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of Mexican Aphodiini (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Aphodiinae)

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Pseudotetraclipeoides tetraodon, new genus and new species of Mexican Aphodiini (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Aphodiinae)

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Abstract. The **new genus** *Pseudotetraclipeoides* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Aphodiinae) is diagnosed and the **new species** *Pseudotetraclipeoides tetraodon* from Mexico (Chihuahua) is described and figured.

Key Words. Systematics, *Pseudotetraclipeoides* new genus, *P. tetraodon* new species, Mexico, Aphodiinae

Introduction

This work is part of a series of papers describing new taxa in preparation for a systematic revision of Mexican Aphodiinae (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae).

Materials and Methods

Terminology used in this work to describe morpho-anatomical features follows that of Dellacasa et al. (2001). Material studied is in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, U.S.A. (AMNH).

Genus *Pseudotetraclipeoides* new genus

Type species. *Pseudotetraclipeoides tetraodon* new species, here designated.

Description. Small species (length 4.5 mm), oblong, convex, shiny, glabrous. Piceous. Head with epistome coarsely, irregularly, subrugosely, rather randomly punctured; clypeus acutely bidentulate on either side of feeble median sinuosity; genae strongly protruding from the eyes; frontal suture obsolete. Pronotum feebly transverse, convex, dually punctured, lateral margins sparsely ciliate, base distinctly bordered. Scutellum small, triangular. Elytra convex, elongately oblong, feebly widened posteriorly, finely striate; striae subcrenulate; interstices almost flat, sparsely punctured. Foretibiae distally tridentate and proximally serrulate on outer margin; upper side smooth, only with few coarse punctures proximally. Hind tibiae with strong transverse carinae on outer face; apically fimbriate with unequal spinules. Pygidium almost dull, roughly subrugosely punctured, each puncture bearing a recumbent

yellowish seta; apical margin sparsely elongately ciliate. Sexual dimorphism possibly shown in males by middle tibial lower spur shortened and inwardly hooked apically. Aedeagus with parameres rather stout, acuminate and lacking membranous processes. Epipharynx feebly inwardly sinuate on anterior margin, widely round laterally; epitorma campaniform; corypha feebly protruding from the anterior margin, with two stout and short apical celtes; pedia almost glabrous, with transverse rows of stout short spines; chaetopariae moderately elongate, not densely arranged.

Distribution. Mexico.

Etymology. The name results from the combination of the prefix *pseudo-* [= false] and the genus name *Tetraclipeoides*. The gender is masculine.

Discussion. The diagnostic characteristics of *Pseudotetraclipeoides*, new genus, are:

- scutellum small, triangular;
- hind tibiae apically fimbriate with unequal spinules;
- pronotum with lateral margins fimbriate and base bordered;
- clypeal margin acutely bidenticulate on either side of feeble median sinuosity;
- epipharynx with corypha widely campaniform.

The new genus apparently is closely allied to *Tetraclipeoides* Schmidt, 1913, but is easily distinguishable from it by the strongly different shape of the epipharynx and by the hind tibiae apically fimbriate with unequal spinules. *Pseudotetraclipeoides* follows the couplet 100 in the key to genera of Aphodiini by Dellacasa et al. (2001):

- 100a. Clypeal margin obtusely round on either side of median sinuosity. Length 7.0–12.0 mm.
 Neotropical region: Andes ***Paranimbus* Schmidt**
 — Clypeal margin acutely bidenticulate on either side of median sinuosity. Length 4.5 mm.
 Neotropical region: Mexico ***Pseudotetraclipeoides* new genus**

***Pseudotetraclipeoides tetraodon* new species**

(Fig. 1–5)

Type locality. 8 mi. W Matachic, Chih[uahua]., Mex[ico].

Type repository. American Museum of Natural History, New York, U.S.A.

