

A new species of the genus *Stereocephalus* Lynch, 1884 from Paraguay (Coleoptera Staphylinidae Paederinae)

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ABSTRACT

Stereocephalus agostii n. sp. (Coleoptera Staphylinidae Paederinae) from Paraguay is described and a new key to species of the genus *Stereocephalus* Lynch, 1884 is proposed.

KEY WORDS

Coleoptera; Staphylinidae; Paederinae; *Stereocephalus*; *Stereocephalus agostii* n. sp.

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INTRODUCTION

Stereocephalus Lynch, 1884 (Coleoptera Staphylinidae Paederinae) was originally described by Lynch (1884) for one species, *S. seriatipennis* Lynch, 1884, from Argentina. Bernhauer (1939) added a second species from the same country. In 1979, two Argentine species were synonymized and three new Brazilian species were described by Herman (1979). Here, a new species from Paraguay is described.

Terminology. The surface of the aedeagus, generally considered ventral in recent years, was cited as dorsal by Herman (1979). A lateral view of the apical portion of the aedeagus resembles the form of a poll pick, which is a single pointed miner's pick with a short poll (or striking head). "Poll pick" is used in the description and key.

RESULTS

Systematics

Ordo COLEOPTERA Linnaeus, 1758
Familia STAPHYLINIDAE Lameere, 1900

Subfamilia PAEDERINAE Fleming, 1821

Genus *Stereocephalus* Lynch, 1884

TYPE SPECIES. *Stereocephalus seriatipennis* Lynch, 1884

DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES. The unique and single most diagnostic feature of *Stereocephalus* is the broad, compressed, and glabrous fourth segment of the maxillary palpus (Herman, 1979: figs. 22, 23). Other distinguishing characters include the deeply emarginate, edentate labrum (Herman, 1979: fig. 6), and the bent first antennomere (Herman, 1979: fig. 7).

DISTRIBUTION AND BIOLOGY. The genus is found in Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela and Costa Rica.

REMARKS. Few specimens are known for the genus and specimens have been found in few localities. Nearly all of the reported localities each yielded only one specimen. The most commonly collected species, *S. seriatipennis*, is widespread. It is probable that more species of this genus will be found.

***Stereocephalus agostii* n. sp. (Figs. 1–3)**

TYPE MATERIAL. Holotype: Male, [Label 1] “Paraguay 02.10.2005 Cordillera Piraretá Carlos Aguilar lgt.” [Label 2] “Holotypus *Stereocephalus agostii* sp. n. Matějček det. 2017”. Paratypes (2): female, “Paraguay 02.10.2005 Cordillera Piraretá Carlos Aguilar lgt.”; female “Paraguay 15-10-2005 Cordillera Departamento, Naranjo, Carlos Aguilar lgt”.

Specimens included in this study are deposited in the private collections of the author.

TYPE LOCALITY. Paraguay: Departamento Cordillera, Salto Piraretá, 25°30'S, 56°55'W.

