

CONFIRMATION OF THE OCCURRENCE OF *ECHTHISTATUS* IN MEXICO AND DESCRIPTION OF A RELATED NEW GENUS (COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE)

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Abstract. The occurrence of the parmenine *Echthistatus spinosus*, previously believed to inhabit Australia, is confirmed in Mexico. A related new genus and species, *Neoplectrura breedlovei*, is described from the state of Guerrero, Mexico.

The lamiine tribe Parmenini has previously been represented in the New World by 8 genera (Chemsak & Linsley 1982). This flightless group is characterized by the small to moderate sized, usually ovoid body form and short, retracted metasternum. The habits of most are not known.

Recent material made available for study by the California Academy of Sciences, H. Howden, and P. Sullivan included 2 additional genera, 1 undescribed, in the parmenine fauna of the New World.

Genus *Echthistatus* Pascoe

Pascoe (1862) proposed the genus *Echthistatus* for a new species, *spinosus*. He commented on the affinities of this genus with *Ceraegidion* Boisduval from Australia and speculated that *Echthistatus* was also Australian, though he listed the type-locality of *spinosus* as questionable. Thomson (1864, 1867) and McKeown (1947) record *E. spinosus* as occurring in Australia while other authors (Lacordaire 1869; Aurivillius 1922; Breuning 1950, 1961) indicate the type-locality with a question mark. In essence, *E. spinosus* has generally been regarded as an Australian species in spite of the fact that Pascoe indicated in his discussion of the genus that the specimen, belonging to Major Parry, was taken from a box of Mexican insects. The collection of 5 specimens of *E. spinosus* from Mexico confirms its occurrence in that fauna.

The genus *Echthistatus* may be characterized by the ovoid, tapering body form; long, slender antennae; prominent, acute lateral pronotal tubercles; very prominent discal pronotal tubercles; tuberculate prosternal process; and the very highly elevated, large, acute gibbosities at the basal 1/3 of the elytra.

A single species is known.

Echthistatus spinosus Pascoe

Fig. 1

Echthistatus spinosus Pascoe, 1862, J. Entomol. 1(5): 353, pl. 17, fig. 8.—Lacordaire, 1869, Genera Coléopt. 9: 261, pl. 96, fig. 3.—Breuning, 1950, Longicornia 1: 139.

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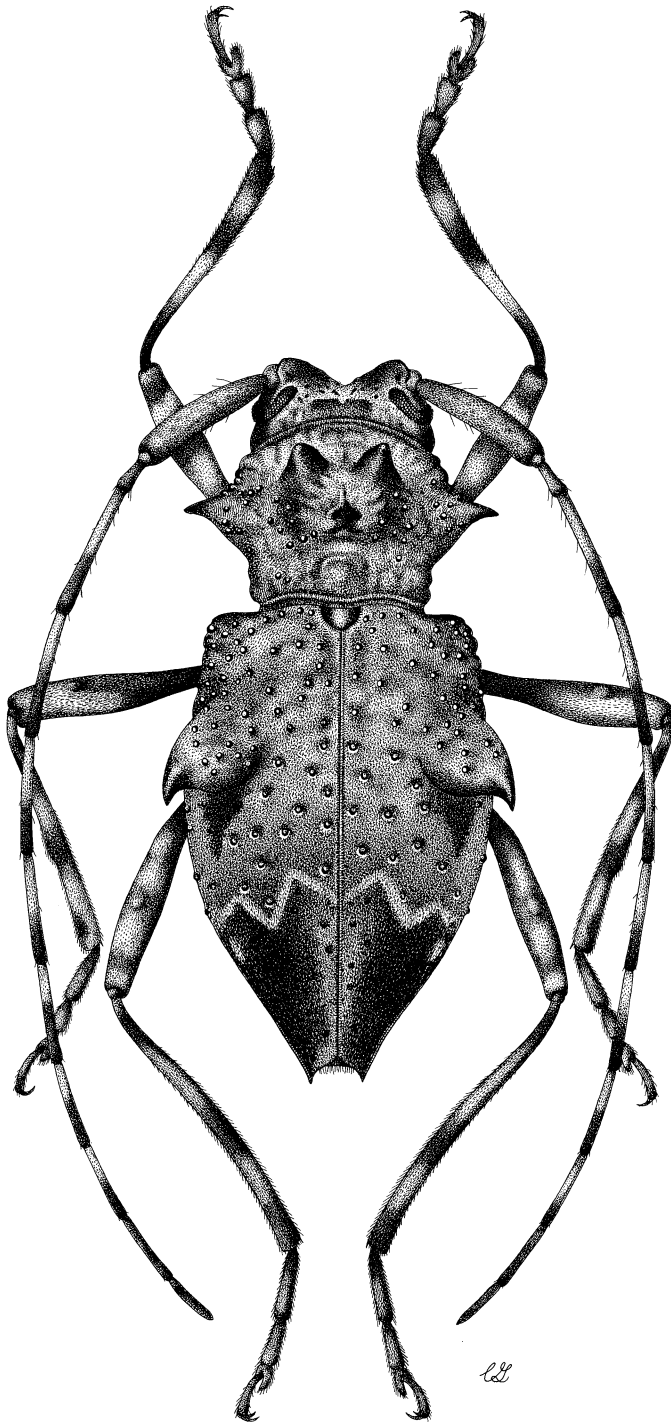


