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Description of six new species of genus *Tropicus* Pacheco, 1964 (Coleoptera: Heteroceridae)

by Stanislav Skalický

Abstract. Six new species of *Tropicus* Pacheco, 1964 – *T. balli* sp.nov. from Mexico, *T. brasiliensis* sp.nov., *T. borysi* sp.nov. and *T. goiasensis* sp.nov. from Brazil, *T. guanarensis* sp.nov. from Venezuela and *T. huachiensis* sp.nov. from Bolivia – are described, illustrated and compared with similar species.

Key words. Coleoptera – Heteroceridae – *Tropicus* – taxonomy – new species – Brazil – Bolivia – Mexico – Venezuela

Introduction

The genus *Tropicus* is known only from tropical and subtropical areas of Central and South America, and rarely also from the United States, in the form of *T. minutus* (Fall, 1920) occurring in Texas and *T. pusillus* (Say, 1823) with a very wide distribution in the United States (PACHECO 1964). Pacheco separated the genus *Tropicus* from other genera of Heteroceridae with reference to the 9-segmented antennae, different shape of male mandibles (usually with process on the dorsal ridge), Y-shaped ninth abdominal sternum (spiculum gastrale) in the male and to the very simple male genitalia. The genus was subdivided according to the shape of the male genitalia into three species groups: *pusillus*, *imperator* and *minutus*-group.

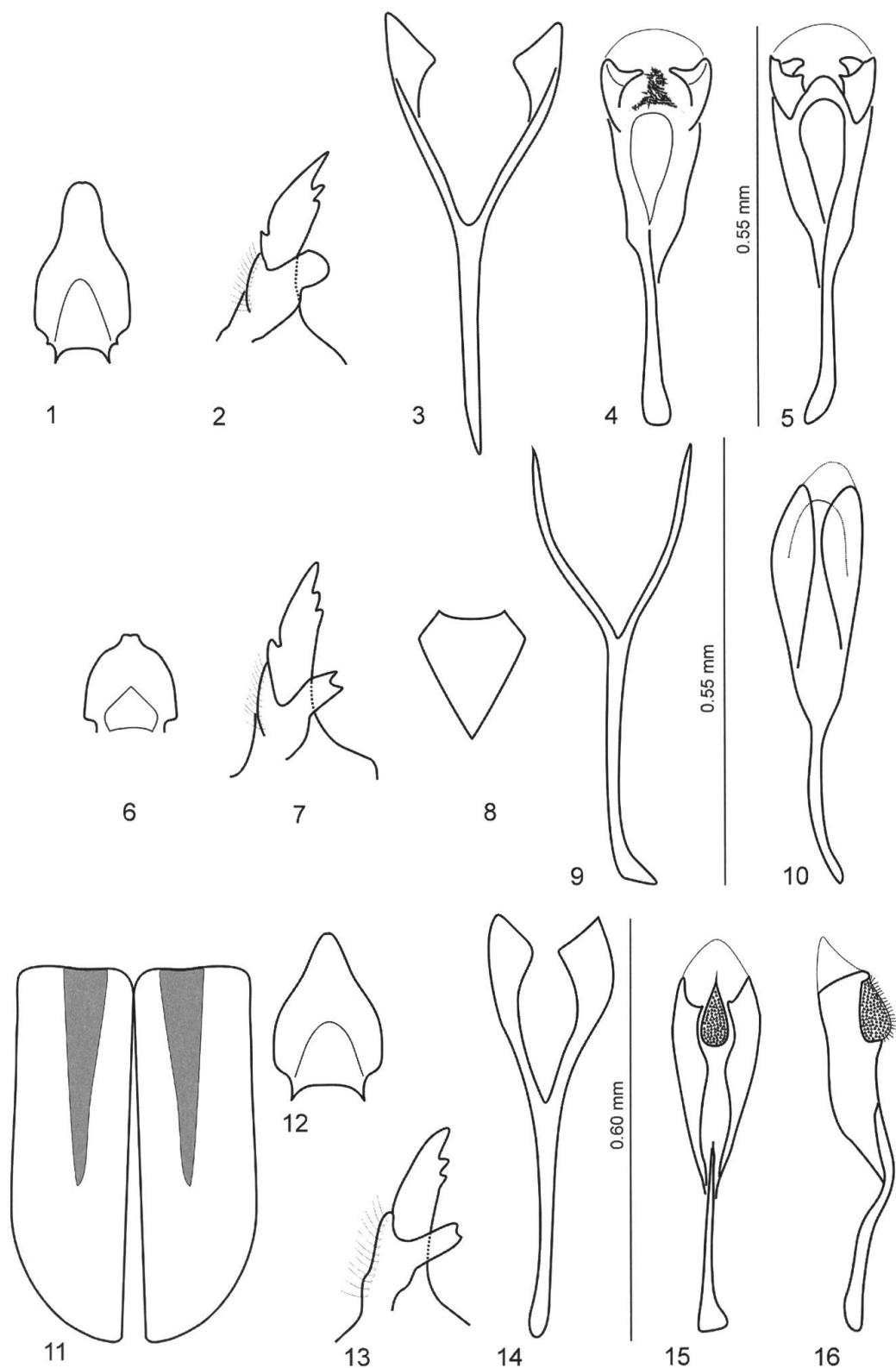
In the course of studying the Heteroceridae deposited in the Museum of Zoology, Lund University, I identified six new species of the genus *Tropicus* Pacheco, 1964 from Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela and Bolivia; they are described below. These specimens were previously recognized and named but never described by Dr. W. V. Miller.

