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A contribution to knowledge of the Cantharidae (Coleoptera, Elateroidea) in Ecuador and French Guiana

by Robert Constantin

Abstract. Nine species from Ecuador are here described as new to science: *Silis barragani* sp.nov. (prov. Cañar), *S. sanfranciscensis* sp.nov. (prov. Cotopaxi), *Plectonotum macaraense* sp.nov. (prov. Loja), *P. zanjarajunoense* sp.nov. (prov. Pastaza), *Belotus lojaensis* sp.nov. (prov. Loja), *Macromalthinus schmidli* sp.nov. (prov. Zamora-Chinchipe), *Maronius brancuccii* sp.nov. (prov. Loja), *M. peckorum* sp.nov. (prov. Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas) and from French Guiana: *Pygodiscodon touroulti* sp.nov. The subgenus *Silis* (subgen. *Peltariosilis*) Wittmer, 1952 is raised to generic status. *Discodon apicicorne* Pic, 1910 is transferred to *Pygodiscodon* Wittmer, 1966. *Pygodiscodon obscurum* Wittmer, 1966 is a synonym of *Pygodiscodon apicicorne* (Pic, 1910). *Belotus baeri* (Pic, 1906) is recorded for the first time in Ecuador. *Peltariosilis amapaensis* Wittmer, 1966, and *Maronius brevicornis* (Fabricius, 1801) are recorded for the first time from French Guiana. *Peltariosilis guyanensis* (Pic, 1910) is recorded for the first time from Surinam. A key to separate the species of *Peltariosilis* and of *Pygodiscodon* is provided, as are illustrations of the habitus, details of pronotum and genital characters of males and females of the new species.

Key words. Coleoptera – Cantharidae – Silinae – Dysmorphocerinae – Chauliognathinae – new species – new faunistic data – Ecuador – French Guiana

Introduction

Recent surveys in Ecuador have brought to light new material and new species. Witness to an endless specific biodiversity, they involve *Belotus* and *Maronius*, two genera previously exhaustively revised (BRANCUCCI 1980, 1982) as well as *Plectonotum* and *Silis*, recently reviewed by me (CONSTANTIN 2008, 2009). From 2007, the fledgeling “Société entomologique Antilles-Guyane” based at Cayenne in French Guiana, has collected an impressive quantity of Cantharidae specimens by means of large interception traps. The rich diversity of this material has revealed new data and new species, the first of which are reported here. Keys to the Neotropical subfamilies of Cantharidae, to the genera in Ecuador and French Guiana, have been proposed in my previous papers (CONSTANTIN 2008, 2009, 2010).

Material and methods

Methods appeared in a prior contribution to the genus *Plectonotum* (CONSTANTIN 2008). The terminology of the abdomen and genitalia is after BRANCUCCI (1980). Colour identification is derived from PACLT (1958).

Abbreviations of institutions in which the studied material (inclusive of the types) is deposited:

BMNH	.....	British Museum of Natural History, London, UK
MNHN	.....	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France
NHMB	.....	Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel, Switzerland
QCAZ	.....	Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Museo de Zoología, Quito, Ecuador
UTPL	.....	Universidad Técnica Particular, Loja, Ecuador
ZSM	.....	Zoologisches Staatssammlung München, Germany
CCo	.....	Robert Constantin collection, Saint-Lô, France

Abbreviations for the measurement indices and collecting methods:

AL	= antennal length
EL	= elytron length from humerus to apex
EW	= elytra width together at the base
HW	= head width including the eyes
IOW	= interocular width behind the antennal sockets
LOD	= largest ocular diameter
PL	= pronotum length
PW	= pronotum width
TL	= total length
IT	= interception trap
LT	= light trap

SUBFAMILY SILINAE

Silis barragani sp.nov.

(Figs 2, 19, 28, 33)

Type material. Holotype ♂: ECUADOR, CAÑAR, 2 km north of Zhud, hedge on woody slopes, coordinates (WGS84): 2°26'31"S-78°59'47"W, 2960 m, 16.V.2010, R. Constantin leg. Two paratypes ♂, same data as the holotype. Two paratypes ♂, same locality as the holotype, 6.V.2010. Holotype deposited at QCAZ, one paratype deposited at NHMB, three paratypes preserved in author's collection (CCo).

Description. Holotype ♂. Length 7.1 mm. Body, head, antennae and legs black. Mandibles fulvous. Pronotum orange-red, anterior margin narrowly brownish-bordered. Elytra lustrous, metallic blue with dark blue to greenish-blue metallic reflection. Head, pronotum and elytra covered with short, whitish, adpressed setae.

Head rather short, eyes small and convex, temples short. Clypeus triangularly projecting. Frons feebly depressed, superficially microreticulate. Antennae elongate, slender, the antennomeres cylindrical. Pronotum lustrous, 1.5× wider than long, its anterior margin medially rectilinear and laterally arcuate. Anterior lobes rounded. Lateral margin deeply notched before centre point. Basal angle explanate and marginally incised. Elytra elongate, parallel, 2.9× longer than wide together, moderately punctate on the basal half, apically rugulose-punctate. Fore-tibia straight. Mesotibia feebly arcuate, its apex dentate on the inner side with two strong distal spines. Tergite VIII with developed tubercles separated by a rounded depression. Sternite VIII divided into two lobes, internally emarginate near the apex. Aedeagus: tegmen with two long, sinuate, ventral apophyses. Dorsal stylus divided into two long, flattened, sinuate, apically-hooked blades, each bearing a wide, flat, internally-directed apical expansion.

Dimensions: AL = 6.2 mm; HW = 1.4 mm; IOW = 0.96 mm; PL = 1.19 mm; PW = 1.86 mm; EL = 5.5 mm; EW = 1.9 mm. Others ♂ paratypes: Length 7.1–7.2 mm.

Natural history. Collected on the edge of a small wood between steep pastures, beating low foliage.

Etymology. Respectfully dedicated to Prof. Álvaro Barragán, a leading entomologist and head of the QCAZ (Quito Catholic Zoology Museum) of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito.

Differential diagnosis. Near *Silis metallicipennis* Pic, it differs in colour pattern, internally incised lobes of male sternite VIII, and a different form of the aedeagus.

***Silis sanfranciscensis* sp.nov.**

(Figs 1, 20, 32, 35)

Type material. Holotype ♂: ECUADOR, COTOPAXI, 4 km SW of Palo Quemado, carretera La Unión del Toachi-San Francisco de las Pampas, coordinates (WGS84): 0°23'32"S-78°56'27"W, 1557 m, 22.V.2010, R. Constantin. Preserved in author's collection (CCo).

Description. Holotype ♂. Length 6.8 mm. Head and pronotum fulvous orange. Elytra fulvous brown on the disc, bordered by a narrow sutural and apical margin, wide lateral margin yellow. Antennae black. Femorae testaceous, tibiae and tarsi yellow-brown. Abdomen brown.

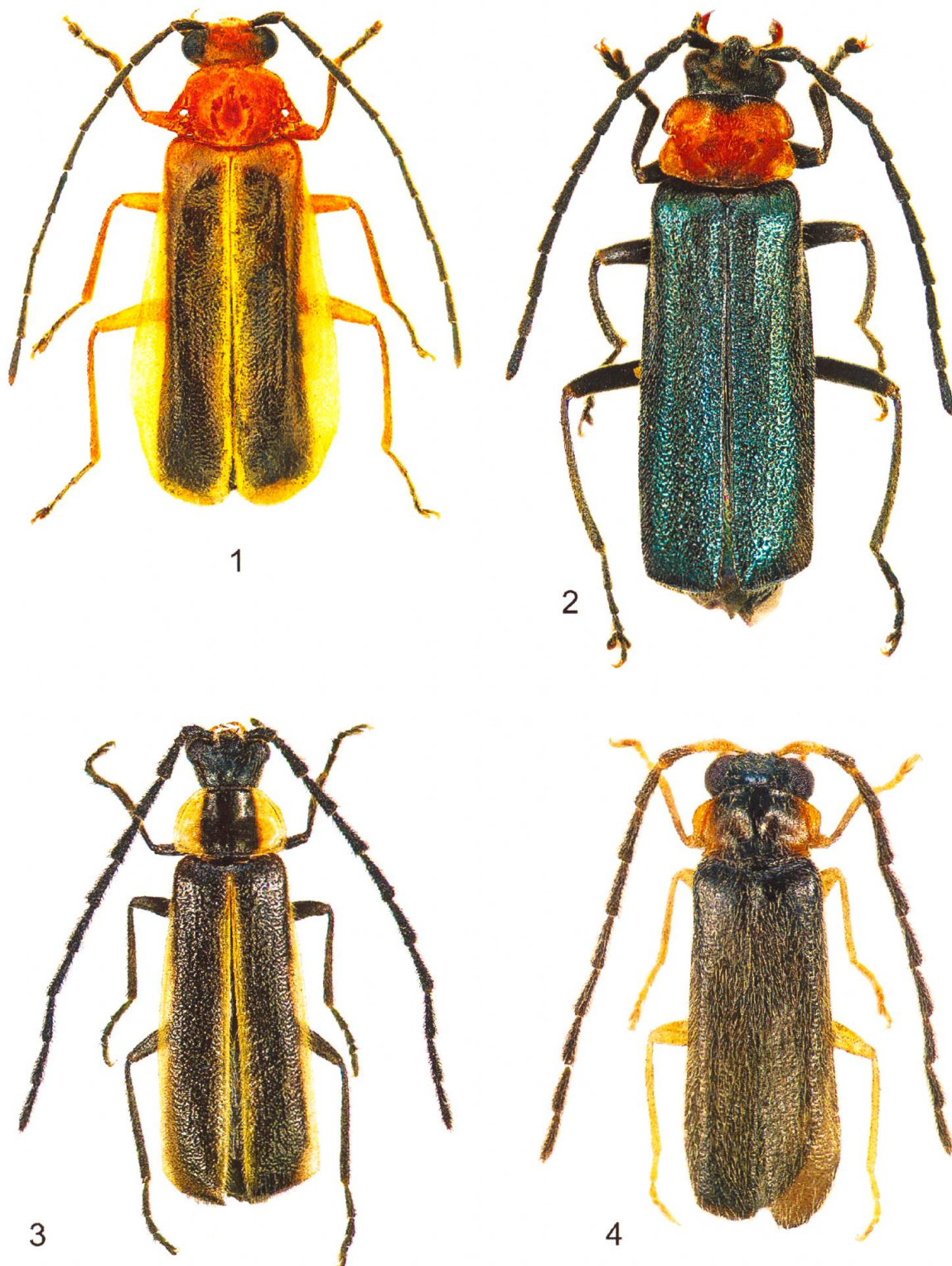
Head short, transverse. Eyes large, bulging. Mandibles thin, elongate, regularly arcuate. Last maxillar palpomere 2.5× longer than wide. Frons depressed, lustrous, clypeus shortly triangular. Temples strongly narrowing posteriorly. Antennae elongate, slender, the antennomeres cylindrical, devoid of smooth lines. Pronotum transverse, 1.65× wider than long, lustrous, sparsely covered with thin, adpressed, yellow pubescence. Anterior margin regularly arcuate. Deeply foveate on the centre of the disc with two broad, overlapping lateral lobes, the anterior lobe obliquely projecting and rounded apically, the posterior lobe directed obliquely outwards, emarginate at the tip. Elytra elongate, 2.7× longer than wide together at the base, lustrous, finely punctured, covered with a thin, adpressed, yellow pubescence. Lateral margin of the elytra widely explanate and upturned from a little after the base. Legs slender, tibiae not modified, anterior claw of front tarsi minutely toothed near the base. Tergite VIII with two short tubercles on the posterior angles, the apical margin roundly emarginate. Sternite VIII divided into two lobes until base, lobes convex, triangular, pointed at the tip. Aedeagus: tegmen with two curved, sagittally-oriented, short ventral apophyses. Apical part of the median lobe with two projecting spines directed upwards. Internal sac producing a flat whip, 2× as long as the sclerotized genital system.