Description of male. Length 4.5 mm; oblong, convex, shiny, glabrous. Piceous; clypeal margin and anterior angles of pronotum paler; legs brownish red; antennal club testaceous. Head with epistome somewhat depressed laterally and strongly convex on disc, abruptly declivous medially toward clypeal margin, coarsely subrugosely randomly punctured throughout; clypeus antero-medially deflexed, subsinuate at middle, obtusely angulate and acutely bidenticulate on either side, denticles almost perpendicularly strongly erected, slender and acuminate, lateral margins very thinly bordered, edge moderately reflexed, sparsely bristled; genae subacute, elongately sparsely ciliate, strongly protruding from eyes; frontal suture obsolete; front coarsely, evenly but not closely punctured. Pronotum moderately transverse, convex, dually punctured but with a narrow median longitudinal impunctate areola; large punctures, twice to three times larger than small ones, somewhat denser on sides, lacking on disc; small and coarse punctures, not closely but almost evenly scattered throughout, somewhat deeper on sides; lateral margins feebly arcuate, distinctly bordered, edge sparsely ciliate; hind angles obtusely round; base feebly bisinuate, rather thickly bordered. Scutellum flat, with few sparse and rather coarse punctures in basal half. Elytra elongately oval, slightly widened posteriorly, very convex, finely, not very deeply striate; striae superficially punctured, faintly crenulate; interstriae slightly convex, finely sparsely punctured. Foretibial spur bent downward, outward curved and evenly acuminate. Lower spur of middle tibia short, stout and apically hooked inward. Hind tibial upper spur somewhat longer than

first tarsal segment; latter longer than following two segments combined. Metasternal plate convex, glabrous, with only trace of median longitudinal groove, distinctly evenly, rather sparsely punctured. Aedeagus Fig. 3–4.

Female: unknown.

Type material. MEXICO: Chihuahua: 8 mi. W Matachic, 7200 ft, 08.VII.1947, leg. Michener, Dr. Rockefeller Exp., 1 ex. (male, **holotype**, AMNH).

Distribution. Known only from the holotype.

Etymology. The name is a combination of the Greek words *tetra* [= four] and *odous, odontos* [= tooth] and refers to the clypeus of the species bearing four denticles.

Bionomics. Unknown. The type specimen was collected in July.

Acknowledgments

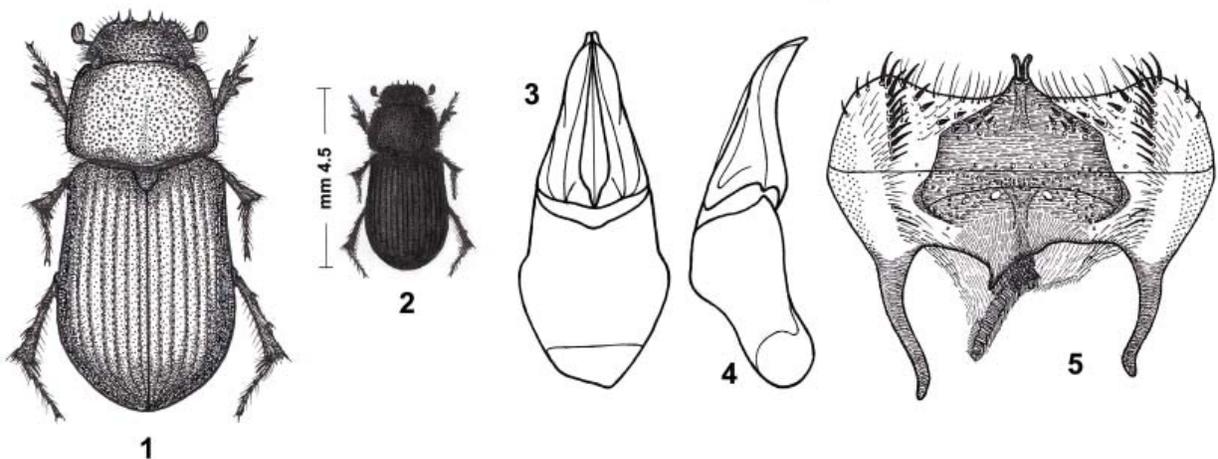
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Figures 1-5. *Pseudotetraclipeodes tetraodon*, new species (8 mi. W Matachic, Chihuahua, Mexico). 1-2) Habitus (morphological details and length ideogram). 3-4) Aedeagus (dorsal and lateral view). 5) Epipharynx.