Material and Methods

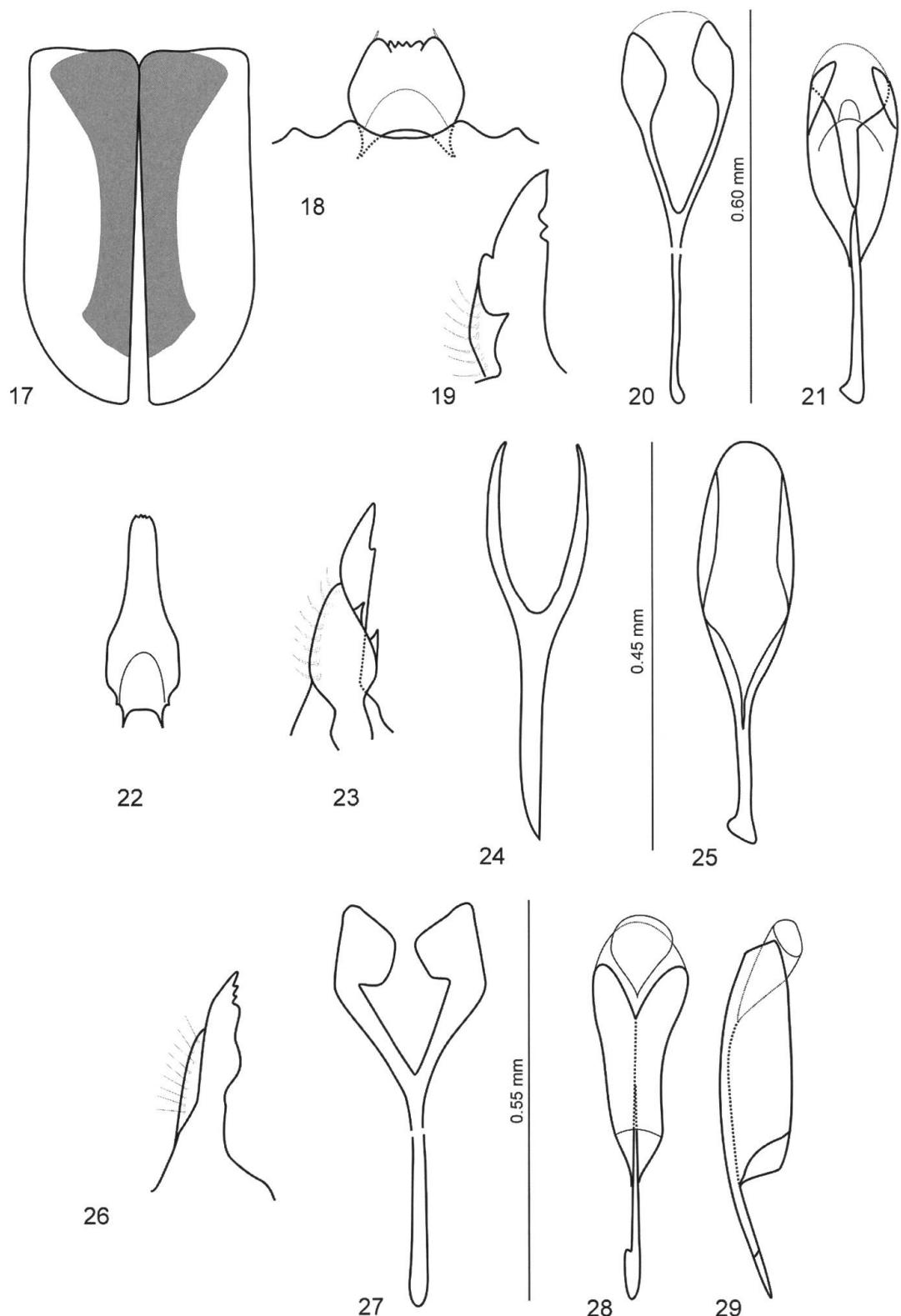
The following abbreviations are used in the text to indicate the depository of the material examined:

