

***Tropicus panamensis* sp.nov. and a new record of *Tropicus* Pacheco from Panama (Coleoptera: Heteroceridae)**

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SKALICKÝ S. 2014: *Tropicus panamensis* sp.nov. and a new record of *Tropicus* Pacheco from Panama (Coleoptera: Heteroceridae). *Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae biologicae* (Brno) 99(1): 65–67. – A new species of *Tropicus* Pacheco, 1964, *T. panamensis* sp.nov. from Panama, is described, illustrated and compared with similar species. *T. bartolozzii* Mascagni, 1994 is reported from Panama for the first time.

**Keywords.** Coleoptera, Heteroceridae, *Tropicus*, new species, new record, Panama

**Introduction**

Our knowledge of the Heteroceridae fauna of Panama is very poor. Previous to this publication only two species of the genus *Tropicus* Pacheco, 1964 were known from that country: *T. pusillus* (Say, 1823), with a wide distribution from the northern USA to Panama and *T. spangleri* Skalický, 2007 also occurring in Costa Rica and Honduras (see SKALICKÝ 2008). Three species of *Tropicus* are known from neighbouring Costa Rica, the two previously mentioned and *T. bilineatus* (Chevrolat, 1864), which also occurs in Cuba and Mexico. No record of heterocerid fauna from neighbouring Columbia is known to the author.

During a study of Heteroceridae collected at a single locality in Panama, two more species were identified: *T. bartolozzii* Mascagni, 1994 which is reported from Panama for the first time and *T. panamensis* sp.nov. which is new to science. The latter species is described herein.

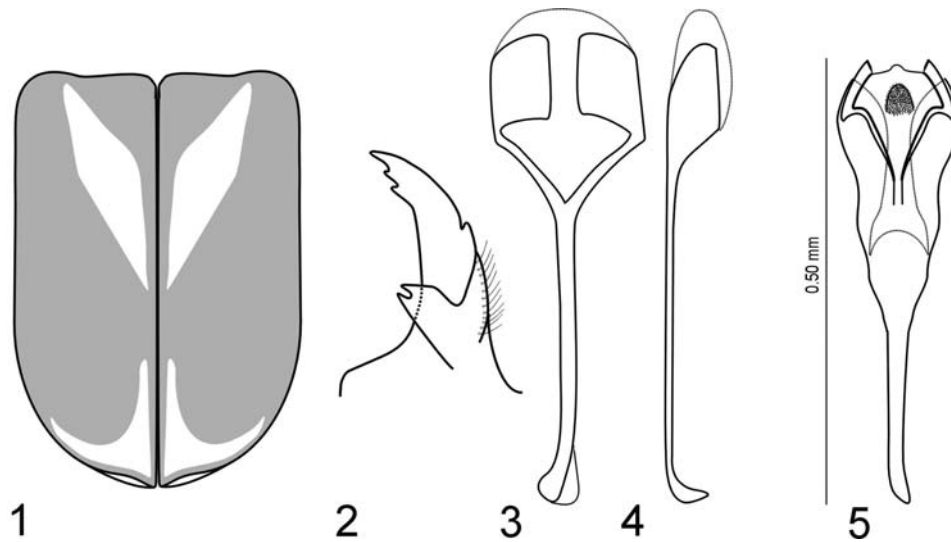
Later research or exploration of older collections may well reveal the occurrence of some additional species of *Tropicus* in Panama and neighbouring states.

The abbreviation CSU indicates the depository of the material examined, the collection of S. Skalický, Ústí nad Orlicí, Czech Republic; MMB = Moravian Museum, Brno, Czech Republic.

***Tropicus panamensis* sp.nov.**

**Type material.** Holotype ♂: “PANAMA: Veraguas prov. 12km N of Santiago, light trap, near Rio Santa Maria River 18.viii.2012 Čáp lgt.” (CSU). Paratype (Allotype) ♀: same data as holotype (CSU). Paratypes: 3 (♀♀) specimens, the same data as holotype (CSU, MMB).