Dimensions: AL = 5.4 mm; HW = 1.36 mm; IOW = 0.77 mm; PL = 1.14 mm; PW = 1.88 mm; EL = 5.1 mm; EW = 1.9 mm.

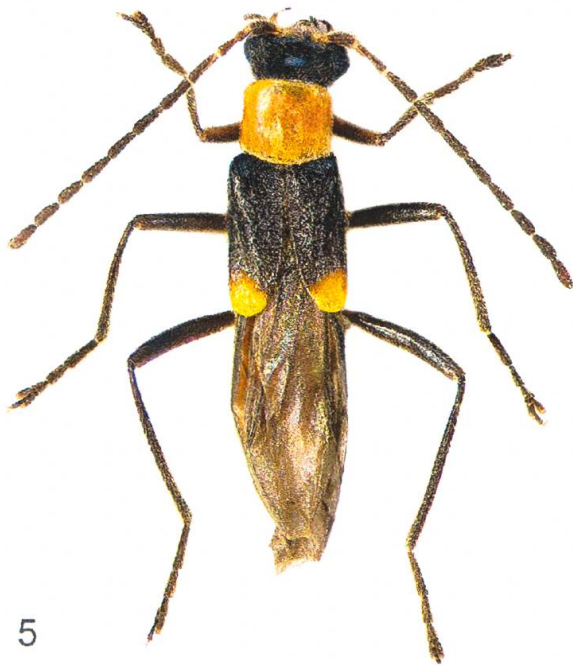
Natural history. Collected on the small trees at the edge of woody slopes.

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to the type locality San Francisco de las Pampas, on the western slope of the upper basin of the Río Toachi.

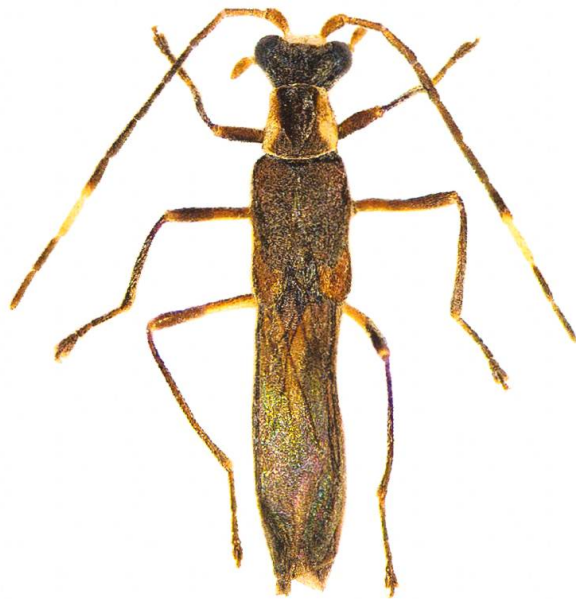
Differential diagnosis. Unique among the Ecuadorian *Silis*, *S. sanfranciscensis* sp.nov. differs in colour pattern, apically pointed lobes of male sternite VIII, different form of the aedeagus and the long whip produced by the internal sac, without equivalent among the Cantharidae (although common among Phengodidae). The peculiar form of the



Figs 1–4. Male habitus: 1, *Silis sanfranciscensis* sp.nov.; 2, *Silis barragani* sp.nov.; 3, *Plectonotum macaraense* sp.nov.; 4, *Plectonotum zanjarajunoense* sp.nov.



5



6



7



8

Figs 5–8. Male habitus: 5, *Belotus lojaensis* sp.nov.; 6, *Maronius peckorum* sp.nov.; 7, *Maronius brancuccii* sp.nov.; 8, *Pydodiscodon touroulti* sp.nov.

prothorax comes near to several Central American species such as the Panamanian *Silis jocosa* Gorham, 1885. *Silis jocosa*, from which four syntypes collected at Volcan de Chiriqui by Champion were available at MNHN (collection Gorham in Pic), differs in yellow antennae and legs and the longer pronotal projections.

***Pygodiscodon apicicorne* (Pic, 1910), comb.nov.** (Figs 10, 29, 34)

Discodon apicicorne Pic, 1910

Pygodiscodon obscurum Wittmer, 1966 syn.nov.

Type material examined. *Discodon apicicorne* Pic, 1910, was described from French Guiana, based on coloration pattern. The Pic collection at MNHN contains 1 ♂ syntype labelled “Guyane Française, St Laurent du Maroni, collection Le Moulton (printed)/ *Discodon apicicorne* n sp/type (both written by Pic)”, 1 ♀ syntype “Nouveau Chantier” with the same form of printed label, 1 ♀ “Charvein, Guyane Fr. (handwriting unknown)”. They present all the characters of the genus *Pygodiscodon* Wittmer, 1966.

Pygodiscodon obscurum Wittmer, 1966, was described on the basis of a single specimen from north-eastern Brazil, preserved at ZSM. Thanks to the courtesy of Michael Balke, it was possible to examine this ♂ holotype, which is labelled “Brasilien, Utinga bei Belem, Pará, 17.X.1962, C. Lindemann/ holotype/*Pygodiscodon obscurum* Wittm., det. W. Wittmer”.

Other material examined. GUYANE FRANCAISE: Roura, Montagne des Chevaux, from 8.III.2009 to 27.VI.2009, IT, 14 ♂, SEAG; *idem*, from 27.VII.2009 to 23.XI.2009, IT, 11 ♀, SEAG – Montagne de Kaw, Réserve Trésor, 4°36'N-56°16'W, 13.X.2009, IT, 1 ♂, SEAG. – Regina, Réserve naturelle des Nouragues, camp de Saut Pararé, 23.XI.2009, IT, 2 ♂, SEAG. – Réserve naturelle des Nouragues, camp Inselberg, savane-roche de la turbine, 5.IX.2010, LT, 1 ♂, R. Constantin & E. Poirier leg. – Sinnamary, piste Saint-Elie, PK 16, 5°17'N-57°09'W, 30.VIII.2010, sweeping forest under-storey, 1 ♀, R. Constantin. – Mana, 3 km NW Laussat, 5°28'N-53°35'W, 3.VI.2010, IT, 1 ♀, G. Lamarre. All preserved in CCo.