NHMB Natural History Museum, Basel, Switzerland
CSU The S. Skalický Collection, Ústí nad Orlicí, Czech Republic
MZLU Museum of Zoology, Lund University, Sweden

Separate labels are indicated by double slashes, locality data are cited verbatim in quotation marks ("").



Figs 1–16. 1–5, *Tropicus balli* sp.nov., holotype: 1, labrum dorsally; 2, left mandible dorsally; 3 spiculum gastrale dorsally; 4, aedeagus dorsally; 5, the same laterally. 6–10, *T. brasiliensis* sp.nov., holotype: 6, labrum dorsally; 7, left mandible dorsally; 8, scutellum dorsally; 9, spiculum gastrale dorsally; 10, aedeagus dorsally. 11–16, *T. borysi* sp.nov., holotype: 11, elytra dorsally; 12, labrum dorsally; 13, left mandible dorsally; 14, spiculum gastrale dorsally; 15, aedeagus dorsally; 16, the same laterally. Figs 1–2, 6–8, 11–13 not to scale.



Figs 17–29. 17–21, *Tropicus goiasensis* sp.nov., holotype: 17, elytra dorsally; 18, labrum and clypeus dorsally; 19, left mandible dorsally; 20, spiculum gastrale dorsally; 21, aedeagus dorsally. 22–25, *T. guanarensis* sp.nov., holotype: 22, labrum dorsally; 23, left mandible dorsally; 24, spiculum gastrale dorsally; 25, aedeagus dorsally. 26–29, *T. huachiensis* sp.nov., holotype: 26, left mandible dorsally; 27, spiculum gastrale dorsally; 28, aedeagus dorsally; 29, the same laterally. Figs 17–19, 22–23, 26 not to scale.

Description of new species

Tropicus balli sp.nov.

(Figs 1–5)

Type material. Holotype ♂: “MEX. [Mexico] Tamaulipas 9.9 mi. w. La Pesca. black light X.28.[19]65” // “George E. Ball D. R. Whitehead collectors” // “Holotype *Tropicus decipiens* W. V. Miller” [red label] // “Miller in lit.” (MZLU). Paratype (Allotype) (♀): the same date as holotype; (MZLU).

