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A new species of *Microctenochira* SPAETH from Bolivia (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

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ABSTRACT. *Microctenochira mapiriensis*, a member of the *M. fairmairei* group is described from Bolivia. It is close to *M. fairmairei* (BOHEMAN, 1855) and *M. minax* (SPAETH, 1926). *Euctenochira freirocostai* BUZZI, 1999 is synonymized with *Microctenochira brasiliensis* ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA et BOROWIEC, 1999. *Microctenochira fairmairei* group is proposed for *Coptocycla fairmairei* BOHEMAN, 1855 and its relatives.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, new synonymy, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, *Microctenochira*, Neotropics.

The genus *Microctenochira* SPAETH, 1926 (= *Ctenochira* CHAPUIS 1875 not FOERSTER, 1855, = *Euctenochira* HINCKS, 1950) comprises 107 species distributed from southern USA to northern Argentina (BOROWIEC 1999). They were perfectly revised and keyed by SPAETH (1926 a), only 10 species were described after the revision (SPAETH 1926 b, 1926 c, 1932, ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA and BOROWIEC 1995, 1999, BUZZI 1999). Based on a detailed description and a good photograph, *Euctenochira freirocostai* BUZZI, 1999 is a **new synonym** of *M. brasiliensis* ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA et BOROWIEC, 1999. Both taxa were described in the same year but description of *M. brasiliensis* was published in March 31, 1999 and description of *E. freirocostai* after August 13, 1999. In material studied recently I found two specimens representing a new species. Its description is given below.

Microctenochira mapiriensis n. sp.

ETYMOLOGY

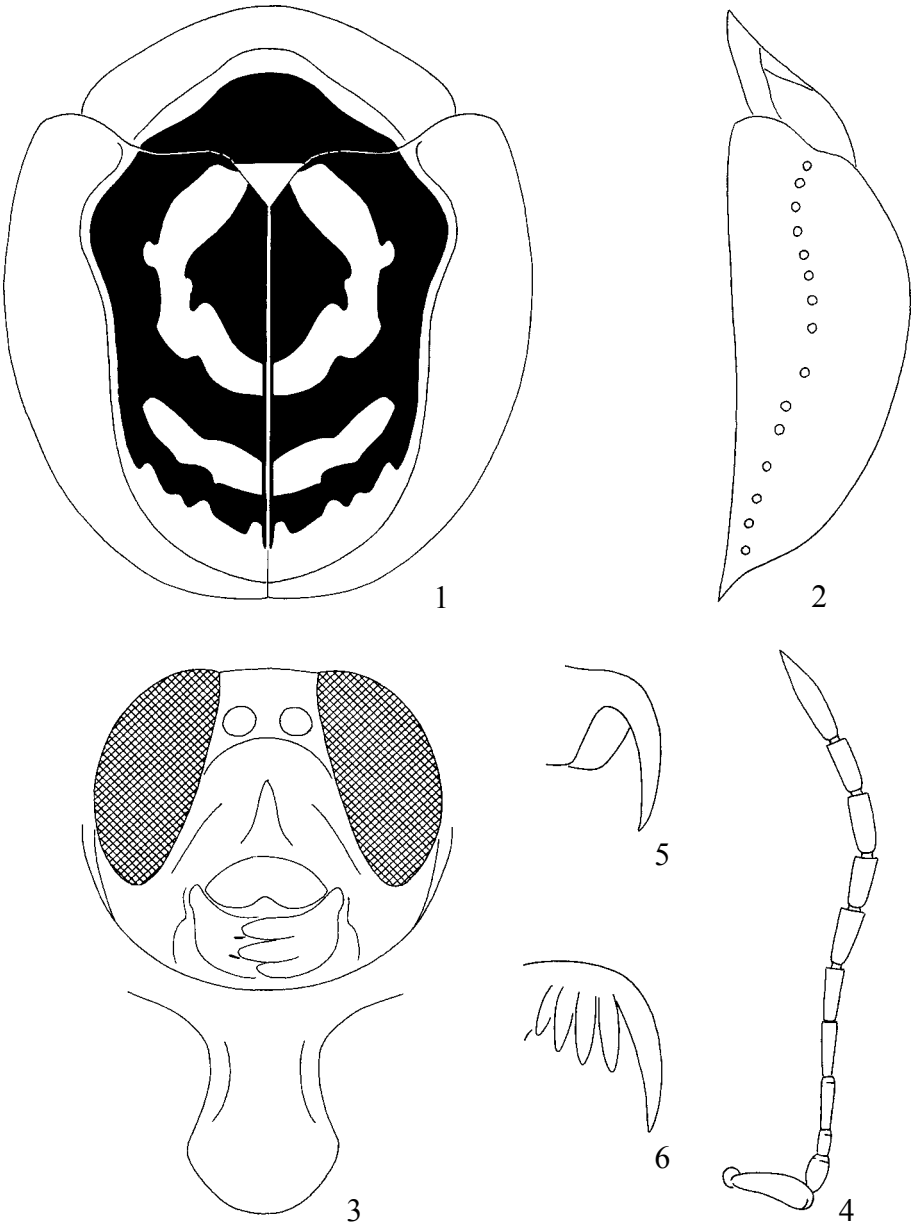
Named after its terra typica, Mapiri province in Bolivia.