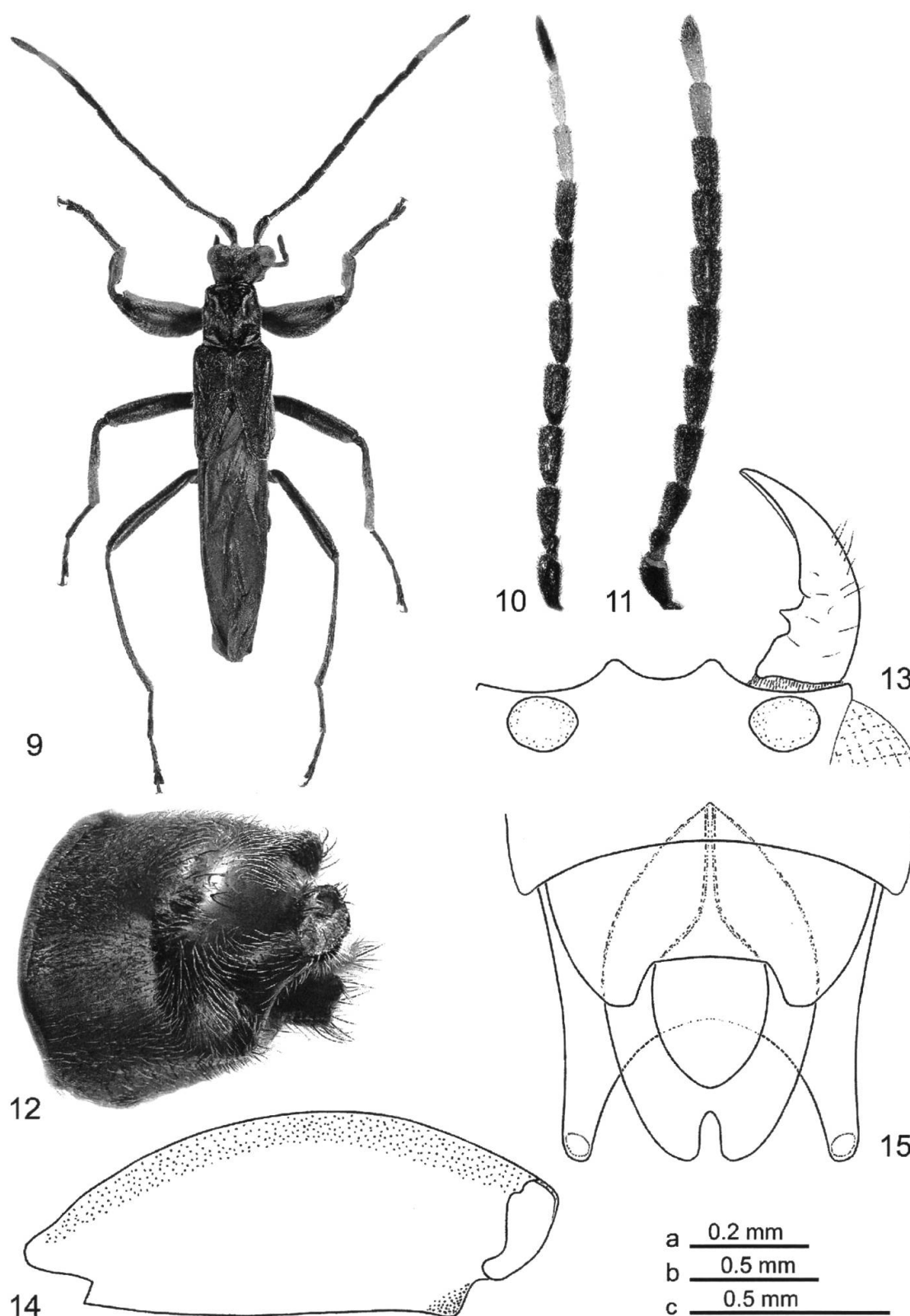
Taxonomy. No significant differences were observed from *Pygodiscodon apicorne*. *P. obscurum* is thus considered as synonym of *P. apicicorne*.

Natural history. *Pygodiscodon apicicorne* (Pic) was a rather rarely recorded species before the widespread use of interception traps. A year-long inventory at Montagne des Chevaux reveals a clear lapse during the flight period of the males from the beginning of March to the end of June, while the females appear in the same traps from July to November. They are also attracted to UV light traps.

***Pygodiscodon touroulti* sp.nov.** (Figs 8, 11, 12, 30, 31)

Type material. Holotype ♂: GUYANE FRANCAISE, Regina, Réserve naturelle des Nouragues, camp de Saut Pararé, piège lumineux, 18.VII.2009, J. Touroult. Paratypes (28 ♂ 8 ♀) as following : *idem*, 13.VII.2009, LT, 1 ♂ 2 ♀, SEAG coll.(= S. Brûlé, P.-H. Dalens, E. Poirier & J. Touroult leg.); *idem*, 17.VII.2009, LT, 1 ♂; 23.VII.2009, à vue, 2 ♂; *idem*, 24.VII.2009, IT, 1 ♀; *idem*, 18.VIII.2009, IT, 2 ♂; *idem*, 3.IX.2009, IT, 1 ♂; *idem*, 8.IX.2009, IT, 1 ♂; *idem*, 30.IX.2009, IT, 1 ♀; *idem*, 1.XI.2009, IT, 1 ♂; *idem*, 23.XI.2009, IT, 1 ♂; *idem*, 28.I.2010, IT, 1 ♀; *idem*, 5.II.2010, IT, 2 ♂; *idem*, 9.II.2010, IT, 2 ♂ 1 ♀; *idem*, 27.III.2010, IT, 1 ♂; *idem*, 9.IV.2010, IT, 2 ♂; *idem*, 20.IV.2010, IT, 3 ♂; *idem*, 26.IV.2010, IT, 1 ♂ 1 ♀; *idem*, 16.V.2010, IT, 3 ♂; *idem*, 3.VI.2010, IT, 1 ♀. All specimens collected by SEAG. – Réserve naturelle des Nouragues, camp Inselberg, 3.IX.2010, PL, 1 ♂, R. Constantin & E. Poirier leg. – Roura, Montagne des Chevaux, 8.III.2009, IT, 2 ♂, SEAG; *idem*, 2.V.2009, IT, 1 ♂; *idem*, 13.VI.2009, IT, 1 ♂, SEAG. Holotype and paratype deposited at MNHN, paratypes deposited at NHMB, BMNH, MNHUB, the others preserved in author's collection (CCo).

Description. Holotype ♂. Length 5.4 mm. Head black, front margin and epistoma whitish-yellow. Antennae and palpi black, last antennal joint yellow. Mandibles



Figs 9–15. 9, *Macromalthinus schmidli* sp.nov., male habitus. 10–11, male right antenna, dorsal view: 10, *Pygodiscodon apicicorne* (Pic); 11, *P. touroulti* sp.nov. 12, *Pygodiscodon touroulti* sp.nov., male tergite VIII, latero-dorsal view. 13, *Peltariosilis amapaensis* Wittmer, epistoma and right mandible, dorsal view. 14, *Macromalthinus schmidli* sp.nov., left profemora, front view. 15, *Plectonotum zanjarajunoense* sp.nov., male VIII and IX abdominal segments, ventral view (Scale a: 15; b: 14; c: 13.)

testaceous. Pronotum orange-yellow, a wide black discal strip on the median half from front to basal margin, marginally dilated before its basal third. Elytra brownish-black. Legs brown, femorae reddish-brown.

Head as long as wide. Eyes rather small, convex. Epistoma short. Frons feebly convex, lustrous, finely and densely punctured, its pubescence thin, brown. Palpi slender, last maxillar palpomere $2.7\times$ longer than wide, apically dilated and truncate. Antennae moderately elongate, antennomeres subcylindrical, moderately compressed, the seventh twice as long as wide, a linear, narrow, lustrous surface on the upper face of antennomeres 6–9. Pronotum transverse, $1.57\times$ wider than long, lustrous, finely punctured, feebly convex. Pronotal lateral margins explanate, upturned, nearly parallel, narrowly and shortly notched before the basal angles. Elytra elongate, $2.7\times$ longer than wide together, rugulose-punctate, densely covered in semi-erect brownish setae, sutural margin slightly convex. Tergite VIII elongate, parallel-sided, dorso-apically emarginate, apical angles bulging without openings, ending in a peculiar median, cylindrical, mucronate projection, as long as wide, truncate at the tip, with two large, contiguous openings. Sternite VIII divided to the base, the two lobes roundly pointed. Aedeagus: Tegmen sinuously narrowed at the apex, lateral margins reflexed. Two pairs of sclerotized spines emerging from the internal sac, the external one of them short and apically upturned.

Dimensions: AL = 4.4 mm; HW = 1.25 mm; IOW = 0.87 mm; PL = 0.87 mm; PW = 1.36 mm; EL = 3.96 mm; EW = 1.46 mm. Others ♂ paratypes: TL = 5–6.1 mm.

♀. Differs in smaller eyes with wider frons, $2.3\times$ wider than eye length, narrower head, shorter antennae with two last joints yellow, basally wider and laterally un-notched pronotum.

Dimensions of a medium-sized female paratype: TL = 5.7 mm; AL = 4.2 mm; HW = 1.24 mm; IOW = 0.89 mm; PL = 0.89 mm; PW = 1.61 mm; EL = 4.36 mm; EW = 1.68 mm. Others ♀ paratypes: TL = 5.6–6 mm

Variability. Referring to the complete type series, four males and two females display a uniform yellow orange pronotum, without a black strip.

Natural history. The series was collected mainly with interception traps and one specimen was attracted to UV light. Males are predominant and the single females were collected from July to September.

Etymology. Respectfully dedicated to Julien Touroult, an entomology enthusiast, specialist in the Neotropical Cerambycidae, and a charter member of the SEAG.

Differential diagnosis. *Pygodiscodon touroulti* sp.nov. is near to *P. apicicorne* (Pic, 1910). The differences are summarised in the key:

- 1 Length ♂: 5.1–6.3 mm, mean 6 mm; ♀: 5.6–6.7 mm, mean 6 mm. Antennae more flattened, black, joints 9 and 10 yellow. Legs yellow, apex of tibiae brown. ♂ Antennal lustrous lines on joints 4–6. Tergite VIII with a long median projection, dorsally ridged. Aedeagus with tegmen regularly narrowing towards the apex, the external sclerotized spines of internal sac long, slender and upturned. *P. apicicorne* (Pic, 1910)

- Length ♂: 5–6.1 mm, mean 5.4 mm; ♀: 5.6–6 mm, mean 5.8 mm. Antennae cylindrical, black, the joint 11 yellow. Legs brown. ♂ Antennal lustrous lines on segments 6–9. Tergite VIII with a short median projection, dorsally rounded. Aedeagus with tegmen apically sinuously narrowing, the external spines of internal sac short, stout and upturned at the tip. ***P. touroulti* sp.nov.**

***Peltariosilis* Wittmer, 1952 stat.nov.**

Silis (subgen. *Peltariosilis*) Wittmer, 1952: 203–204.

