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A new species of *Sympagus* Bates (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Lamiinae, Acanthocinini)

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ABSTRACT

A new species of Sympagus *Bates, 1881 is described,* Sympagus birai *sp. nov., from Panama (Chiriquí Province). The current key to species of the genus is modified to include the new species.*

Key-Words: New species; Panama; Taxonomy.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Sympagus* was proposed by Bates (1881) for a single species, *S. laetabilis* (Bates, 1872). The genus remained monotypic until 1960 when Tippman described *S. favorabilis,* and subsequently Monné (1985) transferred *Nyssodrys buckleyi* Bates, 1885 to *Sympagus.* Hovore & Toledo (2006) reviewed the genus and synonymized *Stenopsilus* Gilmour, 1959 with *Sympagus,* transferred *Stenopsilus bimaculatus* Gilmour, 1959 to *Sympagus,* and described two new species, *Sympagus cedrelis* and *Sympagus monnei.* Currently the genus is composed by six species.

The genus differs from the other genera of Acanthocini by the combination of the following characters: front quadrate; distance between upper eye lobes 1.5 to 2 times width of upper lobe; scape elongated and gradually enlarged at apex, apex without cicatrix or excavation; prosternal process at least half as wide as procoxal cavity; mesosternal process as wide as or distinctly wider than a mesocoxal cavity; elytra without setae.

In this work we describe one new species of *Sympagus,* and the key provided by Hovore & Toledo (2006) is modified to include the new species.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Abbreviation cited in the text: **FSCA** – Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, Florida, United States.

Taxonomy

Sympagus Bates, 1881

Sympagus Bates, 1881: 172; Monné, M.A., 2005: 133 (cat.); Hovore & Toledo, 2006: 50 (rev., syn.); Monné, M.A., 2012: 75.

Type-species: Lepturges laetabilis Bates, 1872 (original designation).

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Stenopsilus Gilmour, 1959: 27; Monné, M.A., 2005: 128 (cat.).

Type-species: Stenopsilus bimaculatus Gilmour, 1959 (original designation).

***Sympagus birai* sp. nov.**
(Figs. 1A-B)

Description: Female. Integument dark-brown. Pubescence predominantly light whitish gray, dark-brown areas covered with fine appressed grayish pubescence. Antennae black, except by the whitish gray pedicellum and base of antennomere III. Vertex and pronotum with a dark-brown median, longitudinal vitta, at pronotum with sinuous edges. Pronotum with some spots of dark-brown pubescence. Scutellum, humeri, a rhomboidal mark at the base of elytra, a transversal band in apical fourth and some interspersed spots black. Ventrally covered by grayish pubescence, lighter laterally. Tibiae black with a median light whitish gray band. Tarsomeres black.

Upper eye lobes well separated, distance between them 2.5 times the width of the upper lobe. Antennae exceeding elytral apices at antennomere VI. Scape slightly longer than antennomere III; III-VIII slightly decreasing in length, IX-X 1/6 longer than VIII, antennomere XI slightly shorter than X. Prothorax armed with acute lateral tubercles situated in posterior third. Pronotum with a basal row of punctures. Prosternal process slightly narrowed in the middle, width at its narrowest point equal to middle of procoxal cavity width. Mesosternal process wide, 1.3 times wider than a mesocoxal cavity.

Elytra almost 4 times as long as prothorax, basal third with sparse punctures, more visible in the dark pubescence. Humeri rounded. Region in the anterior third, near the suture, with a slight depression. Apices emarginate, outer angle strongly produced.

Metatarsomere I shorter than II-III together. Sternites I-IV gradually decreasing in length, sternite V 1/3 longer than sternite I, narrowed to the apex. Apex of urotergite V truncated; urosternite V with the apical margin semicircularly emarginate.

Measurements, in mm, female: Total length, 9.8; prothorax length, 1.8; prothorax width at its widest point, 2.3; elytral length, 7.0; humeral width, 3.6.

Etymology: The specific name is a patronym in honor of Ubirajara Ribeiro Martins de Souza, "Bira", our recently deceased dear friend. "Paradoxically, in an era when biologists lament the loss of habitat and species worldwide, especially in the tropics, descriptive taxonomy has fallen out of favor, and few persons have done as much in the past 50 years to catalog and describe the extant neotropical fauna…", Jerry Powell wrote this thought about John A. Chemsak, and it is also a good description of Bira's work.

