

A new species of *Cryptolestes* Ganglbauer (Coleoptera: Laemophloeidae) from Bolivia

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Abstract. *Cryptolestes robinclarkei* Thomas, n. sp., is described from Bolivia, illustrated, and compared to other species of the genus.

Introduction

Among the extraordinary variety of cucujoid beetles collected during a recent series of trips to the vicinity of the village of Buena Vista at the southern edge of the Amazon Basin in Bolivia was a very distinctive new species of *Cryptolestes*, which is here described.

Cryptolestes robinclarkei Thomas

new species

Figures 1-2

Type material: Holotype male, with data: "BOLIVIA: Santa Cruz, 3.7km." "SSE Buena Vista, Hotel Flora" & Fauna 405m. 5-15-XI-2001" "17°29.949'S; 63°38.152'W" "M.C.Thomas & B.K.Dozier" "tropical transition forest", deposited in Museo de Historia Natural "Noel Kempff Mercado", Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia (MNKM); 9 paratypes, all same data, deposited in MNKM and FSCA.

Diagnosis: The very broad, flattened body form (Fig. 1), with sparse dorsal punctation, simple male antennal scapes, and presence of secondary sublateral lines on the pronotum should allow easy recognition of this distinctive species.

Description: Holotype, male. Length, 2.4mm. Testaceous, mouthparts, elytra, and legs a little paler.

Head: Transverse, 1.94 times wider across eyes than long. Flat dorsally, clypeal area and region above antennal insertions slightly raised above general surface. Punctation sparse, punctures minute, almost absent medially, a little larger and more closely spaced laterally; pubescence inconspicuous; microsculpture absent; surface smooth and glossy between punctures. Antennae elongate, attaining

apical fourth of elytra; scape simple. Eyes large, comprising 0.52 times length of head; somewhat flattened. Mandibles evenly curved; somewhat expanded laterally.

Thorax: Pronotum transverse, 1.74 times wider than long; widest at about apical third. Surface sculpture and pubescence as on head. Strongly flattened dorsally, evenly curved laterally, with complete secondary sublateral lines that are mostly parallel to sublateral lines, but diverge slightly near base. Anterior angles acute, produced; posterior angles right.

Elytra broadly rounded and conspicuously explanate laterally, 1.75 times longer than length of head and pronotum combined; all three cells present. Procoxal cavities narrowly open posteriorly; intercoxal process broadly rounded.

Genitalia as in Fig. 2.

Variation: The paratypes range in length from 2.1 mm to 2.6 mm. The antennae of females are shorter than in males, attaining only about the midpoint of the elytra. The elytra are proportionally longer in females, ranging from 1.80 to 1.87 times the length of the head and pronotum combined, while in males the elytra are 1.71 to 1.75 times longer than the head and pronotum combined. There is no sclerotization of the bursa present in the female. The armature of the internal sac is relatively smaller than in many other members of the genus (see Figs. 10-20 in Thomas 2003) and appears to be only slightly sclerotized.

Etymology: I take great pleasure in naming this beetle in honor of Robin Clarke, proprietor of Hotel Flora and Fauna, a naturalist and conservationist, and a friend to coleopterists.

