

A new species of *Myochrous* DEJEAN, 1837 from Brazil (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Eumolpinae)

by

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Abstract

A new leaf beetle species, *Myochrous adisi* n.sp. (Chrysomelidae), from the aquatic macrophyte *Eichhornia crassipes* (Pontederiaceae), is described from Central Amazonia, Brazil.

Keywords: **Chrysomelidae, Eumolpinae, leaf beetle, new species, Brazil.**

Resumo

Uma nova espécie de besouro da família Chrysomelidae, *Myochrous adisi* n.sp., proveniente da macrófita aquática *Eichhornia crassipes* (Pontederiaceae), é descrita da Amazônia Central, Brasil.

Introduction

A chrysomelid genus *Myochrous* DEJEAN, 1837 is common in and widespread over the Americas, ranging from the United States in the north to Argentina in the south. However, the fauna of South America remains relatively poorly-known.

CLAVAREAU's (1914) catalogue listed four species as occurring in the USA, seven in Central America together with the Antilles, and five in South America, including two in Brazil. BLAKE (1950), in his revision of *Myochrous*, referred to 13 species in the USA, 11 in Central America, and 25 in South America, including seven in Brazil. BECHYNE's (1953) catalogue virtually repeats the same, with the only exception that in Central America the number of species increased to 18. Since then, only one species has been described, in particular from Central America.

There can be no doubt that further new congeners can be expected to be found, especially in Brazil and adjacent parts of South America. As if to prove this statement, thanks to Prof. Dr. Joachim ADIS, a large series of a new species of *Myochrous* genus has been collected near Manaus, Central Amazonia, Brazil.

The holotype and a few paratypes are to be deposited in the Invertebrate Collection of the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, (INPA), Manaus/Brazil, while some paratypes in the Museu de Zoologia, University of São Paulo/Brazil (MZSP), Naturhistorisches Museum Basel/Switzerland (NHMB), Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart/Germany (SMNS), Natural Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C./USA

(NMNH), The Natural History Museum, London/UK (NHM), the collection of J. ADIS, Plön/Germany (CA), and the collection of L. MEDVEDEV, Moscow/Russia (LM), as indicated hereafter.

Description

Myochrous adisi L. MEDVEDEV, n.sp.

Holotype male (INPA): Brazil, Amazonas, Ilha de Marchantaria near Manaus (03°15'S, 59°58'W), 4.XI.1981; leg. J. ADIS.

Paratypes: All same locality and collector, 12 ex. (INPA), 2 ex. (CM); 16.VII.1981, 10 ex. (MZSP), 7 ex. (CA), 1 ex. (LM), 1 ex. (NHMB), 1 ex. (SMNS); 14.VIII.1981, 6 ex. (LM); 28.VII.1981, 3 ex. (LM); 1.X.1981, 9 ex. (NMNH); 2.IX.1981, 6 ex. (NHM).

Etymology: Dedicated to Prof. Dr. Joachim ADIS.

Description. Dark piceous with strong metallic bronze reflection, labrum, antennae and legs fulvous, scales pale flavous on upperside, white on underside.

Body elongate oblong, stout (Fig. 1). Head broad and rounded, roughly sculptured with strong punctures and wrinkles, frons and vertex covered with very dense scales, with lacking (1) ridges above eyes, (2) depressed median line, and (3) transverse line between eyes; clypeus shining, punctate more sparsely and with sparse, thin, almost hair-like scales. Eyes widely separated, nearly entire, only slightly sinuate at inner margin. Labrum transverse. Mandibles large and powerful. Antennae short, not coming much behind elytral humeri, with thickened five apical segments, first and second segments swollen, second short, third a little longer than fourth, 3 to 6 slender, 7-11 thickened segments a little longer than sixth and more hairy, including erect hairs.

Prothorax (Fig. 2) much more narrow than elytra, feebly transverse (1.2 times as wide as long), anterior margin rounded, anterior angles not seen from above, hind margin slightly bi-emarginate, with a slightly produced elytral lobe and both acute and produced hind angles; lateral margins rounded and undulate, with traces of three very feeble teeth on each side. Surface convex, with neither impressions nor convexity near anterior margin, strongly and densely punctate, especially so near base, very densely covered with unicolor scales. Scutellum small, triangular, with a rounded apex, without scales but with few punctures.

