs with fore coxae black and outer, basal area of profemora black; front margin of protibia bearing five tiny spines and a larger, triangular subapical tooth.

Ventral surface testaceous; procoxae and frontolateral area of mesosternum black. Abdomen with sternites 1-4 bearing recumbent, posterior directed,

short, tan hairs, sternites 5 and 6 dissected, not available. Body length 7.9 mm.

Types: Holotype, female, from Brazil, Bahia, Encruzada, XI-1974, M. Alvarenga (deposited in MZSP), and 1 male paratype, with same information (deposited in the W. F. Barr collection); 1 female paratype, labeled "DPTO ZOOL UF-PARANA PARQUE SOORETAMA BRASIL, 27/11/1967 - F. Oliviera" (deposited in the IMLA); 1 male paratype from Brazil, Espiritu- Santu, Linhares, IX-1972, M. Alvarenga (deposited in the USNM); 2 female paratypes from Guanabara, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, XII-1969, M. Alvarenga (deposited in the Weston Opitz collection and the CASC); 1 female paratype, labeled "Fry Rio Jano" (deposited in the BMNH).

Etymology: The term "thoracicus" makes reference to the thorax of this species which is the most important structure in the classification of this beetle.

Notes: A considerable amount of variation, both color and structural, occurs between the individuals of the type series. The head of one specimen shows a distinct redness on the upper front, between the eyes. On one of the paratypes the elytra are apically black and the others have a transverse, pale, bisected marking to the black condition. Structurally, the spines on the front margin of the protibia exhibit an unusual amount of variation, both between specimens and between legs of a specimen. With four of the paratypes, one has nine spines on the left protibia and six on the right protibia, the second has eight spines on the left and four on the right, the third has seven spines on the left and five on the right and the fourth specimen has seven spines on the left and six on the right.

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