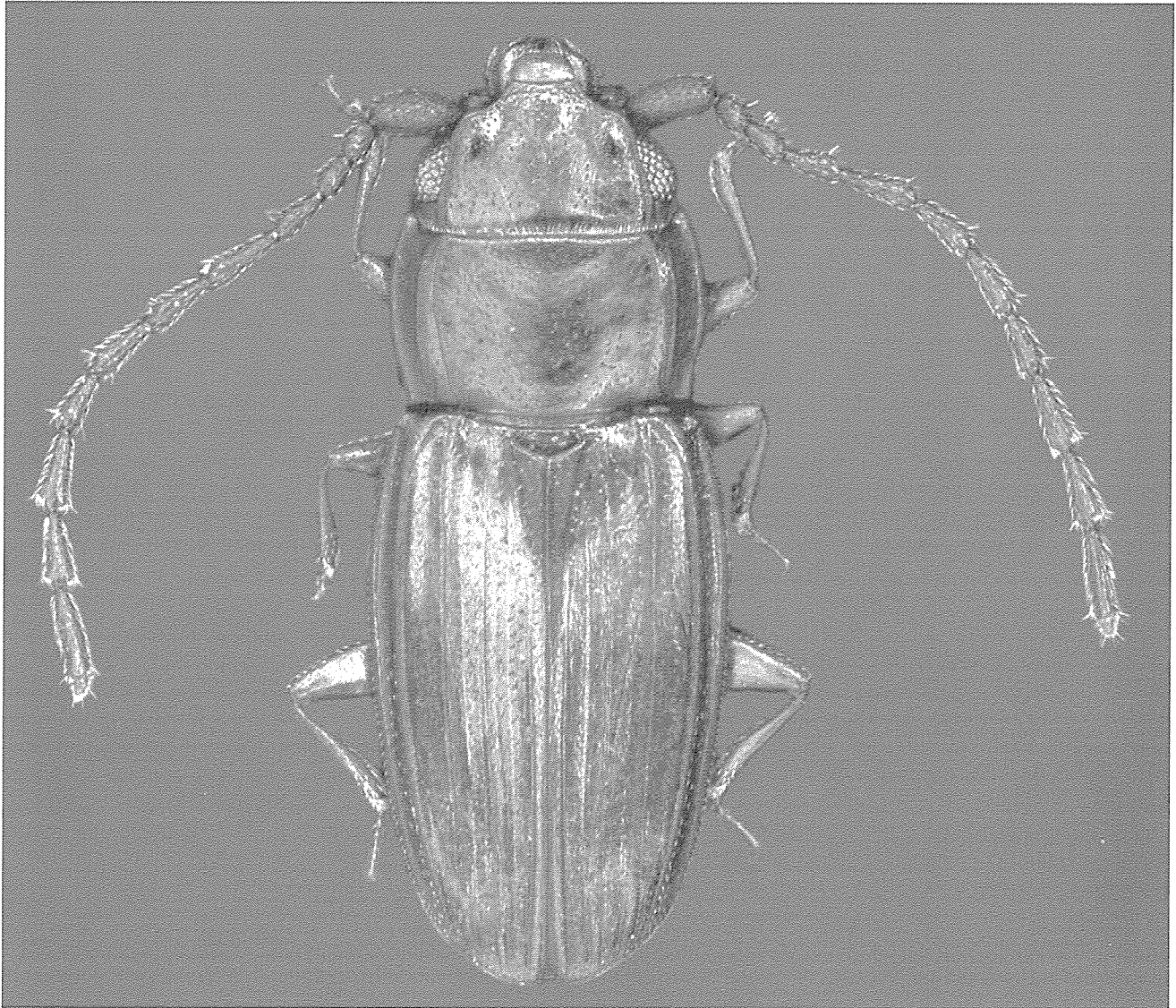


Figure 1. *Cryptolestes robinclarkei* Thomas, n.sp., dorsal habitus, holotype male.

Discussion: This species falls out at the second couplet (possessing sublateral lines on pronotum) of the recent key to New World *Cryptolestes* (Thomas 2003), where it keys to *C. obesus* Thomas, having a complete secondary sublateral line parallel to the sublateral line. It does not agree otherwise with that species, individuals of which are stout and convex. In general body shape, it is perhaps most similar to *C. trinidadensis* Thomas, but it is even more dorsoventrally compressed than that species, from which it differs in many details. *Cryptolestes robinclarkei* belongs to the group of species having narrowly open procoxal cavities and a broadly rounded intercoxal process of the prosternum (Thomas 1988). The

specimens of the type series were all collected in ultraviolet light traps placed in mostly secondary forest.

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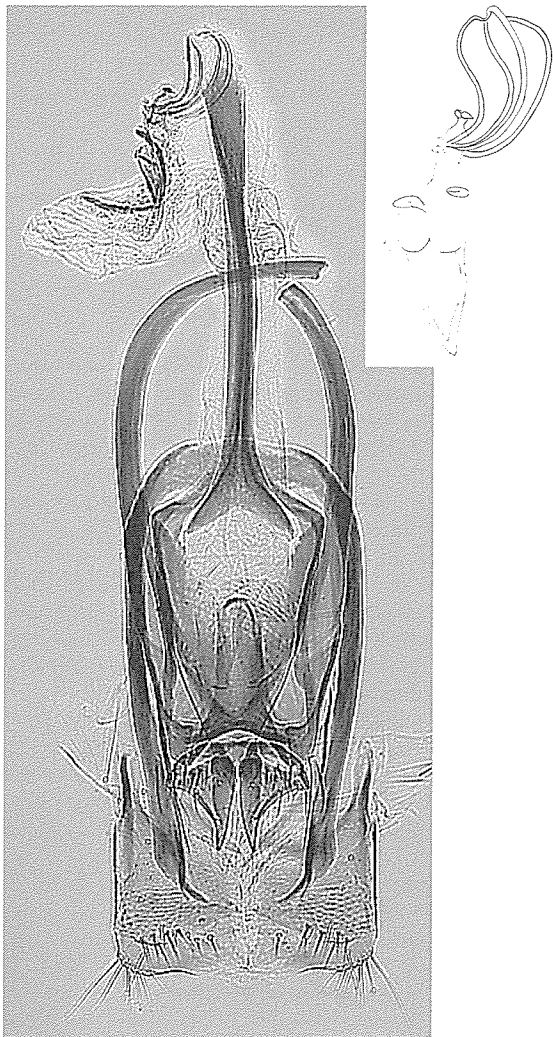


Figure 2. *Cryptolestes robinclarkei* Thomas, n.sp., male genitalia including abdominal segment 8, holotype. Inset, enlargement of armature of internal sac from paratype.

References cited

- Thomas, M.C.** 1988. A revision of the New World species of *Cryptolestes* Ganglbauer (Coleoptera: Cucujidae: Laemophloeinae). *Insecta Mundi* 2: 43-65.
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