Remarks. WITTMER (1952) established *Peltariosilis* as a new subgenus of *Silis* Charpentier, 1825, based on projections of the male pronotum and large scutellar lamella, for a new Brazilian species *P. scutulata* Wittmer, 1952, which he designated as type-species for the new subgenus. He also incorporated *Silis guyanensis* Pic, 1906 to *Silis* (*Peltariosilis*) and later described *Peltariosilis amapaensis* Wittmer, 1966, from north Brazil. DELKESKAMP (1977) maintains *Peltariosilis* should be classified at subgeneric level.

A close examination of the three species leads to the endowment of *Silis* (*Peltariosilis*) to *Peltariosilis* with a new generic status. *Peltariosilis amapaensis*, *P. guyanensis* and *P. scutulata* share the following characters of generic significance:

Mandible long, stout, minutely toothed near the base, without sexual dimorphism (Fig. 13)

Epistoma very short and largely emarginate around mid-point, without sexual dimorphism

Elytral pubescence very thin, short, adpressed, no erect setae

Female pronotum with short projection on each of the four angles

Male pronotum produced into bumps at anterior and posterior angles (Figs 16–18)

Male scutellum projecting a long lamella, pointing upwards from the anterior margin

Aedeagus distinctive in long, lamellate apico-ventral apophyses of the tegmen

Key to the species of *Peltariosilis* Wittmer, 1952

1. Elytra fulvous, sutural and lateral margins testaceous-yellow. Antennae fulvous, the two last joints yellow. Antennal joints of equal width. Projection of the scutellum elongate, narrow and apically bidentate. Pronotum, see Fig. 18. Length: 5.4 mm. ***Peltariosilis scutulata***
- Elytra brown to sepia brown. Antennae black, the two first joints fulvous. Antennal joints IX–XI much narrower than joints IV–VIII. Scutellar projection triangular, truncate at tip, as long as wide. **2.**
2. Length of ♂: 5.1–5.2 mm. Lateral margin of pronotum with a long, narrow spine, backward- directed, between the anterior and posterior bumps. Pronotum, see Fig. 17. ***Peltariosilis amapaensis***

- Length of ♂: 3.8–4.5 mm; ♀: 4–4.3 mm. Lateral margin of pronotum without spine between the anterior and posterior bumps. Pronotum, see Fig. 16. *Peltariosilis guyanensis*

Faunistic notes on *Peltariosilis*

Peltariosilis scutulata Wittmer, 1952

Type material examined. From the Wittmer collection, NHMB holds 1 ♂ paratype labelled “Brazil, Manaus, II.1941, Parko”

Other material examined. BRAZIL, Amazonas, Itaituba, 1 ♂ (CCo).

Peltariosilis amapaensis Wittmer, 1966

Type material examined. NHMB holds 3 ♂ paratypes labelled “Brasil, Amapá, Oiapoque, V.1959, M. Alvarenga coll.”

Other material examined. GUYANE FRANCAISE, Regina, Réserve naturelle des Nouragues, camp de Saut Pararé, piège vitre, 23.XI.2009, 2 ♂, SEAG coll. (CCo).

Remark. This is the first record for French Guiana. The specimens were collected with interception traps.

Peltariosilis guyanensis (Pic, 1906)

Type material examined. The Pic collection at MNHN holds 2 syntypes labelled “Guyane Française, St Laurent du Maroni, coll. Le Moul’t”. Wittmer (1952) mentioned that he had received a male paratype from Pic, identically labelled “Saint-Laurent du Maroni, coll. Le Moul’t” (NHMB).

Other material examined. GUYANE FRANCAISE: “Cayenne”, 3 ♂ (MNHN); – “Charvein, Bas-Maroni, V, coll. Le Moul’t”, 1 ♂ (MNHN); – “Nouveau Chantier, Bas-Maroni, coll. Le Moul’t”, 1 ♂ (NHMB); – Roura, Montagne des Chevaux, 24.IV–27.VI.2009, IT, 5 ♂ 4 ♀, SEAG coll. (CCo); – Régina, Réserve naturelle des Nouragues, camp Inselberg, savane-roche de la turbine, 5.IX.2010, LT, 1 ♂, R. Constantin & E. Poirier leg.; – *idem*, Grand-Plateau, sweeping in the under-storey, 6.IX.2010, 1 ♂, R. Constantin; – Matoury, beating saplings in the under-storey of the forest, 4°53’–52°17’W, 13.IX.2010, 1 ♀, R. Constantin (CCo). SURINAM: Pará district, Zanderij, I. Boven, 19.IV.1927, Cornell university coll., 3 ♂ (NHMB).

Remark. This is the first record for Surinam.

SUBFAMILY DYSMORPHOCERINAE

Plectonotum macaraense sp.nov.

(Figs 3, 36, 38)

Type material. Holotype ♂: ECUADOR, LOJA, 30 km east of Macará, pass 5 km east of Utuana village, coordinates (WGS84): 4°20’20”S–79°41’25”W, 2622 m, 14.V.2010, R. Constantin leg. Paratypes 3 ♂ 10 ♀, sama data. Holotype and a paratype deposited at NHMB, two paratypes deposited at QCAZ, the remainder held in the author’s collection (CCo).

Description. Holotype ♂. Length 4.6 mm. Body black, lustrous. Head black, mandibles and anterior margin of clypeus testaceous-yellow. Antennae black. Pronotum crocus-yellow, a black discal strip on the median half from anterior to posterior margin, laterally

rectilinear limited. Elytra black, sutural margin narrowly yellow, lateral margin more widely so. Legs and abdomen brown.

Head narrow. Eyes convex, bulging. Frons and vertex lustrous, finely punctured, thinly yellow pubescent. Antennae elongate, rather stout, verrucose, striking pubescence of erect black setae. Antennomere VIII 4× longer than wide. Pronotum 1.6× wider than long, the anterior corner largely rounded, together with the front margin. Lateral bead narrow only on the anterior corner. Pronotal surface lustrous, punctation extremely small, pubescence of thin, rearward-pointing, yellowish setae. Sides arcuate, not basally incised, maximum width just beyond mid-point. Elytra elongate, parallel, 3× longer than wide together, lustrous, rugulose punctate, covered with thin, yellowish setae. Sternite VIII apically emarginate. Sternite IX narrow. Aedeagus distinctive for its long, narrow apico-ventral apophyses, wide apex of the lateral lobes, and long aciculate laterophyses of the median lobe.

Dimensions: AL = 4.3 mm; HW = 0.84 mm; IOW = 0.48 mm; PL = 0.69 mm; PW = 1.09 mm; EL = 3.5 mm; EW = 1.16 mm. Others ♂ paratypes: TL = 4.3–4.8 mm.

♀. Differs in smaller eyes, wider frons, interocular space 2.3× wider than the maximum ocular diameter, narrow head, shorter antennae and wider pronotum.

Dimensions of a medium-sized female paratype: TL = 5.6 mm; AL = 3.2 mm; HW = 0.87 mm; IOW = 0.54 mm; PL = 0.87 mm; PW = 1.39 mm; EL = 4 mm; EW = 1.41 mm. Others ♀ paratypes: TL = 4.8–5.8 mm

Natural history. The series was collected at the top of a pass to the east of Utuana village, in a landscape of mountain forest, shrubs and patches of small meadow, beating dense, varied, low shrub vegetation along the road at the end of the day. The place was more humid than elsewhere as it was shadowed by an adjacent pine wood, and the dominant plant was a species of glory bush (Melastomataceae), probably *Monochaetum pauciflorum* Triana, 1871 (cf. SKLENÁŘ *et al.*, 2005)

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to the proximity to Macará, a city on the Peruvian border, centre of an endemic species-rich region.

Differential diagnosis. *Plectonotum macaraense* sp.nov. is unique in its colour pattern. Near *P. onorei* Constantin, 2008, in antennal pubescence and the pronotal bead, it differs in the characters of the aedeagus.

Plectonotum zanjara-junoense sp.nov.

(Figs 4, 15, 37, 39)

Type material. Holotype ♂: ECUADOR, PASTAZA, 25 km north-east of Puyo, Centro Zanja Arajuno 500 m east, coordinates (WGS84): 1°21'18"S-77°51'39"W, 980 m, 19.V.2010, R. Constantin. Paratypes: 2 ♂ 3 ♀, same data as the holotype; 1 paratype ♀, same locality, río Pukayacu, 1°22'15"S-77°51'21"W, 18.V.2010, R. Constantin; 1 ♀ paratype "Ecuador, Puyo, 960 m, 4.X.1970, J. Sedlacek" (NHMB); 1 paratype ♀, NAPO, 25 km NE of Archidona, 7 km east of Río Hollín, 0°43'S-77°41'W, 1125 m, 16.V.2009, R. Constantin. Holotype and a paratype deposited at NHMB, a paratype deposited at QCAZ, the remainder held in the author's collection (CCo).

Description. Holotype ♂. Length 3.1 mm. Head black, mandibles and palpi fulvous yellow. Antennae brown, the first two and the base of the third and fourth joints yellow. Pronotum testaceous-orange, a large discal brown strip on the median half. Elytra sepia brown. Legs yellow. Abdomen brown.

Head short. Eyes prominent, bulging, frons width between eyes just narrower than diameter of eye. Epistome short. Mandibles slender, small, acutely bidentate at the tip. Last maxillar palpomere fusiform, apically pointed. Frons lustrous, depressed between the antennal sockets, shortly pubescent in yellowish setae. Antennae elongate, the antennomeres slender, subparallel, covered in short, erect, brown setae. Pronotum transverse, 1.7× wider than long, feebly convex, lustrous, finely pubescent. Anterior margin regularly arcuate. Lateral bead rather stout at the anterior angles, not punctured. Lateral margin sinuate, minutely notched before the basal angles. Elytra elongate, parallel, 2.8× longer than wide together, lustrous, finely and densely punctured, covered in dense, long, semi-erect and yellow setae. Abdomen. Tergite VIII bearing upon the apical margin two long, backward-projecting tubercles. Sternite VIII apically emarginate. Aedeagus distinctive in its narrow apico-ventral apophysis, apically subquadrate lateral lobes, and slender, non-denticulate laterophyses.