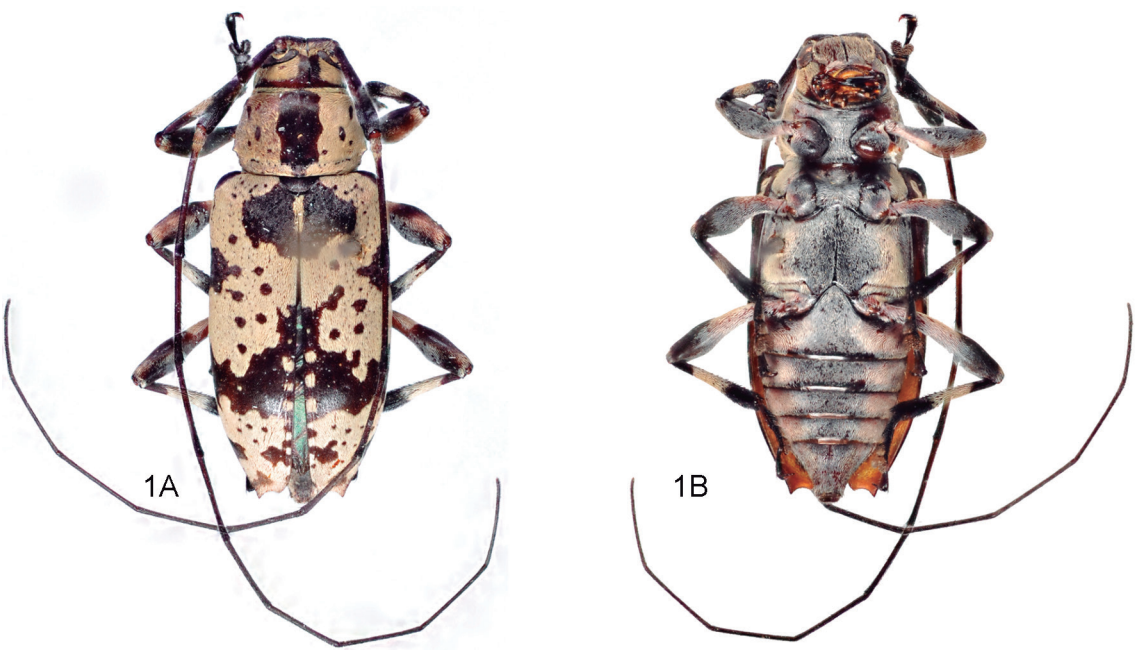

FIGURE 1: *Sympagus birai* **sp. nov.,** holotype, female. **(A)** Dorsal view; **(B)** Ventral view.

Type material: Holotype female, PANAMA, Chiriquí: 4,7 km N Valle de las Minas, 08.VII.1997, R. Turnbow leg. (FSCA).

Remarks: Sympagus birai sp. nov. is similar to *S. laetabilis* (Bates, 1872) and *S. cedrelis* Hovore & Toledo, 2006 in having the pronotum with a dark, median, longitudinal vitta, extending from head to elytral base, and similar elytral coloration pattern. The new species differs from those species in having the prothorax armed with an acute, lateral tubercle situated in its posterior third; and differs particularly from *S. cedrelis* by having the outer angle of elytra strongly projected. In *S. cedrelis* the elytral apices are rotundate-truncate or feebly emarginated and the outer angle obtusely angulate or at most feeble dentate.

Key to the species of the genus *Sympagus* Bates, 1881 (modified from Hovore & Toledo, 2006)

1. Pronotum with a dark, median, longitudinal, vitta, extending from head to elytral base, elytral pattern bold, clear ornate, yellow and brown or whitish and brown 2
– Pronotal coloration variable, dark areas on disk, if present, irregular on outline, elytral pattern ornate or diffuse, but always consisting of several different colors .... 4 (see Hovore & Toledo, 2006)

2(1). Outer angle of elytra unarmed or slightly projected. Mexico (Chiapas, Veracruz), Guatemala..... *S. cedrelis* Hovore & Toledo, 2006
– Outer angle of elytra dentated or strongly projected 3

3(2). Prothorax armed with a lateral tubercle situated in posterior third. Panama. (Figs. 1A-B)..... ..... *S. birai* sp. nov.
– Prothorax unarmed, laterally rounded. Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama .... *S. laetabilis* (Bates, 1872)

RESUMO

Uma nova espécie de Sympagus *Bates, 1881 é descrita,* Sympagus birai *sp. nov., do Panamá (Província Chiriquí). A chave atual para identificação das espécies é modificada para incluir a nova espécie.*

Palavras-Chave: Nova espécie; Panamá; Taxonomia.

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