Paratypes: 8 specimens (3 ♂♂ (one specimen without abdomen and male genitalia), 5 ♀♀): the same data as holotype (MZLU, 1 ♂ NHMB, 1 ♂ CSU); 1 specimen (♂) the same data as holotype, only: “Paratype *Tropicus decipiens* W. V. Miller // “Miller in lit.” (MZLU); 1 specimen (♀) the same data as holotype, only: “Allotype *Tropicus decipiens* W. V. Miller // “Miller in lit.” (MZLU); 1 specimen (♂): “MEX. [Mexico] Tamaulipas 34.9 mi. s. Nuevo Laredo, Rte. 2 400’ X.23.[19]65” // “George E. Ball D. R. Whitehead collectors” // “Paratype *Tropicus decipiens* W. V. Miller” [yellow label] // “Miller in lit.” (MZLU); 1 specimen (♀): “MEX. [Mexico] Chiapas. 32.5 mi e. Comitan, Rte.190 2200’ IX.3.[19]65” // “George E. Ball D. R. Whitehead collectors” // “Paratype *Tropicus decipiens* W. V. Miller” [yellow label] // “Miller in lit.” (MZLU); 1 specimen (♀): “MEX. [Mexico] Nuevo Leon 20.3 mi. n. Sabinas Hidalgo, Rte.85 740’ X.23.[19]65” // “George E. Ball D. R. Whitehead collectors” // “Paratype *Tropicus decipiens* W. V. Miller” // “Miller in lit.” [yellow label] (MZLU).

Description. Holotype ♂: Total length 3.00 mm (to apex of labrum); elytra 1.85 mm long, 1.05 mm wide across shoulders. Ground colour light brown, without elytral or pronotal pattern. Head and eyes darker.

Labrum (Fig. 1) rounded, without acute apex, surface finely granular, setae dense, semierect, intermixed with some long erect. Mandibles (Fig. 2) dentate, process of the dental lobe relatively short, dorsal subapical tooth short, pointed. Prosthecal teeth few, prostheca without tooth. Clypeus without pair of anterior horns, triangular, surface with dense yellowish setae. Antennae 9-segmented, with 6-segmented club; antennomeres I and II with long setae.

Pronotum 1.7 times wider than long, wider than base of elytra; pronotal base completely rimmed; lateral margins almost parallel; surface finely and regularly granular, lacking longer punctures; setae semierect, yellowish, becoming longer laterally. Scutellum pointed, triangular, anterior margin arched. Elytra without longitudinal furrows; humeral depressions extending obliquely almost to mid-length of elytra; surface very finely granular, lacking longer punctures; setae of elytra as on pronotum. Epipleural ridge absent. Metasternum without post-mesocoxal ridge. Mesosternum neither spinose nor tuberculate in front of each mesocoxa. Post-metacoxal line absent. Stridulatory arch marked with striae. Ventral surface very finely granular. Protibia with 10 stout spines, meso- and metatibia with uncertain number of thin spines.

Spiculum gastrale 0.60 mm long; Y-shaped as in Fig. 3. Aedeagus 0.55 mm long, shape as in Figs 4–5.

Paratype (Allotype) ♀: Dimensions as in holotype. Mandibles without dorsal process on dental lobe. Externally similar to male.

Distribution. Mexico.

Derivatio nominis. Dedicated to George E. Ball, who collected the type specimens.

Differential diagnosis. According to the shape of aedeagus and spiculum gastrale, *T. balli* sp.nov. belongs to the *pusillus* group sensu PACHECO (1964). Morphology of aedeagus of *T. balli* sp.nov. similar to that of the widely distributed *T. pusillus* (Say, 1823) (see above), from which the new species may be distinguished by the shape of

male mandibles and by the morphology of the spiculum gastrale and male genitalia. *T. pusillus* has a darker elytral pattern, but unicoloured light brown specimens are also known. Compare Figs 368–375 in PACHECO (1964) and Figs 1–5 in this paper.

***Tropicus brasiliensis* sp.nov.** (Figs 6–10)

Type material. Holotype ♂: “BRAZIL: Goias, Santa Isabel Ilha do Bananal, Rio Araguaiá” // “VII-15 to 22-57 Borys Malkin” // “Holotype *Tropicus antiqua* n.sp. W. V. Miller” [red label] // “Miller in lit.” (MZLU). Paratype (Allotype) ♀: the same date as holotype only: “Paratype *Tropicus antiqua* n.sp. W. V. Miller” [yellow label] // “Miller in lit.” (MZLU).