Elytra parallel-sided or slightly widened posteriorly, broadly rounded at apex, about 1.35 times as long as wide, humerus feeble, lateral margin serrate throughout but especially distinct near base under humerus, basal convexity extremely feeble, almost indistinct; surface densely and coarsely striate-punctate, with very dense cover of lanceolate scales of one color and equal length. Epipleura narrow except basal part under humerus, where they are widened, surface with dense scales. Pygidium truncate at apex, with hairy spot on each side of base; broad, sharply delimited longitudinal furrow in middle, with thin ridge at bottom; surface shining, sparsely punctate with microsculptured interspaces, without scales but with erect hairs in apical part. Underside with much more sparse hair-like scales. Prosternum elongate, narrowed in middle. Last abdominal sternite with triangular impression in male, a small round groove in female.

Legs stout, shining, coarsely punctate, with scale at each puncture; each of hind femora with a microscopical, often indistinct tooth on underside, anterior tibia with an acute tooth in apical one-third of underside (Fig. 3), all tibiae ridged and dilated to apex. Claws appendiculate.

Aedeagus (Fig. 4) very broadly rounded at apex, with a short tip; underside deeply concave, apical quarter very thin in lateral view. Female with long ovipositor. Body length 3.9-4.8 mm, males little smaller than females. Eggs elongate ovate, 0.90 x 0.45 mm.

Diagnosis. This species belongs to the *paulus*-group and is near *M. paulus* BLAKE, 1950 and *M. brunneus* BLAKE, 1950, both from Brazil. Based on BLAKE's (1950) key, *D. adisi* would key out just after *M. paulus* (item 21). However, both of BLAKE's species show very well-developed teeth at the lateral margins of the prothorax, while *M. paulus* has also a variegated upperside because of differently colored scales, as well as occipital ridges on the head and a distinct transverse depression behind the basal convexity on the elytra. *M. brunneus* is also larger in size (5.3 mm), the body is reddish brown with fulvous scales, and the prothorax bears a basal depression before the scutellum.

Biological observations

Beetles of this genus mostly occur in humid, sometimes salted habitats, on leaves of plants or in the soil on roots. Nonetheless, they are active and strong fliers collected on airplane flights. Females usually dominate. For example in *M. squamosus* LeCONTE, 1850, from the USA., among 231 specimens only nine males were found (BLAKE 1950). This is also the case in the new species described here, as amongst the 15 specimens taken on 4.XI.1981, only one male was captured and amongst 174 specimens from different dates only 25 males (sex ratio ca. 6:1) were found.

Species of *Myochrous* seem to be polyphagous or at least oligophagous. The most usual forms in the United States feeds on corn, cotton, sugarcane, turnip, species of *Ambrosia*, *Hibiscus*, *Helenium*, *Phragmites*. In Central and South America, many species have been found on bananas or banana debris. *M. paulus*, which is perhaps the closest to *M. adisi* n.sp., has been registered on bananas and *Xanthosoma sagittifolia*. *M. adisi* appears to be common on the aquatic macrophyte *Eichhornia crassipes* (Pontederiaceae), its host plant.