FIG. 1. *Echthistatus spinosus*, ♀.

This very distinctive species may be readily recognized by a dark integument, annulate antennae, appressed mottled grayish and brownish pubescence, the medially yellowish pubescent scutellum, a transversely zigzag pale pubescent fascia at the apical $\frac{1}{3}$ of the elytra, small asperites at the base of the elytra, and triannulate tibiae. The antennae of males are $2\times$ the length of the body and in females antennae extend about 3 segments beyond the elytra.

Material examined. MEXICO: 1♀, Oaxaca, 40 mi [64 km] S of Valle Nacional, 9500 ft [2896 m], 26.VII.1970 (E. Fisher, P. Sullivan); 1♀, Oaxaca, 10 mi [16 km] E of Santos Reyes Papalo, 3-4.VIII.1975 (T. Taylor, Sullivan); 2♂, 1♀, Oaxaca, 37 mi [61 km] S of Valle Nacional, 24.V.1971 (H. Howden).

***Neoplectrura* Chemsak & Linsley, new genus**

Type-species: *Neoplectrura breedlovei*, n. sp.

Form moderate-sized, convex. Head with front short, transverse; genae slightly convergent, longer than lower eye lobe; eyes moderately coarsely faceted, lower lobes ovoid, upper lobes widely separated above; antennae slender, longer than body, scape cylindrical, about as long as 3rd segment, 4th shorter than 3rd, segments 2 to 6 with a few suberect setae beneath, 3rd segment arcuate. Pronotum broader than long, sides strongly, acutely tuberculate; disk with 2 strongly elevated tubercles at middle and smaller median one behind; base broadly impressed; prosternum narrow, convex, intercoxal process feebly arcuate, expanded behind, about $\frac{1}{3}$ as broad as coxal cavities, coxal cavities rounded externally; mesosternum with intercoxal process abruptly declivous; metasternum retracted. Elytra strongly bigibbose behind basal margin and at middle; strongly convex; apices flaring, produced with rather long, blunt spines. Scutellum broader than long, notched at apex. Legs with femora clavate; tarsi rather slender, 1st segment of hind pair as long as 2 following segments together. Abdomen with 1st and 5th sternites broad.

This genus greatly resembles *Plectrura* Mannerheim in appearance. *Neoplectrura* differs by having a longer antennal scape, prominent callosities of the pronotum and elytra, rounded procoxal cavities, and an abruptly declivous mesosternal process. The combination of characters will readily distinguish *Neoplectrura* from other New World Parmenini.

A single species is presently known.

***Neoplectrura breedlovei* Chemsak & Linsley, new species**

Fig. 2

♀. Form moderate-sized, ovoid, tapering posteriorly; integument reddish brown to black, antennae paler; pubescence dense, short, appressed, yellowish, grayish and black. Head retractile; front coarsely, rather sparsely punctate, densely clothed with appressed yellow-brown pubescence; vertex broadly, shallowly impressed; antennae slightly longer than body, segments to 7th dorsally biannulate with whitish pubescence, outer segments sparsely bristling with short hairs. Pronotum broader than long, sides strongly, acutely tuberculate; disk tricallused, 2 forward calluses prominent; punctures rather coarse, dense, separated; pubescence fine, dense, mottled yellowish and grayish; prosternum finely pubescent, impunctate; meso- and metasternum finely, densely clothed with appressed pubescence. Elytra about $1\frac{1}{2}\times$ as long as broad, broadest at middle, rather abruptly tapering behind middle; disk with 2 abruptly elevated calluses at basal $\frac{1}{4}$ and 2 at middle near suture, 2 shorter, acute calluses present at basal $\frac{1}{4}$,