Dimensions: AL = 3.1 mm; HW = 0.72 mm; IOW = 0.33 mm; PL = 0.52 mm; PW = 0.87 mm; EL = 2.38 mm; EW = 0.84 mm. Others ♂ paratypes: TL = 3.1–3.3 mm.

♀. Differs in smaller eyes, wider frons, much shorter antennae. Tergite VIII with two long apical tubercles. Sternite VIII apically narrowly incised.

Dimensions of a medium-sized female paratype: TL = 3.5 mm; AL = 2.47 mm; HW = 0.71 mm; IOW = 0.37 mm; PL = 0.77 mm; PW = 0.94 mm; EL = 2.57 mm; EW = 0.94 mm. Others ♀ paratypes: TL = 3.4–4.3 mm.

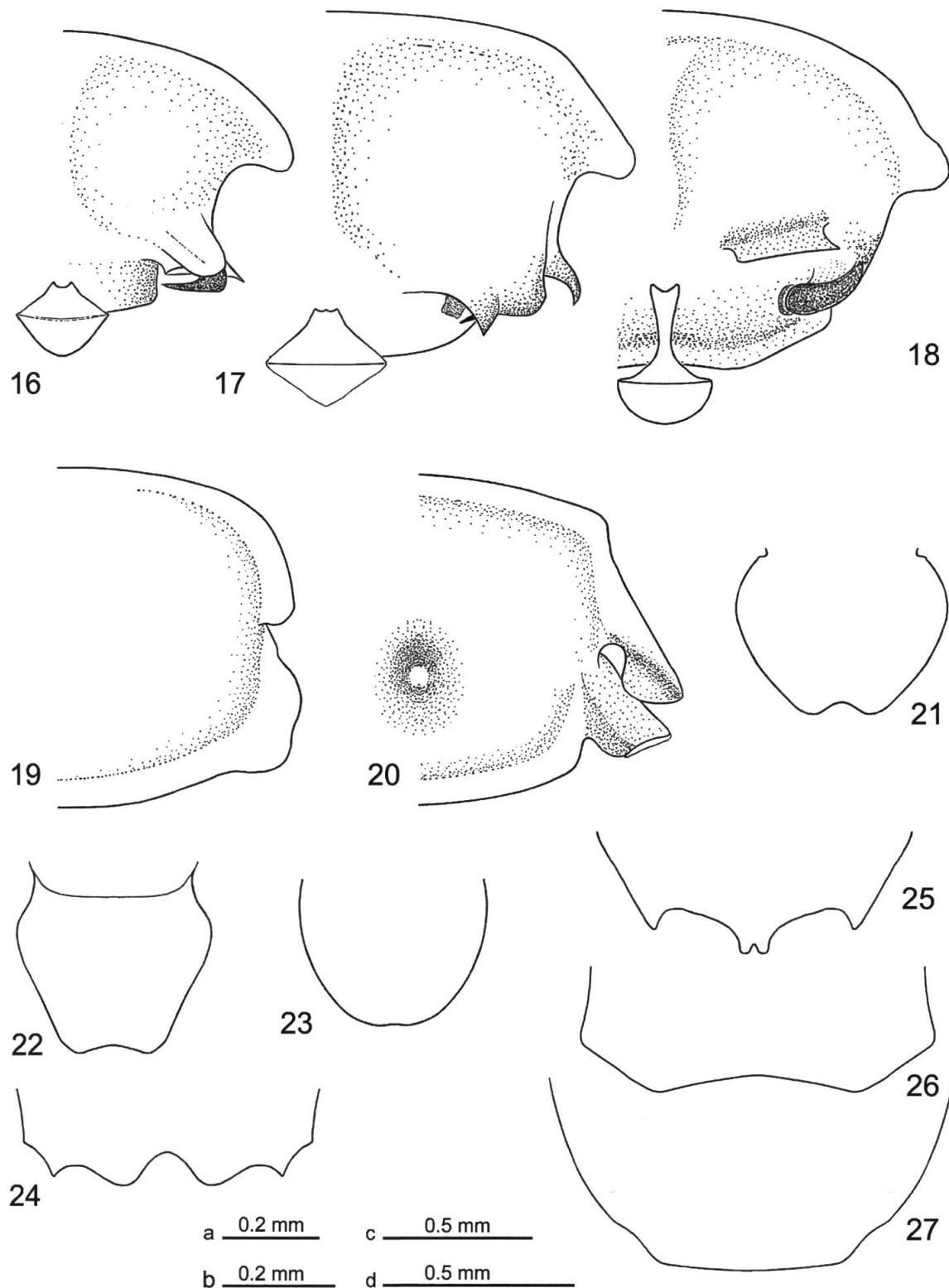
Variability. The three males share the same colour pattern. Of the six females, two have male coloration while four of them (from Centro Zanja Arajuno, río Pukayacu and Puyo) have a uniform orange-red pronotum.

Natural history. The series was collected beating developed saplings in the under-storey of well-preserved, high primary forest. The place, located on the top of a small hill, supported members of the insect-attracting glory-bush family, the Melastomataceae, probably *Miconia* sp., and was sunlit at the end of the afternoon.

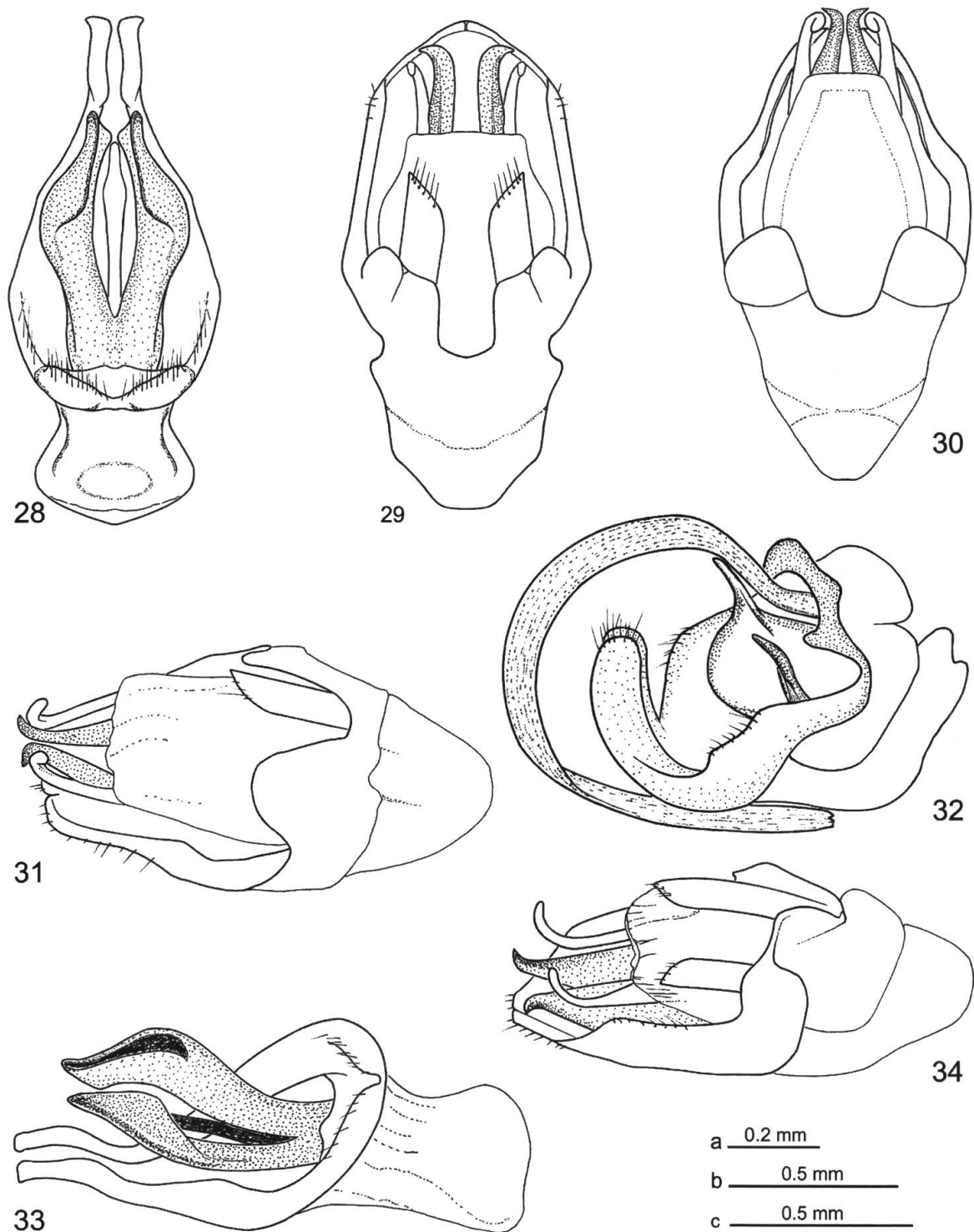
Etymology. Dedicated to the “Centro Ecológico Zanja Arajuno”, a scientific and educational centre and haven for mistreated specimens of wild fauna rescued from illegal traffic, devotedly maintained by Ing. Medardo Tapia and his wife Lucero Mora, both of whom made me welcome in their lodge for a productive stay.

Remark. *Plectonotum zanjarajunoense* sp.nov. and *P. parallelum* Wittmer, 1967, are distinctive in having the last maxillar palpomere pointed and the two tubercles of tergite VIII projecting. Considering the wide specific variation of the male aedeagus in the genus *Plectonotum* and the congruity of the two mentioned species to the generic genital pattern, it appears wise to maintain them within this genus.