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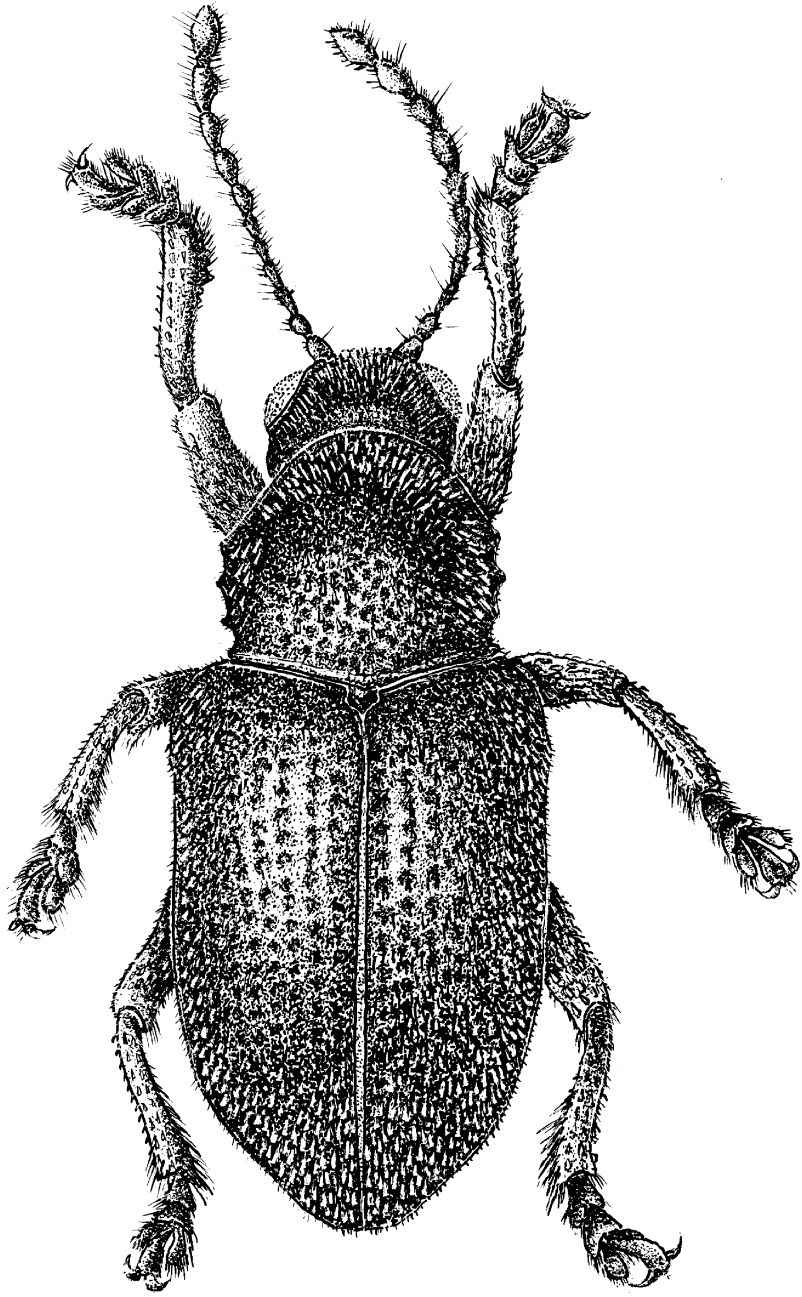
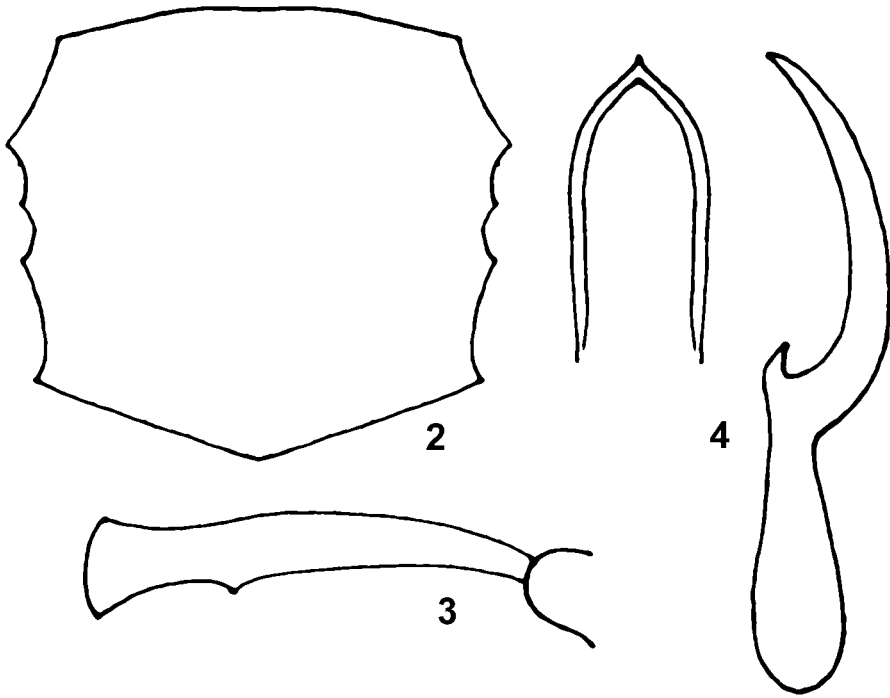


Fig. 1:
Myochrous adisi n.sp.: Dorsal view (drawing by S. DASHDAMIROV);



Figs. 2-4:

Myochrous adisi n.sp. 2: prothorax; 3: anterior tibia; 4: aedeagus, ventral and lateral views.