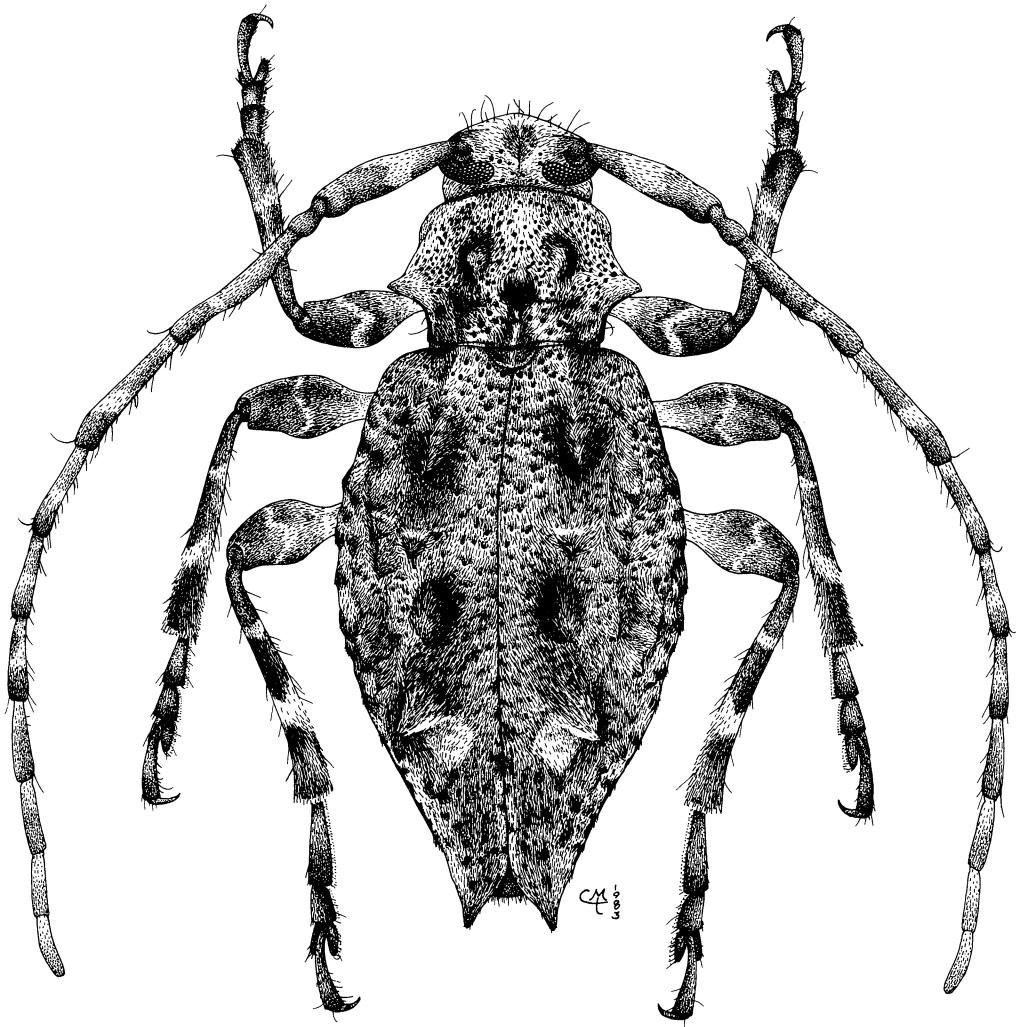


FIG. 2. *Neoplectrura breedlovei*, ♀.

smaller calluses present at sides rather irregularly arranged in 3 rows; pubescence appressed, yellowish vittae extending from bases of basal gibbosities to basal margin, 2 yellowish spots present directly behind apical calluses, large and small calluses tufted with black hairs, remaining pubescence dense, mottled dark and pale; basal punctures coarse, dense, punctures becoming finer and sparser toward apex; apices slightly flaring, produced into blunt, broad spines. Legs rather long; femora pale over apical $\frac{1}{2}$, densely pubescent with a narrow, irregular, pale vitta near apex; tibiae biannulate with whitish pubescence; tarsi white pubescent at bases of segments. Abdomen finely pubescent, first 4 sternites with yellowish patches at sides; punctures minute, dense; last sternite narrow, shallowly emarginate at apex. Length, 10 mm.

Holotype ♀, MEXICO: Guerrero, Puerto El Gallo, 2438 m, 11.XI.1973 (D.E. Breedlove) (California Academy of Sciences).

The callosities of the pronotum and elytra and yellowish pubescent patches of the elytra make this species very distinctive.

We are pleased to dedicate this unique species to D.E. Breedlove, who has collected many interesting Cerambycidae.

Acknowledgments. This study was made in conjunction with a National Science Foundation sponsored study on North American Cerambycidae (Grant DEB-8015523). Celeste Green and Carolyn Tibbetts prepared the illustrations.

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