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Pseudostilpnaspis belizensis, a new species of the tribe Cephaloleiini from Belize (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

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Abstract. *Pseudostilpnaspis belizensis*, new to science, is described from Belize. It is the northernmost occuring member of the genus *Pseudostilpnaspis* Borowiec.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, Cephaloleiini, *Pseudostilpnaspis*, Belize.

The genus *Pseudostilpnaspis* was proposed by Borowiec (2000) for *Stilpnaspis columbica* Weise, 1910 (type species) described from Colombia and two new taxa – *Pseudostilpnaspis muzoensis* Borowiec, 2000, also from Colombia, and *P. costaricana* Borowiec, 2000 from Costa Rica. The genus has been placed in the tribe Imatidiini Hincks, 1952 traditionally classified within tortoise beetles (true cassids) but the tribe has been recently synonymised with the tribe Cephaloleiini Chapuis, 1875 traditionally classified within hispine beetles (Staines 2002). Such position of the tribe Imatidiini in the system of cryptostome beetles had been suggested earlier by Monros and Viana (1947) and Borowiec (1995) with proposal to merge artificial subfamilies Hispinae Gyllenhal, 1813 and Cassidinae Gyllenhal, 1813 in a single subfamily. Staines (2002) discussed the nomenclatorial problem of several family and tribe group names in Cassidinae and Hispinae and according to ICZN Article 23.1 and 24.2 proposed the name Cassidinae (firstly described as Cassideae by Gyllenhal 1813 on page 434) as available for Cryptostome beetles before the name Hispinae (firstly described as Hispoideae by Gyllenhal 1813 on page 448). Thus, the genus *Pseudostilpnaspis* Borowiec, 2000 is a member of the tribe Cephaloleiini Chapuis, 1875 within the subfamily Cassidinae Gyllenhal, 1813.

In the material of the Natural History Museum, London (former British Museum, Natural History) I found specimen from Belize belonging to the genus *Pseudostilpnaspis* Bor. The locality extended the known distribution area of the genus distinctly more to the north of the Neotropical Region.

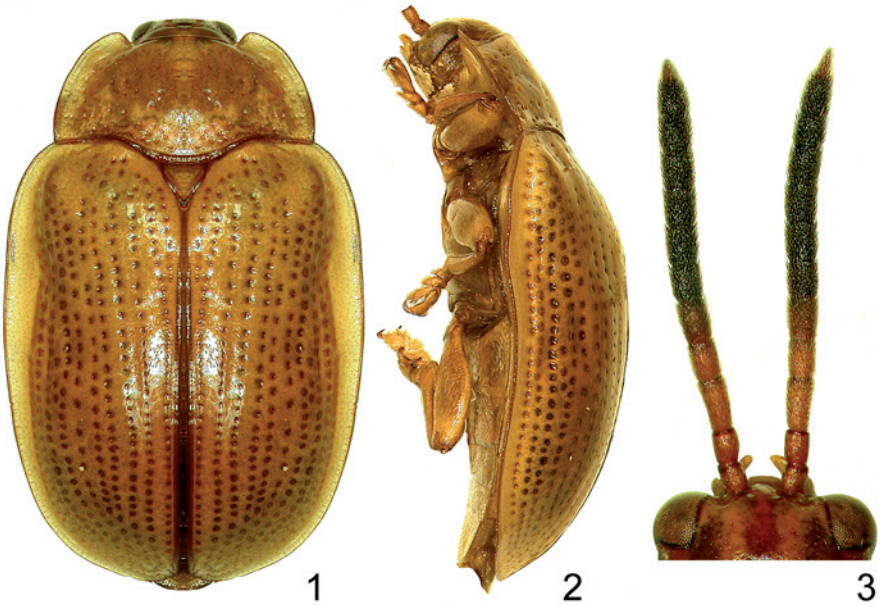
***Pseudostilpnaspis belizensis* n. sp.**

Etymology

Named after its terra typica, Belize on Yucatan Peninsula.