Paratypes: 3 specimens (♀♀) the same as allotype (MZLU, 1 spec. CSU); 1 specimen (♀) the same as holotype only: “Allotype *Tropicus antiqua* n.sp. W. V. Miller” [red label] // “Miller in lit.” (MZLU); 1 specimen (♀) the same as holotype only: “VIII-12 to 22-57 Borys Malkin” // “Paratype *Tropicus antiqua* n.sp. W. V. Miller” [yellow label] // “Miller in lit.” (MZLU).

Description. Holotype ♂: Total length 2.90 mm (to apex of labrum); elytra 1.40 mm long, 0.85 mm wide across shoulders. Ground colour light brown, elytra and pronotum without pattern. Labrum, head and eyes brown.

Labrum (Fig. 6) rounded, apex serrate; surface finely granular, lacking larger intermixed punctures; setae fine, adjacent, intermixed with longer erect setae. Mandibles (Fig. 7) pointed, dorsal subapical tooth small, process of dorsal ridge narrow and long. Prostheca without tooth. Clypeus lacking pair of anterior horns, triangular, surface with long, dense and erect yellowish setae. Head with long, erect setae above eyes. Antennae 9-segmented, with 6-segmented club; antennomeres I and II with long setae.

Pronotum 1.85 times wider than long, wider than base of elytra; pronotal base completely rimmed. Surface of pronotum finely granular, lacking longer punctures, setae semi-erect, yellowish, intermixed with sparse short, adjacent black setae. Scutellum pentagonal, shape as in Fig. 8. Elytra without longitudinal furrows; humeral depressions extending obliquely almost to the mid-length of elytra, without scutellar depressions. Surface of elytra more coarsely granular, punctures approximately 1.5 larger than eye facets. Setae of elytra as on pronotum. Epipleural ridge absent. Metasternum without post-mesocoxal ridge. Mesosternum neither spinose nor tuberculate in front of each mesocoxa. Tranverse ridge of mesosternum U-shaped. Post-metacoxal line absent. Stridulatory arch marked with striae. Ventral surface very finely granular. Protibia with 9 stout spines, meso- and metatibia with uncertain number of thin spines.

Spiculum gastrale 0.55 mm long; Y-shaped as in Fig. 9. Aedeagus 0.50 mm long, shape as in Fig. 10.

Paratype (Allotype) ♀: Total length 2.45 mm (to apex of labrum); elytra 1.85 mm long, 1.05 mm wide across shoulders. Brown with lighter elytral pattern. Mandibles without dorsal process on dental lobe. Externally similar to male.

Distribution. Brazil (Goiás).

Derivatio nominis. The new species is named after its country of origin.

Differential diagnosis. According to the shape of aedeagus and spiculum gastrale, *T. brasiliensis* sp.nov. belongs to the *imperator* group sensu PACHECO (1964). Shape of body and the morphology of spiculum gastrale and male genitalia place it near *T. carus*

Pacheco, 1964 from Brazil ("Guaporé, Porto Velho, Río Madeira"). In contrast to the latter species, *T. brasiliensis* sp.nov. is of different size (2.00 mm total length, 0.65 mm wide in *T. carus*), colour of body (brownish yellow in *T. carus*), shape of scutellum (triangular in *T. carus*) and the morphology of the male genitalia. Compare Figs 431–438 in PACHECO (1964) and Figs 6–10 in this paper.

***Tropicus borysi* sp.nov.** (Figs 11–16)

Type material. Holotype ♂: "BRAZIL: Goias, Santa Isabel Ilha do Bananal, Rio Araguaia" // "VII-15 to 22-57 Borys Malkin" // "Holotype *Tropicus grandis* n.sp. W. V. Miller" [red label] // "Miller in lit." (MZLU). Paratype (Allotype) (♀): the same date as holotype (MZLU).