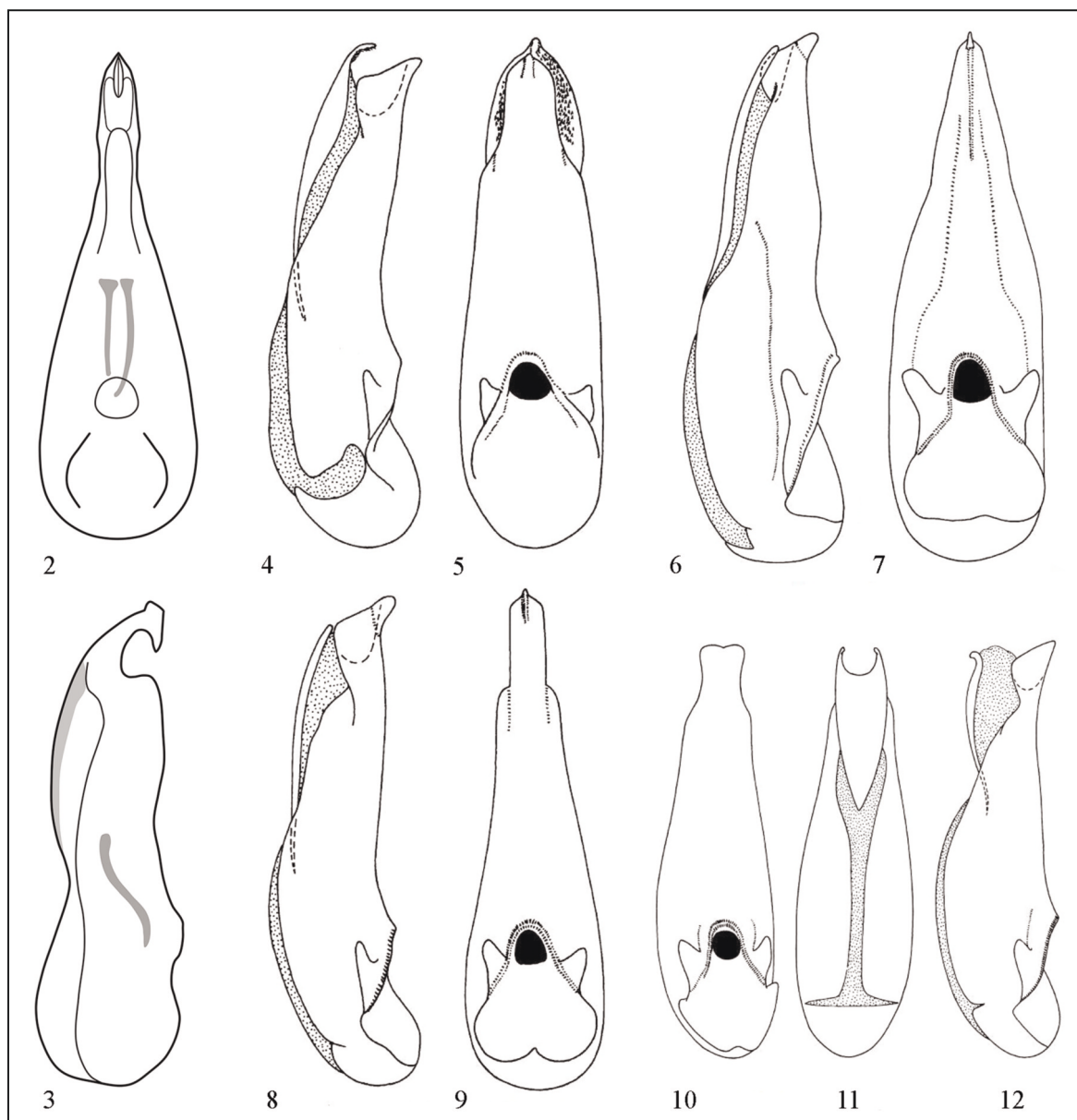


Fig. 1. *Stereocephalus agostii* n. sp., holotype.

DIAGNOSIS. The posterior portion of the ventral sclerite of the aedeagus has the form of a clublike, single pointed miner's pick (Fig. 3) with a short poll or striking head; the pick is moderately long and anteriorly directed. This poll pick configuration separates the males of *S. agostii* n. sp. from all congeneric species.

DESCRIPTION OF HOLOTYPE. Length 5.5 mm. Body dark reddish brown. Antennae pale reddish brown. Legs yellowish brown. Dorsum of head (Fig. 1) densely punctate, punctures umbilicate; dorsum of head strongly shining between punctures and with two, polished, glabrous, transverse, median spots. Head longer than wide; postocular lateral margin feebly rounded; basal angles strongly rounded. Eyes moderately large and slightly protuberant. Pronotum (Fig. 1) slightly longer than wide; surface moderately and densely punctate, with moderately wide, midlongitudinal, glabrous strip, and short, narrow, glabrous strip laterad of median strip. Elytra (Fig. 1) densely punctate; punctures of dorsal surface arranged in longitudinal rows. Abdominal segments with moderately dense pubescence; terga III to VII with dense ground sculpture across base and polished from near middle to apical margin. Sternum VII with truncate posterior margin. Sternum VIII damaged, with median emargination, only apical curve of emargination visible; depth and width of emargination unknown.

Aedeagus with median lobe, in ventral view (Fig. 2), tapered from just beyond posterior margin of basal foramen to about apical third then parallel to apex; ventral surface moderately compressed to form broad ridge with weakly developed midlongitudinal carina beginning just beyond basal foramen and extending apically apex of median ridge; apex of median ridge strongly rounded in ventral view; median ridge in lateral view, ending abruptly and sharply ascending (Fig. 3); apical sixth of median lobe in ventral view parallel-sided to pointed apex; apical sixth of median lobe, in lateral view, with form of head of poll pick (Fig. 3); head of pick about one-tenth of length of median lobe, ventral edge carinate and broadly convex in lateral view; point of pick well separated from apex of median ridge; poll of pick small and strongly rounded. Base of median lobe and internal sac unavailable for study because of damage.



Figures 2–12. Aedeagi, in ventral and lateral view, of *Stereocephalus* (except new species, all by Herman, 1979). Figs. 2, 3: *S. agostii* n. sp., holotype. Figs. 4, 5: *S. ruhus*. Figs. 6, 7: *S. myrigeus*. Figs. 8, 9: *S. seriatipennis*. Figs. 10–12: *S. rinmanus*.

VARIABILITY. The two females paratype are larger than the male, respectively measuring 5.8 mm and 6.2 mm. External characters the same as the holotype male.

ETYMOLOGY. Named in honour of our colleague and my friend Mauro Agosti (1970–2017) (Brescia, Italy), an excellent specialist in Carabidae.

DISTRIBUTION. Known only from two localities in Cordillera Departamento, in southern Paraguay

east of Asunción.

REMARKS. The base of the aedeagus and the surfaces surrounding the emargination of sternum VIII of the holotype were severely damaged. However, the apical portion of the aedeagus of *S. agostii* n. sp. is so distinct that there is no doubt of the validity and defining features of the new species. The apical portion of the left mandible is broken off, but still attached to the mounting plate.

Key to males of *Stereocephalus*

1. Dorsum of head with two impunctate, polished, medial spots (Herman, 1979: fig. 1).....3
 -. Dorsum of head without impunctate, polished spots (see Herman, 1979: figs. 38, 45).....2
- 2(1). Aedeagus with apex of dorsal sclerite punctate (Figs. 4, 5; Herman, 1979: fig. 37); Brazil.....
*S. rufus* Herman, 1979
 -. Aedeagus with apex of dorsal sclerite deeply bifurcated (Figs. 6, 7; Herman, 1979: fig. 42); Brazil.....
*S. myrigeus* Herman, 1979
- 3(1). Aedeagus, in lateral view, with ventral sclerite abruptly ascending subapically and with poll pick-like or clublike apical ornamentation (Fig. 3).....
*S. agostii* n. sp.
 -. Aedeagus, in lateral view, with ventral sclerite gradually or moderately curved to pointed apex (Herman, 1979: figs. 12, 24).....4
- 4(3). Ventral sclerite of aedeagus, in ventral view, with slender, pointed apex (Figs. 8, 9; Herman, 1979: fig. 11).....*S. seriatipennis* Lynch, 1884
 -. Ventral sclerite of aedeagus, in ventral view, with

shallowly emarginate posterior margin (Figs. 10–12; Herman, 1979: fig. 26)
*S. rinnanus* Herman, 1979

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