Diagnosis

Pseudotilpnaspis columbica distinctly differs in pronotum almost parallel in basal 1/3 length while in other species, including *P. belizensis*, pronotum is distinctly converging from base to anterior corners. *P. belizensis* is very similar to *P. costaricana* Bor. and *P. muzoensis* Bor. but differs in yellow pronotum and elytra while in both congeners elytra are red and pronotum yellow-reddish or reddish. In *P. muzoensis* pronotum is more converging anterad and distinctly broader than in *P. belizensis* (width/length ratio 1.82 versus 1.67), and antennal segment 3 brown and subsequent segments gradually infuscate while in *P. belizensis* segments 3 and 4 are yellow, segment 5 brown, and segments 6-11 black. *P. costaricana* looks the most similar but differs, except red dorsum, in smaller size (pronotum-elytra length 4.4 mm versus 5.1 mm) and yellow antennal segments 3-6. *P. belizensis* has approximately 80 coarse punctures on pronotal surface while *P. costaricana* less than 50, punctation of vertex in *P. belizensis* is



1-3. *Pseudostilpnaspis belizensis* n. sp.: 1 – habitus dorsal, 2 – body lateral, 3 – head and antennae

distinctly coarser and denser than in *P. costaricana*. Colour photos of all species are available in Borowiec and Świętojańska (2002).

Description

Length: 5.1 mm, width: 3.4 mm, length of pronotum: 1.5 mm, width of pronotum: 2.5 mm, length/width ratio: 1.50. Body elongate-oval, with maximum width in the middle, sides almost parallel (fig. 1).

Head, pronotum, scutellum, elytra, ventrites and legs yellow. Antennal segments 1 and 2 yellowish-red, 3 and 4 yellowish, 5 brown, 7-10 black, 11 in basal 2/3 length black, apical 1/3 length yellow.

Frons narrow, slightly wider than width of second antennal segment, forms an obtuse elevation. Vertex convex, with surface microreticulate, finely punctate. Pronotum 1.67 times wider than long, trapezoidal, with maximum width at base, sides converging anterad, anterior corners angulate. Anterior margin deeply emarginate, on sides with small tubercle and long seta. Disc of pronotum depressed, glabrous, on each side with approximately 40 coarse punctures, distance between punctures mostly longer than puncture diameter. Double row of punctures across base of pronotum interrupted in the middle in distance narrower than base of scutellum. Punctures shallowly impressed and area close to posterior corners of disc does not appear irregular. Explanate margin very narrow, impunctate. Scutellum triangular. Base of elytra slightly wider than base of pronotum, elytra elongate-oval with maximum width in the middle, sides only slightly converging posterad. Disc slightly convex (fig. 2), with shallow posthumeral impressions. Puncturation of disc arranged in regular rows, fine, on sides slightly coarser than in central rows, distance between punctures approximately twice as long as puncture diameter. Scutellar row with 8-9 punctures. Intervals flat, in sutural half of disc three to four times wider than rows, on sides two to three times wider than rows. Surface of intervals smooth, glabrous. Explanate margin very narrow, at widest part slightly wider than two marginal intervals combined, in 2/3 length slightly wider than last interval, its surface impunctate, glabrous. Prosternal process strongly expanded apically, its apical margin truncate, in the middle with shallow impression. Fused two basal abdominal sterna as long as three apical segments combined. Apex of last segment shallowly emarginate. Antennae stout, telescoped, first and second segment very short, third segment distinctly longer than second (fig. 3). Length ratio of antennal segments: 100:95:157:114:121:100:100:94:94:100:207. Legs stout, claws simple.

Type

Holotype: "BELIZE, Cayo, Ciquibul Fores Res., Las Cuevas Field Station, 88°59' W; 16°44' N, BMNH{E} 2005-78" / "Cedar FOG, 11.viii.94" (preserved at the Museum of Natural History, London).

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