Paratypes: 5 specimens (3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀): the same data as holotype (MZLU, 1 ♂ CSU); 1 specimen (♂) the same data as holotype only: "Paratype *Tropicus grandis* n.sp. W. V. Miller" [yellow label] // "Miller in lit." (MZLU); 1 specimen (♀) the same data as holotype only: "Allotype *Tropicus grandis* n.sp. W. V. Miller" [red label] // "Miller in lit." (MZLU).

Description. Holotype ♂: Total length 2.55 mm (to apex of labrum); elytra 1.50 mm long, 0.95 mm wide across shoulders. Ground colour dark brown, mandibles, legs and abdomen rusty-brown, tibiae with darker lateral margins. Elytra with pale brown pattern, as in Fig. 11.

Labrum oblong (Fig 12) apex serrate. Surface of labrum very coarsely granular, setae long, erect. Mandibles (Fig. 13) dentate, dorsal subapical tooth imperceptible, process of dorsal ridge narrow and long. Prostheca with prosthecal notch and series of teeth. Clypeus lacking anterior horns, triangular, pointed; coarsely granular, setae long, erect. Head finely granular with long, erect setae above eyes. Antennae 9-segmented, with 6-segmented club; antennomeres I and II with long setae.

Pronotum 1.80 times wider than long, wider than base of elytra; pronotal base completely rimmed; posterior margin almost arched. Surface of pronotum finely granular without longer punctures, punctures approximately 0.5 diameter of eye facets; setae short, adjacent, intermixed with long erect ones. Scutellum triangular, anterior angles rounded. Elytra without longitudinal furrows, lacking scutellar depressions, humeral depressions shallow, short; surface finely granular, punctures approximately as large as eye facets. Epipleural ridge absent. Metasternum without post-mesocoxal ridge. Mesosternum neither spinose nor tuberculate forward of each mesocoxa. Tranverse ridge of mesosternum U-shaped. Post-metacoxal line absent. Stridulatory arch marked with striae. Protibia with 9 stout spines, meso- and metatibia with uncertain number of thin spines.

Spiculum gastrale 0.60 mm long; Y-shaped (Fig. 14). Aedeagus 0.50 mm long, shape as in Figs 15–16.

Paratype (Allotype) ♀: Total length 2.60 mm (to apex of labrum); elytra 1.55 mm long, 0.95 mm wide across shoulders. Mandibles without dorsal process on dental lobe. Externally similar to male.

Distribution. Brazil (Goiás).

Derivatio nominis. Dedicated to Mr. Borys Malkin, who collected the type specimens.

Differential diagnosis. Judging by the shape of the aedeagus and spiculum gastrale, *T. borysi* sp.nov. belongs to the *pusillus* group sensu PACHECO (1964). The morphology of the male genitalia is different from other known species of *Tropicus*.

***Tropicus goiasensis* sp.nov.**

(Figs 17–21)

Type material. Holotype ♂: “BRAZIL: Goias, Santa Isabel Ilha do Bananal, Rio Araguaia” // “VIII-12 to 22-57 Borys Malkin” // “Holotype *Tropicus rufipes* n.sp. W. V. Miller” [red label] // “Miller in lit.” (MZLU). Paratype: 1 specimen (♂, without abdomen and male genitalia): the same date as holotype, only: “Paratype *Tropicus rufipes* n.sp. W. V. Miller” [yellow label] // “Miller in lit.” (MZLU).

Description. Holotype ♂: Total length 2.60 mm (to apex of labrum); elytra 1.60 mm long, 0.90 mm wide across shoulders. Ground colour pale brown, lateral margins of mandibles darker, head brown, eyes brown to black. Elytra with brown pattern (Fig. 17).

Labrum almost as wide as long, with two spines at anterior margin, shape as in Fig. 18, finely granular, with adjacent setae. Mandibles (Fig. 19) robust, dorsal subapical tooth rounded; process of dorsal ridge small, its shape is similar as that of apex. Prostheca without tooth. Clypeus (Fig. 18) lacking anterior horns, surface with dense yellowish setae. Head finely granular with long erect setae above eyes. Antennae 9-segmented, with 6-segmented club; antennomeres I and II with long setae.

