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Species composition and geographic distribution of Fuegian Curculionidae (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea)

PAULA POSADAS
Laboratorio de Sistemática y Biología Evolutiva (LASBE), Museo de La Plata, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Paseo del Bosque s/n, 1900 La Plata, ARGENTINA, and CONICET, ARGENTINA E-mail: posadas@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar

Abstract

The objective of this paper is to provide an integrative approach to taxonomic composition and distributional information on the weevil fauna (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea) of the Tierra del Fuego archipelago. A total of 39 species belonging to 17 Curculionidae genera are recorded for the archipelago. Most of these belong to two subfamilies: Entiminae (13 species in four genera) and Cyclominae (23 species in 11 genera). *Caneorhinus gravidus* (Burmeister) is here established as a **new junior synonym** of *Caneorhinus lineatus* (Blanchard). The Fuegian weevil fauna is considered to represent an impoverished condition in comparison to that from continental southern South America. The Tierra del Fuego archipelago has no endemic genera of Curculionidae and only three species seem to be endemic to it (*Antarctobius rugirostris* Champion, *Cylydrorhinus lateralis* [Berg], and *Cylydrorhinus fulvipes* [Guérin-Méneville]). However, these three species have scarce records and more information is required to confirm their status as Fuegian endemics. No species present in Tierra del Fuego extend their distribution beyond the Andean subregion. The Fuegian weevil fauna exhibits a great linkages to that from continental southernmost South America. Synonymic lists and distributional maps are provided for each species known to occur on the islands. Identification keys and photographs of weevil taxa recorded for Tierra del Fuego are also presented.

Key words: Andean region, Curculionidae, southern South America, species checklist, Tierra del Fuego, weevil fauna

Introduction

Weevils (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) are the most diverse family of known organisms, with around 51,000 described species (Oberprieler *et al*. 2007) that are found on all continents and insular habitats, except Antarctica. The Tierra del Fuego archipelago is located south of Magellan Strait, in the southernmost part of South America. Its latitudinal range spans from 52° 25' to 56° South and its longitudinal range from 63° 47' to 74° 45' West. This archipelago has a total surface of approximately 66,000 km2; 70% of this area is occupied by Isla Grande (48,000 km2). Other main islands of the archipelago are: Isla Hoste, Isla Santa Inés, Isla Navarino, Isla Dawson, and Isla de los Estados (Fig. 1). Nearly 200 rocky islets represent the remaining surface of the archipelago.

The biota of Tierra del Fuego has been classified as bioregionally outstanding regarding biodiversity conservation (Dinerstein *et al*. 1995). Its conservation status has been considered as vulnerable, and species introductions and intensive forestry are recognized as the main factors affecting Fuegian biodiversity (Dinerstein *et al*. 1995). The main physiographic characteristic of Tierra del Fuego is the presence of the Andean cordillera, which determines the occurrence of evident topographic and climatic gradients along short distances. Mean annual precipitations range from 4000 mm in the westernmost part of the archipelago to 200 mm in the eastern areas (Tuhkanen *et al.* 1990). Mean temperatures during the coldest month (usually July) exhibit the same west-east gradient, varying from 4° C in the west to -4° C in the east (Tuhkanen *et al.* 1990). During the warmest month (usually January), the gradient is inverted, with mean temperatures varying between 9° C in the west to 11° C in the east (Tuhkanen *et al.* 1990). The plant communities reflect these gradients, changing from very humid Magellanic moorlands and forests in the west to a semi-arid steppe in the east (Niemellä 1990).

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