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Syngambria panamensis, a new species from Panama (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae: Cassidini)

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ABSTRACT. *Syngambria panamensis*, species new to science, is described from Panam. It is a third species of the genus *Syngambria* SPAETH distinctly separated geographically from two congeners.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, Cassidini, *Syngambria*, Panama.

The genus *Syngambria* Spaeth, 1911 comprises only two species distributed in central and southern Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, and northern Argentina (BOROWIEC 1999; BOROWIEC and ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA 2002). It is well characterized by large size, appendiculate claws, clypeus flat with fine clypeal grooves, pronotum without antennal grooves, explanate margin of elytra very broad and subhorizontal, antennae with six basal, shiny segments, elytral puncturation very fine, elytral disc with conical postscutellar tubercle, third antennal segment almost two times longer than second segment, head cavity at sides with high, sharp carina distinctly separated from prosternal collar, prosternal process strongly expanded apically with explanate part of prosternal process lies distinctly below the central part of the process.

In material studied recently I found, surprisingly, a new species of the genus *Syngambria* SPAETH collected in Panama, a region distinctly separated geographically from centre of distribution of two previously described species. Both two known and the new species are very similar morphologically and difficult to identify. Colour photos of *Syngambria andreae* (BOHEMAN, 1855) and *S. bisinuata* (BOHEMAN, 1855) are available in BOROWIEC and ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA (2002).

***Syngambria panamensis* n. sp.**

ETYMOLOGY

Named after its terra typica, Panama in Central America.

DIAGNOSIS

Very similar to both congeners - *Syngambria andreae* (BOHEMAN, 1855) and *S. bisinuata* (BOHEMAN, 1855). Differs in stouter body, with sides of elytra more regularly rounded and less converging posterad than in *S. andreae* and *S. bisinuata*, and especially in rounded humeri while in both congeners humeri are subangulate. Elytral pattern is in *S. panamensis* darker, brown, while in both congener it is paler, reddish or reddish-brown.

DESCRIPTION

Length 10.8 mm, width 10.7 mm, length of pronotum 3.5 mm, width of pronotum 7.2 mm, width of elytral disc in humeral part 7.3 mm, length/width ratio 1.01, width/length ratio of pronotum 2.06. Body almost circular, sides of elytra almost regularly rounded, moderately converging posterad (fig. 1).

Pronotal disc brown, only latero-basal parts yellow. Sides of disc slightly darker brown than top of disc. Explanate margin of pronotum mostly yellow, only



1, 2. *Syngambria panamensis*: 1 – dorsal, 2 - lateral

base narrowly brown. Scutellum yellow-brown. Elytral disc mostly brown, only postscutellar tubercle and posterolateral parts of disc yellow-brown. Explanate margin of elytra yellow with very broad, brown humeral and posterolateral spots. Humeral spots marked with large, irregular yellow spot in the middle, and small round yellow spot close to base of humeral callus. Ventrites and legs uniformly yellow. Antennae yellow, only last segment brownish-black dorsally.

Pronotum very broad, 2.06 times as wide as long, anterior margin shallowly emarginate in the middle, sides rounded. Base of pronotum on both sides shallowly emarginate. Disc moderately convex, impunctate. Whole surface of pronotum smooth, mirror, explanate margin with honeycomb structure.

Base of elytra distinctly wider than base of pronotum. Humeri rounded, distinctly protruding anterad. Elytral disc with very large, conical postscutellar tubercle (fig. 2). Puncturation of disc regular, extremely fine, on slope hardly visible. Interspaces very broad, surface of disc smooth, mirror. Explanate of elytra very broad, in the widest part as wide as half width of disc. Surface of the margin smooth, mirror, with honeycomb structure. Apex of elytral epipleura with long pubescence.

Clypeus very broad, approximately 1.7 times as wide as long, with very fine clypeal lines. Clypeal plate flat, impunctate. Antennae long and slim, length ratio of antennal segments: 100:46:87:87:78:57:57:48:52:52:91. Segment 3 approximately 1.9 times as long as segment 2. Prosternal collar and prosternal process typical for the genus *Syngambria*, explanate part of prosternal process lies distinctly below narrow median part. Legs long and slim. Claws large, with small basal tooth.

TYPE MATERIAL

Holotype: "Cerro Campana, 3000', Panama, July 31, 1970, H. & A. Howden" "Syngambria n. sp. Det. E. G. Riley '90" (preserved at the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada).

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