



Review of *Taophila*, a genus endemic to New Caledonia (Coleoptera : Chrysomelidae : Eumolpinae)

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Abstract

The monotypic genus *Taophila* Heller is further characterized, with a redescription and lectotype designation of its type species, *T. subsericea* Heller. This review includes two recently described species (*T. mantillerii* Jolivet *et al.* and *T. nigrans* Jolivet *et al.*), along with nine additional species proposed as new (*T. cancellata*, **n. sp.**, *T. corvi*, **n. sp.**, *T. deimos*, **n. sp.**, *T. hydrae*, **n. sp.**, *T. joliveti*, **n. sp.**, *T. mars*, **n. sp.**, *T. millei*, **n. sp.**, *T. sagittarii*, **n. sp.**, and *T. scorpii*, **n. sp.**). All species are keyed; many are illustrated.

Key words: Chrysomelidae, Eumolpinae, *Taophila*, review of species, New Caledonia

Introduction

Taophila is a monotypic genus restricted to New Caledonia. It is based on *T. subsericea* Heller from a syntype series of 2 specimens representing both sexes. This genus, until recently, had remained with its sole species. Then, Jolivet *et al.* (2007) added 2 rather distinctive species to the fauna: *T. mantillerii* and *T. nigrans*. Opposite sexes are here-described for the 2 preceding species. Nine additional new species are now added to the fauna.

Study materials, besides the holdings in Bishop Museum, were borrowed from various sources, listed below. The early material in Bishop Museum largely coincides with an active period of survey from the late 1950s to the early 1980s by the late J. Linsley Gressitt and others. This was often accomplished with considerable assistance by ORSTOM-IRD entomologists (Noumea, New Caledonia) during that period. More recent activities into the present century by Pierre Jolivet of Paris, plus Christian Mille and others of IAC (La Foa, New Caledonia) have added greatly to the collection base.

Collections: BPBM—Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA; IAC—Institut Agronomique néo-Calédonien, La Foa, New Caledonia; ISNB—Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgium; JOLIVET—Collection Pierre Jolivet, Paris, France; MNHN—Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France; NMNH—US National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC, USA; ONNC—ORSTOM-IRD, Noumea, New Caledonia; SMTD—Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde, Dresden, Germany.

Genitalic preparations were made of all treated species. Measurements of smaller body parts are reported as cmm = 1/100 mm. Antennomere lengths/breaths (in cmm) are given only for *Taophila subsericea* Heller, the type species of the genus. Additionally, metaleg samples of most species were submitted for DNA analysis via Daniel Rubinoff, University of Hawaii, Honolulu but this report must predate any findings.