DIAGNOSIS

It belongs to the *Microctenochira fairmairei* group, here proposed (type species: *Coptocycla fairmairei* BOHEMAN, 1855). The group includes the following species revised by SPAETH (as 1. Gruppe): *M. annulata* (SPAETH, 1926), *M. bogotana* (SPAETH, 1926), *M. dissoluta* (SPAETH, 1901), *M. fairmairei* (BOHEMAN, 1855), *M. gagatina* (SPAETH, 1902), *M. guttula* (SPAETH, 1909), *M. minax* (SPAETH, 1926), and two species described later: *M. mucuryensis* (SPAETH, 1932) and *M. nigroplagiata* (SPAETH, 19832). The group is well characterised by the structure of clypeus, which is slightly elevated with median longitudinal impression. *M. dissoluta*, *M. fairmairei*, *M. minax*, and *M. mapiriensis* form a subgroup with a charcteristic elytral pattern composed of black background, yellow ring in anterior half on disc, and oblique, transverse yellow band behind the middle of elytra. *M. dissoluta* is distinct in its yellow ring and often transverse band composed of separate, partly coalescent spots, and central black spot usually marked with two small yellow spots, while in the remaining species both the ring and the band are always composed of continuous yellow, and the central black spot is never marked with yellow spots. *M. fairmairei*, *M. minax*, and *M. mapiriensis* are at first glance very similar, with dorsal pattern of the same type but distinctly differ in colouration of ventrites: in *M. fairmairei* both thorax (at least lateral plates of metathorax) and abdomen are partly black, in *M. mapiriensis* only abdomen is partly black, while in *M. minax* ventrites are uniformly yellow. In *M. fairmairei* and *M. minax* last antennal segment is at least partly black, while in *M. mapiriensis* antennae are uniformly yellow. Black central elytral spot in *M. fairmairei* is the most regular, almost circular, while in *M. minax* it is slightly and in *M. mapiriensis* distinctly rhomboidal. In *M. minax* black elytral groundcolour in posthumeral area extends to marginal row, while in *M. fairmairei* and *M. mapiriensis* it reaches at most half width of marginal interval. In *M. fairmairei* yellow transverse band on sides extends behind 7th row of punctures, on suture it is continuous and not interrupted by black sutural interval (at most only sutural margin is narrowly black), while in *M. minax* and *M. mapiriensis* yellow transverse band on sides extends at most to 7th row of punctures and on suture is interrupted by black sutural intervals. Elytral puncturation in *M. mapiriensis* is slightly coarser, rows on slope more impressed, and intervals on slope more convex than in both its relatives.

DESCRIPTION

Length: 5.50-6.15 mm, width: 4.70-5.30 mm, length of pronotum: 1.85-2.05 mm, width of pronotum 3.35-3.60 mm, length/width ratio: 1.16-1.17, width/length of pronotum ratio: 1.76-1.81.



1-6. *Microctenochira mapiriensis*: 1 – dorsal, 2 – lateral, 3 – head and prosternum, 4 – antenna, 5 – fore claw, 6 – mid and hind claw

Pronotum yellow, disc with large, black, triangular basal spot. Scutellum yellow. Elytral disc mostly black, with yellow marginal interval, apex and dorsal pattern, composed with ring behind scutellum, and oblique, transverse band in posterior half of dsic (fig. 1). The ring has slightly irregular margins, in the middle of each side of ring yellow is not or only slightly constricted. Black central spot rhomboidal, by black sutural interval connected with black outside the ring. Transverse yellow band on sides extending to 7th row of punctures. Explanate margin uniformly yellow. Head, thorax, antennae and legs uniformly yellow, abdomen in the middle with more or less developed black spot.

Pronotum ellyptical, widest in the middle, sides rounded. Disc convex, in front of scutellum with two oblique impressions, on sides with few moderately coarse punctures, top of disc smooth, shiny. Explanate margin broad, subhorizontal, its surface smooth, shiny.

Scutellum large, triangular. Base of elytra much wider than pronotum. Elytral disc regularly convex (fig. 2), with shallow principal impressions, no postscutellar impressions, only scutellar rows of punctures impressed. Puncturation of elytra completely regular, punctures coarse and moderately dense, distance between punctures approximately as wide as puncture diameter, but on yellow ring and central black spot punctures distinctly sparser than on sides of disc and slope. Punctures on sides on disc only slightly coarser than punctures in central rows, on slope only slightly smaller than in anterior half of disc. Scutellar row with 5-6 punctures. Rows on slope slightly impressed. Marginal row with punctures c. twice larger than in central part of disc. Intervals three to four times as wide as rows, in anterior and mid part of disc flat, on slope slightly convex. Marginal interval broad, distinctly wider than submarginal row. Explanate margin moderately broad, in the widest part slightly wider than half width of each disc of elytron, moderately declivous, smooth and shiny. Apex of elytral epipleura bare.

Head with very large eyes, clypeus c. 1.7 times wider than long, slightly elevated, with impressed line along middle and one coarse and two to three small punctures on each side. Labrum shallowly emarginate to 1/5 length. Prosternal process only slightly expanded apically, flat with elevated sides (fig. 3). Antennae elongate, length ratio of antennal segments: 100:40:30:63:63:60:65:60: 65:60:126. Segment 2 c. 1.3 times as long as 3, segment 4 as long as 3 (fig. 4).

Anterior claws with large basal tooth (fig. 5), mid- and hind claws with long pecten of four teeth extending to 3/5 length of claw (fig. 6).

Distribution

Bolivia, probably also Ecuador (see remark).

Types

Holotype: “Bolivia, Mapiri”; paratype: the same data (both preserved at the Department of Systematic Zoology and Zoogeography, Wrocław University, Wrocław, Poland).

REMARK

SPAETH (1926) in the description of *M. fairmairei* recorded single specimen of an unnamed form from Ecuador with characters showing that it belongs to *M. mapiriensis*.

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