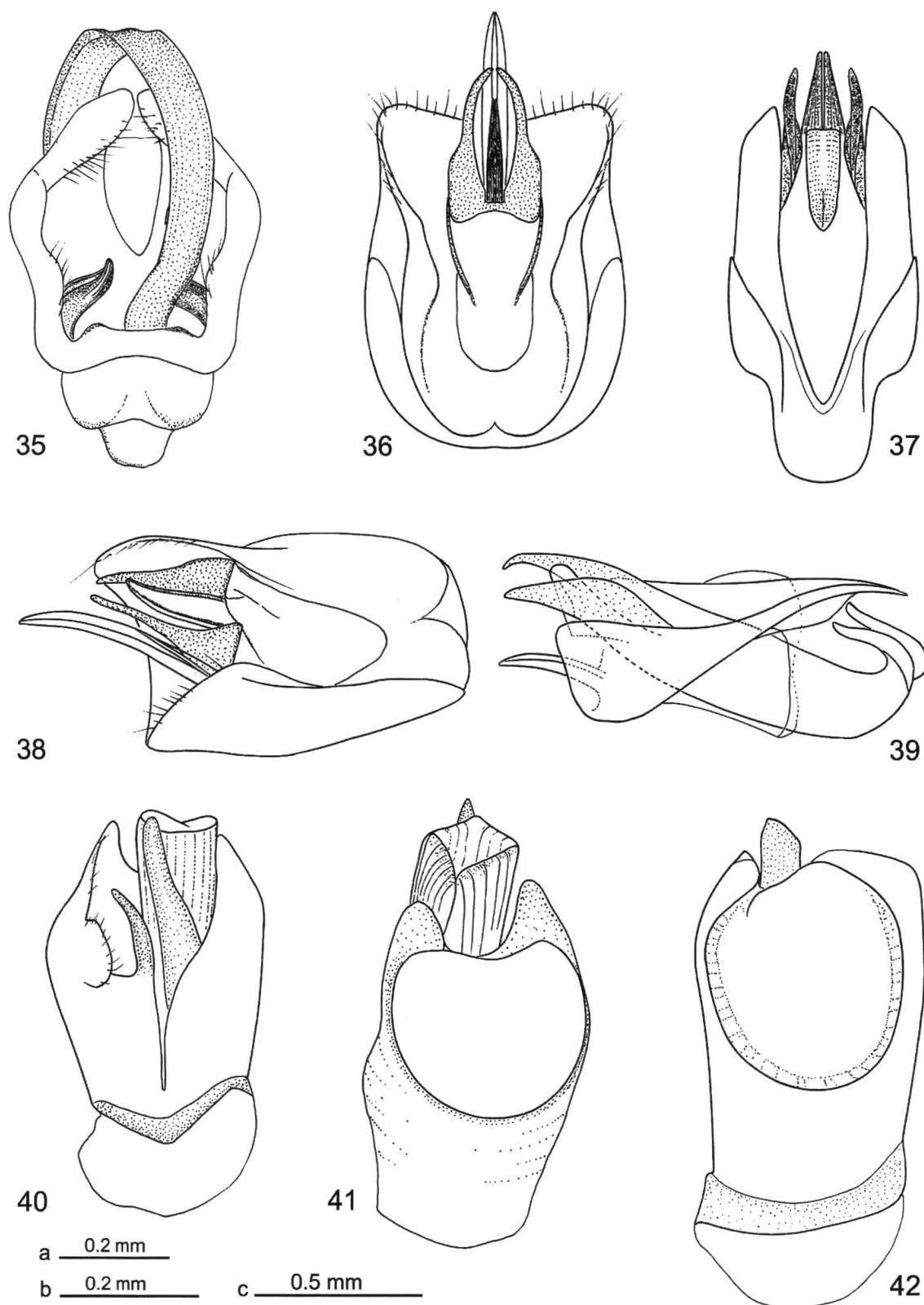
Differential diagnosis. *Plectonotum zanjarajunoense* sp.nov. is unique among the Ecuadorian species in its colour pattern and the tubular openings on tergite VIII. Near to the southern Brazilian *P. parallelum* Wittmer, 1967, it differs in a narrower lateral bead of the pronotum and characters of the aedeagus.



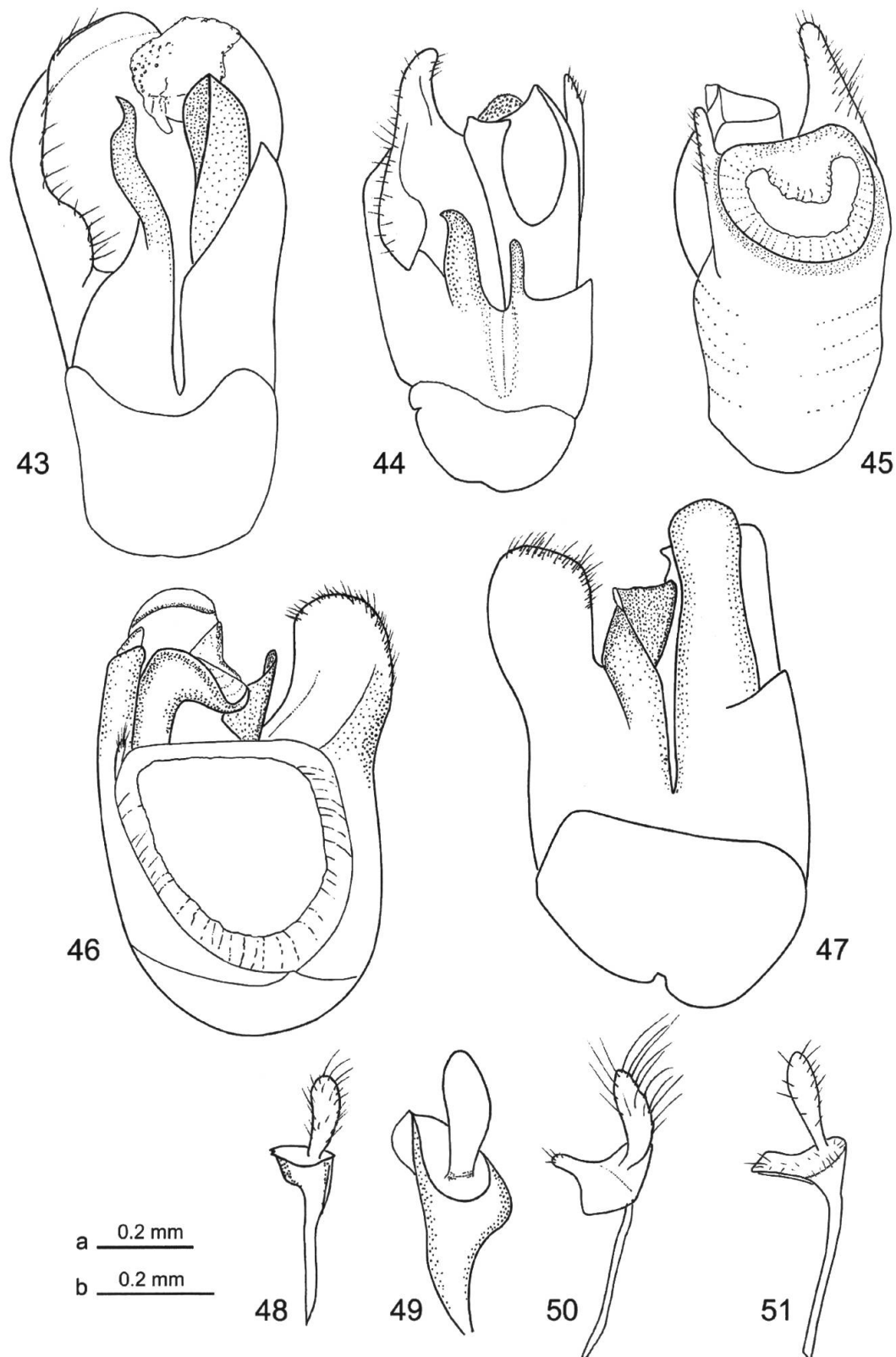
Figs 16–27. 16–20, male pronotum and scutellum, right half: 16, *Peltariosilis guyanensis* (Pic); 17, *P. amapaensis* Wittmer; 18, *P. scutulata* Wittmer; 19, *Silis barragani* sp.nov.; 20, *S. sanfranciscensis* sp.nov. 21–23, female tergite IX, dorsal view: 21, *Belotus lojaensis* sp.nov.; 22, *Macromalthinus maximiceps* Pic; 23, *M. schmidli* sp.nov. 24–27, female sternite VIII, ventral view: 24, *Belotus lojaensis* sp.nov.; 25, *Maronius brancuccii* sp.nov.; 26, *Macromalthinus maximiceps* Pic; 27, *M. schmidli* sp.nov. (Scale a: 27; b: 21–26; c: 19, 20; d: 16–18.)



Figs 28–34. Aedeagi, dorsal and latero-dorsal views: 28, 33, *Silis barragani* sp.nov.; 29, 34, *Pygodiscodon apicicorne* (Pic); 30, 31, *P. touroulti* sp.nov.; 32, *Silis sanfranciscensis* sp.nov. (Scale a: 29–31, 34; b: 34; c: 28, 33.)



Figs 35–42. Aedeagi. 35, *Silis sanfranciscensis* sp.nov; 36, 38, *Plectonotum macaraense* sp.nov; 37, 39, *P. zanjaraejunoense* sp.nov; 40, 41, *Belotus lojaensis* sp.nov; 42, *Maronius brancuccii* sp.nov. ; 35–37, 40, dorsal views; 38, 39, latero-dorsal views; 41, 42, ventral views (Scale a: 40–42; b: 36–39; c: 35.)