**Description.** Holotype ♂: Total length 2.50 mm (to apex of labrum); elytra 1.50 mm long, 0.90 mm wide across shoulders. Body uniformly dark brown, elytron with light brown spots situated as in Fig. 1, posterior spots diffuse. Labrum rounded, anterior apex



**Figs 1–5.** *Tropicus panamensis* sp.nov., holotype: 1 – elytra, dorsal view; 2 – left mandible, dorsal view; 3 – spiculum gastrale, dorsal view; 4 – spiculum gastrale, lateral view; 5 – aedeagus, dorsal view. Figs 1–2 are not to scale.

slightly emarginate, without visible serration, surface granulated with short, dense setae intermixed with very long, erect setae. Mandibles (Fig. 2) pointed, tooth of the latero-ventral ridge well developed, sharp; dorsal subapical tooth small and rounded. Prostheca lacking prosthecal notch, series of teeth present. Clypeus has no pair of anterior horns, anterior margin emarginate; coarsely granular, setae as in labrum. Head finely granular, setae short, coarse and adjacent with long setae above eyes. Antennae 9-segmented, with 6-segmented club. Antennomeres 1–2 with erect setae, approximately as long as antennal club. Pronotum 1.55 times wider than long, as wide as base of elytra; pronotal base completely rimmed. Surface of pronotum finely granular without longer punctures, punctures approximately 0.5 diameter of eye facets; setae short, sparse, adjacent, intermixed with longer setae. Scutellum triangular, anterior angles rounded. Elytra without longitudinal furrows, without scutellar depressions, humeral depressions shallow, extending obliquely almost to elytral mid-length; surface very finely granular with intermixed punctures approximately as large as eye facets. 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, without striae. Protibia with 10 stout spines, mesotibia with 9 thin spines, metatibia with uncertain number of thin spines. Ventral surface finely granular. Spiculum gastrale 0.60 mm long; Y-shaped, as Figs 3–4. Aedeagus 0.50 mm long, shape as Fig. 5.

Paratype (Allotype) ♀: Total length 2.25 mm (to apex of labrum); elytra 1.35 mm long, 0.75 mm wide across shoulders. Mandibles without process on the dorsal ridge. Elytral spots more diffuse. Other external characters as in male.

**Differential diagnosis.** Judging by the shape of the aedeagus and spiculum gastrale, *T. panamensis* sp.nov. belongs to the *T. pusillus* group *sensu* PACHECO (1964). The morphology of the aedeagus and spiculum gastrale in *T. panamensis* sp.nov. are similar to those of *T. balli* Skalický, 2006 from Mexico (SKALICKÝ 2006) and *T. riosensis* Skalický, 2007 from Ecuador (SKALICKÝ 2007).

*T. panamensis* sp.nov. differs from *T. balli* in the colour of elytra (light brown without pattern in *T. balli*); absence of very long setae on labrum and antennomeres in *T. balli*; morphology of spiculum gastrale (with less developed lateral arms in *T. balli*) and different structure of aedeagus (compare Figs 3–4 in SKALICKÝ (2006) and Figs 3–5 herein).

It differs from the *T. riosensis* in the colour of elytra (pale brown with different, darker pattern in *T. riosensis*); the shape of labrum (elongated, 1.7 as long as wide in *T. riosensis*, oval, as wide as long in *T. panamensis*); absence of very long setae on labrum and antennomeres in *T. riosensis* and different structure of aedeagus (compare Figs 20–24 in SKALICKÝ (2007) and Figs 1–5 herein).

**Etymology.** The new species is named after its country of origin.

#### Distributional note

##### *Tropicus bartolozzii* Mascagni, 1994

**Material examined.** 4 spec. (♂, ♀♀): “PANAMA: Veraguas prov. 12km N of Santiago, light trap, near Rio Santa Maria River 18.viii.2012 Čáp lgt.” (CSU).

**Distribution.** Ecuador, Paraguay (SKALICKÝ 2008). First record for Panama.

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