Pronotum 1.55 times wider than long, as wide as base of elytra; pronotal base completely rimmed, anterior angles rounded. Surface of pronotum finely microgranular without longer punctures; setae sparse, semierect, yellowish. Scutellum triangular, about twice as long as wide. Elytra without longitudinal furrows, lacking scutellar depressions, humeral depressions shallow, short. Surface of elytra sparsely granular, punctures approximately as large as eye facets; setae short, semierect, yellowish (aureate) and sparse. Epipleural ridge absent. Metasternum without post-mesocoxal ridge. Mesosternum neither spinose nor tuberculate forward of each mesocoxa. Tranverse ridge of mesosternum U-shaped. Post-metacoxal line absent. Stridulatory arch marked with striae. Protibia with 9 stout spines, meso- and metatibia with uncertain number of thin spines.

Spiculum gastrale 0.60 mm long; Y-shaped (Fig. 20). Aedeagus 0.55 mm long, shape as in Fig. 21.

Paratype (Allotype) ♀: Total length 2.65 mm (to apex of labrum); elytra 1.65 mm long, 1.00 mm wide across shoulders. Mandibles without dorsal process on dental lobe. Externally similar to male.

Distribution. Brazil (Goiás).

Derivatio nominis. The new species is named after the state of Goiás of Brazil.

Differential diagnosis. Judging by the shape of aedeagus and spiculum gastrale, *T. goiasensis* sp.nov. belongs to the *imperator* group sensu PACHECO (1964). The morphology of the male genitalia is different from other known species of *Tropicus*.

Tropicus guanarensis sp.nov. (Figs 22–25)

Type material. Holotype ♂: “VENEZUELA: Guanare, estado Portuguesa IX-10 to 13-1957” // “Borys Malkin Collector” // “Holotype *Tropicus constricta* n. sp. W. V. Miller” [red label] // “Miller in lit.” (MZLU).

Paratype (Allotype) (♀): the same date as holotype, only: “Allotype *Tropicus constricta* n. sp. W. V. Miller” [red label] // “Miller in lit.” (MZLU).

Description. Holotype ♂: Total length 2.05 mm (to apex of labrum); elytra 1.05 mm long, 0.65 mm wide across shoulders. Ground colour light brown without elytral and pronotal pattern, labrum darker, head dark brown, eyes black. Labrum oblong (length:width ratio 2.8:1), shape as in Fig 22, apex serrate. Surface of labrum very coarsely granular, setae long, erect. Mandibles as in Fig. 23, without dorsal subapical tooth, process of dorsal ridge divided into two horns. Prostheca lacking tooth. Antennae 9-segmented, with 6-segmented club, antennomeres I and II with long setae. Clypeus with straight anterior margin, finely granular, with long erect setae. Pronotum 1.60 times wider than long, wider than base of elytra; pronotal base not rimmed. Surface of pronotum finely granular without longer punctures, setae short, adjacent, longer setae absent. Scutellum triangular, pointed. Elytra without longitudinal furrows, lacking scutellar depressions, humeral depressions shallow, short. Surface finely granular, punctures approximately as large as eye facets. Epipleural ridge absent. Metasternum without post-mesocoxal ridge. Mesosternum neither spinose nor tuberculate forward of each mesocoxa. Tranverse ridge of the mesosternum U-shaped. Post-metacoxal line absent. Stridulatory arch marked with striae. Protibia with 9 stout spines, meso- and metatibia with uncertain number of thin spines. Spiculum gastrale 0.45 mm long; Y-shaped (Fig. 24). Aedeagus 0.45 mm long, shape as in Fig. 25.

Paratype (Allotype) ♀: Total length 2.00 mm (to apex of labrum); elytra 1.55 mm long, 1.00 mm wide across shoulders. Labrum almost triangular, as wide as long. Mandibles without dorsal process on dental lobe. Externally similar to male.

Distribution. Venezuela.

Derivatio nominis. The new species is named after the town of Guanare, Portuguesa State, Venezuela.

