

A revision of the Neotropical genus *Motonerus* Hansen (Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae: Sphaeridiinae)

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Abstract

The previously monotypic genus *Motonerus* Hansen, 1989 is revised and redefined. Seven new species are described: *Motonerus andersoni* Fikáček & Short, **sp. n.** (Costa Rica, Panama), *M. apterus* Fikáček & Short, **sp. n.**, (Venezuela, Colombia), *M. depressus* Fikáček & Short, **sp. n.** (Colombia), *M. hanseni* Fikáček & Short, **sp. n.** (Costa Rica), *M. nublado* Fikáček & Short, **sp. n.** (Venezuela), *M. oosternoides* Fikáček & Short, **sp. n.** (Panama), and *M. problematicus* Fikáček & Short, **sp. n.** (Costa Rica). Two additional new species from Bolivia are left undescribed pending the collection of males. New records are given for the previously described species, *M. obscurus* Hansen, which had been composite with respect to *M. hanseni* **sp. n.** Almost all collections of the genus are associated with cloud and montane forest litter. A key to the species of the genus is provided along with comments on the relationship of the genus with others in the tribe Megasternini. The unusual flightless condition found in *M. apterus* and *M. oosternoides* is discussed. The male genitalia and other key characters are illustrated.

Keywords: Coleoptera, Hydrophilidae, Sphaeridiinae, *Motonerus*, Neotropical Region, new species, taxonomy

Resumen

El género *Motonerus* Hansen, 1989, previamente monotípico, se revisa y redefine. Siete nuevas especies son descritas: *Motonerus andersoni* Fikáček & Short, **sp. n.** (Costa Rica, Panamá), *M. apterus* Fikáček & Short, **sp. n.**, (Venezuela, Colombia), *M. depressus* Fikáček & Short, **sp. n.** (Colombia), *M. hanseni* Fikáček & Short, **sp. n.** (Costa Rica), *M. nublado* Fikáček & Short, **sp. n.** (Venezuela), *M. oosternoides* Fikáček & Short, **sp. n.** (Panamá), y *M. problematicus* Fikáček & Short, **sp. n.** (Costa Rica). Dos nuevas especies adicionales de Bolivia se dejan sin describir hasta que se colecten los machos. Se brindan nuevos registros para la única especie incluida previamente, *M. obscurus* Hansen, la cual había sido confundida en parte con *M. hanseni* **sp. n.** Casi todas las colectas del género están asociadas a hojarasca en bosques de niebla y nublados. Se ofrece una clave a las especies del género, así como comentarios sobre las relaciones del género con otros en la tribu Megasterini. Se discute la condición inusual de no-vuelo en *M. apterus* y *M. oosternoides*. La genitalia masculina y otros caracteres importantes se ilustran.

Palabras clave: Coleoptera, Hydrophilidae, Sphaeridiinae, *Motonerus*, Región Neotropical, especies nuevas, taxonomía

Introduction

The genus *Motonerus* Hansen, 1989 was described to accommodate a few specimens of a single new species, *M. obscurus* Hansen, from Mexico and Central America. Recent survey efforts in Neotropical cloud forests have resulted in the collection of hundreds of additional specimens representing ten species occurring throughout Central and northern South America.