Figs 43–51. 43–47, aedeagi: 43, *Maronius brancuccii* sp.nov.; 44, 45, *Maronius peckorum* sp.nov.; 46, 47, *Macromalthinus schmidli* sp.nov.; 43, 44, 47, dorsal views; 45, 46, ventral views. 48–51, female right coxite, ventral views: 48, *Belotus lojaensis* sp.nov.; 49, *Maronius brancuccii* sp.nov.; 50, *Macromalthinus maximiceps* (Pic); 51, *M. schmidli* sp.nov. (Scale a: 46, 47; b: 43–45, 48–51.)

SUBFAMILY CHAULIOGNATHINAE

Belotus baeri (Pic, 1906)

Material examined. ECUADOR, LOJA, 7 km south of Vilcabamba, 4°18'31"S-79°12'36"W, 1882 m, 20.XI.2007, in great number on several shrubs; *idem*, 27.XI.2008, abundant at the same place; *idem*, no specimens observed, 29.IV.2009; *idem*, only one female, 8.V.2010 (QCAZ, NHMB, BMNH, CCo).

Remarks. Described as *Maronius baeri* Pic, 1906 and transferred to *Belotus* by BRANCUCCI (1979), this species was previously known only from a type series of two males collected in north Peru, Tumbes province, by G.A. Baer, no other details (MNHN).

Belotus baeri (Pic, 1906) has been observed in great abundance at one place in southern Ecuador.

Natural history. The collecting area at Vilcabamba is a steep southern slope of ancient pastures re-occupied by big *Acacia* trees (Fabaceae) and woody shrubs, among which are many flowering Asteraceae.

Belotus lojaensis sp.nov.

(Figs 5, 21, 24, 40, 41, 48)

Type material. Holotype ♂: ECUADOR, LOJA, 35 km south of Zaruma, carretera de El Rosario a Zambí, coordinate (WGS84) 3°51'36"S-79°34'0"W, 985 m, 4.V.2009, R. Constantin. Paratypes: same data as the holotype, 1 ♂ 1 ♀; LOJA, 20 km west of Catamayo, 5 km north of San Pedro de la Bandita, 3°53'54"S-79°25'28"W, 1808 m, 10.V.2010, 1 ♂ 1 ♀, R. Constantin. Holotype deposited at NHMB, paratypes preserved in author's collection (CCo).

Description. Holotype ♂. Length 5.4 mm. Head black. Clypeus and frons in front of the antennal sockets yellow. Mandibles testaceous. Palpi brown. Antennae sepia brown, ventral face of the three first joints fulvous. Pronotum orange. Elytra black, a bright orange spot on the apical quarter. Legs brown, front legs in part ventrally fulvous. Abdomen orange, the two last segments brown.

Head as long as wide, smooth, lustrous, very thinly pubescent. Eyes medium-sized. Interocular space 1.4× wider than maximum eye diameter. Frons slightly convex between the eyes. Clypeus delimited from the frons by a visible clypeo-frontal line. Mandibles finely denticulate between the base and the accessory tooth. Antennae elongate, slender. Antennomeres cylindrical, IV longer than adjacent elements and 3.5× longer than wide. Pronotum transverse, 1.1× wider than long, lustrous and bare. Lateral margins parallel. Basal angles marked and feebly explanate. Elytra 1.5× longer than wide at the base, parallel-sided, apically largely rounded, covered with uniform pubescence of semi-erect brown setae, obliquely depressed from behind the humeri to the internal limit of the apical spot. Sternite VIII deeply emarginate. Aedeagus: right dorsal paramere slender, aciculate. Left dorsal paramere long and lamellate. Median lobe central, tubular and strigate. Ventral right paramere short and wide.

Dimensions: AL = 3.5 mm; HW = 0.99 mm; IOW = 0.54 mm; LOD = 0.40; PL = 0.79 mm; PW = 0.87 mm; EL = 1.61 mm; EW = 1.09 mm. Others ♂ paratypes: TL = 4.6–4.7 mm.

♀. Differs in smaller eyes, interocular space 1.9× wider than maximum eye diameter. Sternite VIII triangular, medially incised at apical margin.

Dimensions of a ♀ paratype: TL = 5.1 mm; AL = 3.1 mm; HW = 0.92 mm; IOW = 0.57 mm; LOD = 0.30; PL = 0.82 mm; PW = 0.91 mm; EL = 1.73 mm; EW = 1.14 mm. Other ♀ paratype: TL = 4.6 mm.

Natural history. The series was collected together with *Maronius brancuccii* sp.nov., beating the shrubs near a mountain streamlet.

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to the province of Loja, the southernmost in Ecuador, the entomofauna of which is highly diversified and clearly different from central and northern regions.

Differential diagnosis. *Belotus lojaensis* sp.nov. takes its place among species with same pattern of genital structure, median lobe cylindrical without apical projection, ventral parameres elongate and relatively parallel. The nearest species is *B. subelongatus* Pic, 1919, from which it differs in the precise form of the appendages.

***Macromalthinus schmidli* sp.nov.**

(Figs 9, 14, 23, 27, 46, 47, 51)

Type material. Holotype ♂: ECUADOR, ZAMORA-CHINCHIPE, 10 km west of Sabanilla, Estación científica San Francisco, Loma Moras, 3°58'30"S-79°04'38"W, 200 m, X.2008, J. Schmidl leg. Two paratypes, same locality as the holotype, 24.IX.2007, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, J. Schmidl leg. Four paratypes, "El Colibri" [13 km west of Sabanilla, coordinate 3°58'S-79°04'W], 26.XI.2005, 3 ♂ 1 ♀, H. Amaroso leg. (UTPL). Holotype deposited at NHMB, paratypes at UTPL and preserved in author's collection (CCo).

Description. Holotype ♂. Length 7.3 mm. Head, pronotum, elytra fuliginous black. Antennae black, apex of segments 9 and 10 pale yellow. Mandibles testaceous. Palpi fulvous. Legs castaneous brown, front coxae and the entire ventral surface of the profemora pale yellow. Mesothorax and metathorax brown, mesoepimera, mesoepisterna, metepimera and metespisterna pale yellow. Abdomen black, pleural line narrowly yellow.

Head wide, lustrous, thinly pubescent. Eyes bulging, very large. Interocular space 1.08× wider than the maximum eye diameter. Frons strongly depressed, concave between the eyes. Epistoma less inclined than frons, separated by a transverse line. Antennae elongate, slender, the antennomeres cylindrical. First antennomere moderately swollen in the middle part. Pronotum elongate, 1.1× longer than wide, lustrous, thinly pubescent in adpressed yellow setae. Anterior and posterior margins rounded and distinctly bordered. Lateral sides basally parallel and narrowing anteriorly, anterior angles prominent. Elytra 1.5× longer than wide together, finely punctate, thinly pubescent, the lateral margins subparallel, slightly concave in the apical half, the internal margins apically divergent. Apical spot of the same colour, indicated by a lustrous, unpunctuated surface. Legs slender. Profemora strongly swollen, convex, 3× longer than maximum width, apically toothed on the ventral side near the knee. Claws not basally toothed. Abdomen without prominent pores. Sternite IX marked by a short longitudinal carina near the left margin. Aedeagus: Right projection of tegmen developed. Right paramere narrow and shortened; left paramere lamellate, elongate.

Dimensions: AL = 5.6 mm; HW = 1.31 mm; IOW = 0.67 mm; LOD = 0.62; PL = 1.21 mm; PW = 1.09 mm; EL = 2.15 mm; EW = 1.44 mm. Other ♂ paratype: TL = 7.5 mm.

♀. Differs in smaller eyes, shorter antennae, interocular space $1.45\times$ wider than the maximum eye diameter. Pronotum narrowing from base to apex. Profemorae not modified. Tergite VIII elongate and apically narrowly rounded. Apical margin of sternite VIII regularly rounded

Dimensions of a ♀ paratype: TL = 7.6 mm; AL = 5.3 mm; HW = 1.23 mm; IOW = 0.72 mm; LOD = 0.50; PL = 1.14 mm; PW = 1.06 mm; EL = 2.18 mm; EW = 1.49 mm.

Natural history. The type locality “Estación científica San Francisco” is the Ecuadorio-German biological research station at the northern limit of Podocarpus National Park. The vegetation is well-preserved primary mountain forest. Collection technique here involved beating the shrubs at the edge of the clearing. “El Colibri”, the second locality is a private protected area at the upper boundary of the mountain forest, where it meets the shrubby vegetation of the paramos.

Etymology. Respectfully dedicated to Dr. Jürgen Schmidl at Erlangen-Nürnberg University, Germany, a tropical biologist and entomologist, involved in many canopy studies.

Differential diagnosis. Judging by external morphology, *Macromalthinus schmidli* sp.nov. is near *M. maximiceps* Pic, 1919 (see Figs 22, 26, 50). It differs in its general black colour, the male profemorae, and characters of the aedeagus.

***Maronius brancuccii* sp.nov.**

(Figs 7, 25, 42, 43, 49)

Type material. Holotype ♂: ECUADOR, LOJA, 35 km south of Zaruma, carretera de El Rosario a Zambi, coordinates (WGS84) $3^{\circ}51'36''\text{S}$ - $79^{\circ}34'0''\text{W}$, 985 m, 4.V.2009, R. Constantin. Paratypes (13♂ 12♀): same data as the holotype, 11 ♂ 8 ♀; same locality as the holotype, 11.V.2010, 2 ♂ 2 ♀; 45 km south of Zaruma, El Rosario a Zambi, $3^{\circ}54'09''\text{S}$ - $79^{\circ}32'32''\text{W}$, 1104 m, 4.V.2009, 1 ♀; 50 km south of Zaruma, Zambi, $3^{\circ}55'08''\text{S}$ - $79^{\circ}31'41''\text{W}$, 15694 m, 4.V.2009, 1 ♀. Holotype and a paratype deposited in NHMB, two paratypes deposited in QCAZ, the others held in author's collection (CCo).