Differential diagnosis. Judging by the shapes of the aedeagus and spiculum gastrale, *T. guanarensis* sp.nov. belongs to the *imperator* group sensu PACHECO (1964). The aedeagus and spiculum gastrale in *T. guanarensis* sp.nov. are similar to those of *T. bartolozzii* Mascagni, 1994 from Ecuador (MASCAGNI 1994) and Paraguay (SKALICKÝ 2002). *T. guanarensis* sp.nov. differs from the latter in its size (2.70 mm total length in *T. bartolozzii*), absence of elytral pattern (present in *T. bartolozzii*), shape of male mandibles (process of dorsal ridge without two tips in *T. bartolozzii*) and the structure of the male genitalia [compare Figs 1–2 in MASCAGNI (1994) and Figs 22–25 in this paper].

Tropicus huachiensis sp.nov. (Figs 26–29)

Type material. Holotype ♂: “Huachi Rio Beni Bolivia VI. 25” // “G. L. Harrington Collector” // “Holotype *Tropicus clara* n.sp. W. V. Miller” [red label] // “Miller in lit.” (MZLU). Paratype (Allotype) (♀): the same date as holotype, only: “Allotype *Tropicus clara* n.sp. W. V. Miller” [red label] // “Miller in lit.” (MZLU).

Paratypes: 2 specimens (♀♀): the same date as holotype only: "Paratype *Tropicus clara* n.sp. W. V. Miller" [yellow label] // "Miller in lit." (MZLU, CSU).

Description. Holotype ♂: Total length 2.40 mm (to apex of labrum); elytra 1.45 mm long, 0.85 mm wide across shoulders. Ground colour light brown, without elytral pattern. Lateral margins of mandibles brown. Posterior margin of head brown to black. Pronotum with brown to black anterior margin, surface of pronotum with irregular brown to black spots approximately as large as eye facets.

Labrum almost as wide as long, lateral margin arched; finely granular, with long, erect, sparse setae. Mandibles (Fig. 26) without dorsal subapical tooth and process on dorsal ridge. Prostheca without tooth. Antennae 9-segmented, with 6-segmented club, antennomeres I and II with long setae. Clypeus with arched anterior margin, granulae and setae as on labrum.

Pronotum 1.70 times wider than long, slightly wider than base of elytra; pronotal base completely rimmed. Surface of pronotum finely granular without longer punctures, setae short, adjacent, longer setae absent. Scutellum triangular, lateral margins arched. Elytra without longitudinal furrows, lacking scutellar depressions, humeral depressions shallow, short. Surface of elytra microgranular, with intermixed punctures approximately as large as eye facets, setae sparse, yellowish, semi-erect. Epipleural ridge absent. Metasternum without post-mesocoxal ridge. Mesosternum neither spinose nor tuberculate forward of each mesocoxa. Transverse ridge of the mesosternum U-shaped. Post-metacoxal line absent. Stridulatory arch marked with striae. Protibia with 9 stout spines, meso- and metatibia with uncertain number of thin spines.

Spiculum gastrale (damaged) 0.55 mm long; Y-shaped (Fig. 27). Aedeagus (damaged) 0.50 mm long, shape as in Figs 28–29.

Paratype (Allotype) ♀: Total length 2.30 mm (to apex of labrum); elytra 1.35 mm long, 1.00 mm wide across shoulders. Externally similar to male.

Distribution. Bolivia.

Derivatio nominis. The new species is named after the town of San Miguel de Huachi in Bolivia.

Differential diagnosis. Judging by the shape of aedeagus and spiculum gastrale, *T. huachiensis* sp.nov. belongs to the *pusillus* group sensu PACHECO (1964). The shape and size of the body, the shape of the mandibles (without process on dorsal ridge) and the morphology of male genitalia place it near *T. plaumanni* Pacheco, 1964 described from Brazil (São Paulo). *T. huachiensis* sp.nov. differs from the latter in ground colour (dark brown in *T. plaumanni*), different shape of spiculum gastrale and male genitalia [compare Figs 393–399 in PACHECO (1964) and Figs 29–29 in this paper].

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