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ON *STENOICHEILA* CASTELNAU (COLEOPTERA, CARABIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

The study of a series of *Diplacanthogaster bicolor* Liebke, revealed that the two abdominal spines characteristic of the genus, are present only in males. Since no other important characters could be found to distinguish Liebke's genus from *Stenocheila*, the two genera are synonymized herein. The two known species of *Stenocheila* are distinguished in a key, and comments are made on their distribution.

Stenocheila Castelnau, 1832

Stenocheila Castelnau, 1832: 12 (type-species, *Stenocheila lacordairei* Castelnau, designated by Liebke, 1932); Liebke, 1930: 657; 1932: 146-147.

Stenochila Gemminger & Harold, 1868: 85 (invalid emmendation).
Diplacanthogaster Liebke, 1932: 148-149 (type-species, *Diplacanthogaster bicolor* Liebke, by original designation), *n.syn.*

REDESCRIPTION

Head as wide or wider than pronotum, with very prominent eyes; a sharp keel running from antennal insertion to the eyes, and surrounding these; head very much narrowed behind the eyes, forming a clear neck; mandibles very thin and long; palpi with elongate segments, the last one longest and almost glabrous; two supraorbital setae; antennae 11-segmented, scape and pedicel together as long as the third segment, which is the longest; other segments decreasing in length; antennae pubescent from posterior half of fourth segment on; long, reaching anterior third of elytra. Pronotum longer than wide, with lateral margins forming a continuous, sharp keel; a single, median pair of pronotal setae present. Scutellum small, triangular. Elytra elongate, truncate posteriorly, with sharp postero-lateral and sutural angles; surface with indication of interstices. Whole surface very finely microreticulated, giving the species a velvety appearance. Legs elongate, with simple claws. Genitalia of male only known for *S. bicolor* (fig. 3).

NOTES

Two species were originally described in *Stenocheila*, but both have later been synonymized, as will be seen below. Liebke (1932) described a very closely related genus, *Diplacanthogaster*, based on a single (male) specimen. I have recently received, through the good offices of my friend Johann Becker (Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Guanabara), a nice series of a species collected in the same State as the type-species of Liebke's genus, and which answers Liebke's description. A study of these specimens showed that only some (which turned out to be males) had two spines on the last abdominal segment, the most important character of *Diplacanthogaster*. This discovery suggested a more careful study of *Diplacanthogaster* and *Stenocheila*. Females of *D. bicolor* easily fit Liebke's description of *Stenocheila* in his key (Liebke, 1930: 657), except for the antennae, which are much less flattened from the 5th segment on. The only real differences, are, therefore, the abdominal spines of the male.

It is my opinion that a sexual character should not be used as only generic character, and, in absence of any other important differences between the two genera, they are considered synonyms.

Stenocheila has long been regarded as a member of the Odacanthini (see e.g. Liebke, 1930), but it seems to be established now that the genus really belongs to the Anchomenini, as proposed by Liebke (1932).

KEY TO SPECIES OF *Stenocheila*

- Completely brown, velvety species, with deep metallic sheen; pronotum much longer than wide anteriorly; antennal segments flattened from 5th segment on; legs colored as dorsal surface *lacordairei* Castelnau
- Head and pronotum green, with metallic sheen; elytra greyish, velvety, also with metallic sheen; pronotum only slightly longer than wide anteriorly; antennal segments not flattened from 5th segment on; legs testaceous..... *bicolor* (Liebke)

***Stenocheila lacordairei* Castelnau, 1832**

Stenocheila lacordairei Castelnau, 1832: 9, pl. 12 (type-locality, Brazil, "Bahia", Genova Museum; not seen); Liebke, 1930: 671, fig. 12 (in revision of Odacanthini); 1932: 147.

Stenocheila salzmanni Solier, 1836: 592, pl. 18, fig. 1 (type-locality, French Guiana, Cayenne; location unknown); Liebke, 1930: 671 (proposed synonymy with *lacordairei* Castelnau).

This species has already been satisfactorily redescribed by Liebke (1932).

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

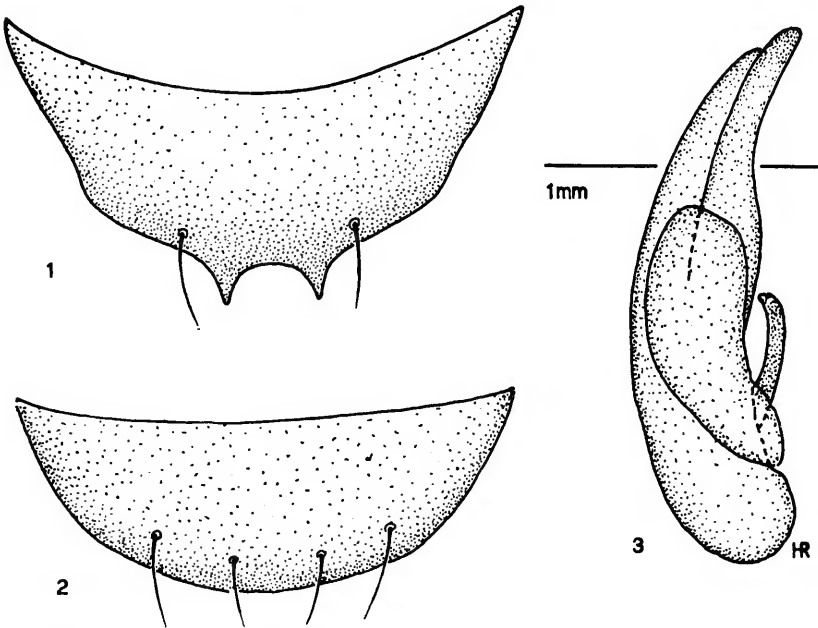
S. lacordairei is a widespread species in South America, having been recorded from French Guiana, Peru and Brazil (in the States of Amazonas, Pará, Mato Grosso, Maranhão and Bahia).

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

BRAZIL. *Mato Grosso*: Chapada (1 ♀, Departamento de Zoologia); Chapada dos Guimarães (2 ♀, Museu Emílio Goeldi). *Pará*: Tiriós (alto Rio Paru d'Oeste) (1 ♀, Departamento de Zoologia).

NOTES

Unfortunately only females of this species were at hand at this time. No mention to sex is made for the specimens cited in the earlier literature. These specimens have the last abdominal segment unarmed, suggesting either that the species lacks the spines only in the female sex, or that only females have thus far been studied. This fact, however, does not alter the proposed synonymy between the two genera, as seen above.



Stenocheila bicolor (Liebke): fig. 1: last abdominal segment of male; fig. 2: same of female; fig. 3: male genitalia.

Stenocheila bicolor (Liebke, 1932), comb. n..

(Figs. 1-3)

Diplacanthogaster bicolor Liebke, 1932: 149, 159, fig. (Type-locality, Brazil, "Minas Gerais"; holotype ♂, in Liebke's collection, most probably destroyed).

Liebke's original description of this species is very good, and I have nothing to add to it, except that, as noted above, the female does not have the two spines on the last abdominal segment (fig. 2). The male genitalia (fig. 3) has the left paramere very reduced, while the right one is very large and well developed.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

BRAZIL. *Minas Gerais*: Poços de Caldas, Mórro do Ferro (13 ♂, 44 ♀); Bairro Sant'Ana (1 ♀); Campo do Saco (1 ♀); Campo do Euclides (1 ♂, 5 ♀); Córrego do Meio (2 ♂, 29 ♀); Caixa d'Água (1 ♀).

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