Description. Holotype ♂. Length 5.8 mm. Head black. Mandibles and the two first maxillar palpomeres fulvous. Antennae brown, the first three below and the last joint testaceous. Pronotum orange. Elytra sepia brown, an orange spot on the apical sixth. Legs brown, internal face of the profemorae, protibiae, base of mesofemorae and metafemorae testaceous orange. Abdomen orange, the two last segments brown.

Head smooth, lustrous, thinly pubescent, impunctate. Eyes large, bulging. Interocular space $1.25\times$ wider than the maximum eye diameter. Frons largely concave between the eyes. Antennae elongate, slender, reaching the apex of elytra. Antennomeres cylindrical, the sixth $5\times$ longer than wide. Pronotum slightly transverse, $1.1\times$ wider than long, thinly pubescent. Anterior and posterior margins regularly arcuate. Lateral sides subparallel. Anterior angles slightly protuberant. Elytra $2\times$ longer than wide together, narrowing toward the apex, lateral margins subparallel and narrowing, internal margin convex, diverging from the median axis, apical orange spot not elevated. Sternite IX apically rounded. Aedeagus distinctive in the shape of the two parameres on the dorsal side.

Dimensions: AL = 4.25 mm; HW = 1.11 mm; IOW = 0.62 mm; LOD = 0.49; PL = 0.89 mm; PW = 0.97 mm; EL = 2.5 mm; EW = 1.24 mm. Others ♂ paratypes: TL = 5–6.2 mm.

♀. Differs from the male in eyes smaller and shorter. Interocular space 1.5× wider than the maximum eye diameter. Antennae elongate and slender but relatively shorter. Sternite VIII with an apical, median projection.

Dimensions of a ♀ paratype: TL = 6.2 mm; AL = 3.8 mm; HW = 1.01 mm; IOW = 0.59 mm; LOD = 0.37; PL = 0.89 mm; PW = 1.01 mm; EL = 2.82 mm; EW = 1.26 mm. Others ♀ paratypes: TL = 6–6.6 mm.

Natural history. The series was collected beating low vegetation and saplings in the immediate proximity of a torrent with steep banks. In this steamy atmosphere, just above the streamlet, several shrubs flourished and proved hospitable to various Cantharid beetles.

Etymology. Respectfully dedicated to Michel Brancucci, a renowned taxonomist of the Dystiscidae and also author of a series of exhaustive revisions of the brachelytrous Chauliognathinae.

Remark. *Maronius brancuccii* sp.nov. takes a place in the genus *Maronius* Gorham through possession of a developed head with concave frons, and unmodified antennae, elytra and legs. The male genital morphology does not show all the elements observed in the other species and there is no setiferous process.

Differential diagnosis. *Maronius brancuccii* sp.nov. is among the species that have pronotum feebly transverse, elytra laterally feebly emarginate, setiferous genital process missing (the latter character present in *M. araguanus* Brancucci, *M. brevipennis* F. and *M. sarasini* Brancucci). It differs from the mentioned species in the characters of the aedeagus.

Maronius brevicollis (Fabricius, 1801)

Material examined. FRENCH GUIANA, Mana, 3 km west of Laussat, 5°28'N-53°35'W, 28.V.2010, Malaise trap on white sand, 1 ♀, G. Lamarre (CCo); Regina, Réserve naturelle des Nouragues, camp de Saut Pararé, 4°01'N-52°41'W, 6.VI.2010, interception trap, 1 ♀, S. Brûlé & P.-H. Dalens (CCo).

Remarks. *Maronius brevicollis* was described from “South America”. This species has a wide distribution, studied by BRANCUCCI (1981) which includes PERU: Portumayo, El Cantao; Puno; Vilcanota; BRAZIL: Manaus; Serra lombard; Limao; BOLIVIA: Mapiri; Yungas; Coroico.

It is here been recorded for the first time for French Guiana. The identification, based on females only, has been confirmed by examination of the female coxite and by comparison with museum material.

Maronius peckorum sp.nov.

(Figs 6, 44, 45)

Type material. Holotype ♂: ECUADOR, SANTO DOMINGO DE LOS TSÁCHILAS, Tinalandia, 16 km SE Santo Domingo, 500 m, 4–14.VI.1976, S. & J. Peck leg. (NHMB).

Description. Holotype ♂. Length 5.1 mm. Head sepia brown, frons, front of antennal sockets pale lemon-yellow. Antennae sepia brown, first segment and the two last segments sienna brown, apex of 8th and 9th segments pale yellow. Palpi sienna brown.

Pronotum, anterior and posterior margins included, pale yellow, a large median sepia brown stripe on the median half, basally wider. Elytra castaneous, a marked sienna brown spot on the apical quarter. Legs castaneous, base of mesofemorae and metafemorae yellow.

Head semi-lustrous, superficially microreticulate, strongly narrowed posteriorly. Frons depressed beyond the antennae. Eyes prominent. Interocular space $1.55\times$ wider than the maximum eye diameter. Antennae elongate, slender, antennomeres cylindrical, the first moderately inflated. Pronotum $1.03\times$ longer than wide. Lateral margins rounded, narrowing anteriorly. Basal corners feebly prominent. Elytra $1.5\times$ longer than wide together, rugulose punctate, an oblique raised surface from behind the humeri to the base of the apical spot. Legs unmodified and claws not basally toothed. Abdominal pores of segment VIII prominent. Apical border of sternite VIII emarginate. Aedeagus: Setiferous projection slender and long, right projection of tegmen wide and elongate, apically narrowed.

Dimensions: AL = 4.20 mm; HW = 0.95 mm; IOW = 0.49 mm; LOD = 0.43; PL = 0.74 mm; PW = 0.72 mm; EL = 1.44 mm; EW = 0.94 mm.

Natural history. The type locality “Tinalandia”, coordinates $0^{\circ}19'S$ - $79^{\circ}04'W$, is a well known lodge placed on the first step of the western slope of the western Cordillera, near the road from Santo Domingo de los Colorados to Quito. This beautiful remnant of the western rain forest has been home to many scientific studies.

Etymology. Respectfully dedicated to Professor Stewart Peck and his wife Jarmila Kukalová-Peck, enthusiast entomologists and palaeontologists, and discoverers of many new taxa at this locality. The specimen examined was part of the material generously presented to the late Walter Wittmer and held by NHMB.

Differential diagnosis. To judge by external morphology, *Maronius peckorum* sp.nov. is near *M. papallactae* Constantin, 2007, from which it differs in partly pale yellow coloration, smaller size and different genital morphology.

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to all the curators and museum staff who welcomed me to their institutions and allowed the loans of type specimens and unstudied material, especially the Muséum national d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (Dr. Thierry Deuve, Dr. Olivier Montreuil, Antoine Mantilleri, Azadeh Taghavian); Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel (Dr. Michel Brancucci, Michael Geiser, Isabelle Zürcher); Zoologische Staatssammlung München (Dr Michael Balke); Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (Dr Jürgen Schmidl); Universidad Técnica Particular Loja, Ecuador (Ing. Diego Marin); and QCAZ Museum of Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (Prof. Álvaro Barragán, Dr. Cliff Keile, Florencio Maza, Fernanda Salazar).

The Guianese material examined here is part of the result of concentrated collection on the part of the entomological Society of Antilles-Guyane during year-long inventories performed on private and protected areas, and I am glad to acknowledge the dynamism and efficiency of its staff, namely Stéphane Brûlé, Pierre-Henri Dalens, Eddy Poirier and Julien Touroult, and also Greg Lamarre (INRA-EcoFoG, Kourou).

I am pleased to thank Professor Giovanni Onore at Quito for his support of my personal field surveys in Ecuador. Thanks are also due to Professor A. Barragán, helped by Emilia Moreno, for his personal commitment in acquiring a collecting and export permit.

Finally, I am particularly grateful to Michel Brancucci for his critical reading of the manuscript and advice, while Anthony Long helped with the linguistic revision; Giovanni Onore kindly improved the Spanish summary.

Resumen

Se dan a conocer nueve especies nuevas de Cantharidae procedentes de Ecuador: *Silis barragani* sp.nov. (prov. Cañar), *S. sanfranciscensis* sp.nov. (prov. Cotopaxi), *Plectonotum macaraense* sp.nov. (prov. Loja), *P. zanjarajunoense* sp.nov. (prov. Pastaza), *Belotus lojaensis* sp.nov. (prov. Loja), *Macromalthinus schmidli* sp.nov. (prov. Zamora-Chinchiipe), *Maronius brancuccii* sp.nov. (prov. Loja), *M. peckorum* sp.nov. (prov. Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas) y de Guyana Francesa: *Pygodiscodon touroulti* sp.nov. El subgénero *Silis* (subgen. *Peltariosilis*) Wittmer, 1952 es ascendido a nivel de género. *Discodon apicicorne* Pic, 1910 es transferido al género *Pygodiscodon* Wittmer, 1966. *Pygodiscodon obscurum* Wittmer, 1966 debe considerarse sinónimo de *Pygodiscodon apicicorne* (Pic, 1910). *Belotus baeri* (Pic, 1906) es un nuevo registro para Ecuador. *Peltariosilis amapaensis* Wittmer, 1966, y *Maronius brevicornis* (Fabricius, 1801) son nuevos registros para Guyana Francesa. *Peltariosilis guyanensis* (Pic, 1910) es un nuevo registro para Surinam. Se proponen claves dicotómicas para las especies de *Peltariosilis* y *Pygodiscodon*. Se incluyen las fotografías de los adultos y detalles de los pronotos, así como de los caracteres de las genitalias masculinas y femeninas.

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