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NEW AND LITTLE KNOWN NEOTROPICAL COLEOPTERA V. A NEW SPECIES OF *SYNCALYPTA* (BYRRHIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

Syncalypta monnei (type-locality, Uruguay, Rivera, Arroyo de la Aurora) is described and compared to the only other species of *Syncalypta* s. str. represented in the Neotropical Region, *S. striata* Pic, 1922. The latter, previously known from Mato Grosso and Pará, in Brazil, is also recorded from Peru.

The rediscovery of the only Neotropical *Syncalypta* was discussed in a recent paper (Reichardt, 1974), and the status of Pic's *Syncalypta striata* was settled within the genus. I have since received additional specimens of Pic's species, which enlarge very much its distribution, as well as a single specimen of a new species from Uruguay, near the Brazilian border.

Unfortunately these specimens have no ecological data (they have been collected at light). Thus the habits of the Neotropical *Syncalypta* remain unknown. As usual specimens are covered with a thin mud-crust, and as they have been collected near water, this suggests that they live in the mud, near streams.

In a recent paper Paulus (1972) discussed the structure and distribution of Byrrhidae, showing that it is only represented in temperate regions, especially the North-Temperate Region. Only a few are known from Australia and the southern tip of South America (see fig. 1 in Paulus, *l.c.*). *Syncalypta striata* was an enigmatic species, but I have shown that it is a true member of *Syncalypta* s. str. (Reichardt, 1974), and as such, was the only species occurring south of the equator, in tropical areas. The discovery of a second species in Uruguay indicates that the genus is possibly more widespread in the Neotropical Region.

Syncalypta striata (Pic, 1922)

See references and redescription in Reichardt (1974: 231-233).

Additional specimens. BRAZIL. Mato Grosso: Jacaré, Parque Nacional Xingu, XI.1961 (M. Alvarenga & W. Bokermann) (7 exs., MZSP); same locality, XI.1965 (M. Alvarenga) (26 exs., MZSP, FMNH). PERU. Loreto: Colonia Calleria, 15 km from Rio Ucayali, on Rio Calleria, 9-23.VIII.1961 (B. Malkin, at light) (1 ex., FMNH).

***Syncalypta monnei*, sp. n.**

Holotype. URUGUAY. *Rivera*: Sierra de la Aurora, Arroyo de la Aurora, 12-26.I.1971 (M. A. Monné, M. Moratorio, C. S. Morey & G. Wibmer, "de noche a la luz") (MZSP).

Dark blackish-brown.

Head completely retracted, only frons visible, with the two oblique deep grooves on inferior part, and a few (about 10) sparse, clubbed setae. *Pronotum* with finely microrugose surface, with clubbed setae in eight longitudinal rows which converge anteriorly, two on disc, each with four setae, reaching front margin, and followed on each side by a short row of two setae, which only reaches the middle of pronotum, then a complete row of four setae, and a last, almost marginal row with only two setae; the distribution of these setae seems to be symmetrical and regular. *Scutellum* small, triangular, without setae. *Elytra* microrugose, somewhat shiny. Humeral region swollen, but not forming a carina as in *S. striata*. Striae less clearly and less deeply punctate than in *striata*, especially on disc; interstices rough, rugose. Stria I possibly as in *striata*, abbreviated, only reaching the middle of elytra, since only about four clubbed setae in the I (sutural) interstice, and setae of II displaced towards suture in posterior half of elytra. Clubbed setae also in IV, VI, VIII and X interstices, each (including the II) with about 10 setae. Ventral face punctate, with sparse clubbed setae. *Measurements*: total length, 2.4 mm; maximum width, 1.8 mm.

Discussion. As only a single specimen of this new species is available, I have not dissected it nor exposed the head, antennae and legs. As is usual with specimens of this genus, the holotype was covered with a crust of mud, which is very difficult to be removed (especially without removal of the clubbed setae).

Syncalypta monnei, however, is very well characterized by its very large size (almost twice that of *S. striata*), the different color (*S. striata* is reddish-brown), the differently built humeral swelling, which does not continue backwards as a carina, as in *S. striata*, and the differently placed clubbed setae on the elytra. Furthermore, the elytral interstices of *S. monnei* are very coarsely rugose, almost completely masking the elytral striation, while in *S. striata* the interstices are impunctate and non-rugose, shiny.

As mentioned above, nothing is known on the habitat of the new species, the second Neotropical species, but it was collected at light, near a stream, together with other aquatic beetles.

It gives me great pleasure to name the new species after my friend, Miguel A. Monné, one of its collectors.

REFERENCES

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1974. New and little known Neotropical Coleoptera III. *Syncalypta striata* Pic, 1922, with discussion on *Syncalypta* Stephens, 1830 (Byrrhidae). *Papéis Avulsos Zool.*, S. Paulo, 27 (18): 227-234, 19 figs.