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Taxonomic revision of the myrmecophilous, meliponiphilous and rhizophilous soft scale genus *Cryptostigma* Ferris (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Coccidae)

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Table of contents

Abstract

The present study revises the soft scale insects of the genus *Cryptostigma* Ferris (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Coccidae), which comprises a group of New World species associated with ants or bees or of hypogeal habit. It includes 17 species, of which 10 species are new to science. The study is based on the external, mostly cuticular morphology of the adult females and first-instar nymphs. Taxonomic keys based on adult females and known first-instar nymphs are provided. For each species a description or redescription is given, followed by information on its distribution, host plants, and known biological information including associated ants or bees. The new species described are *Cryptostigma chacoensis* **sp. nov.**, *C. gullanae* **sp. nov.**, *C. jonmartini* **sp. nov.**, *C. longinoi* **sp. nov.**, *C. melissophilum* **sp. nov.**, *C. mexicanum* **sp. nov.**, *C. philwardi* , **sp. nov.** *C. rhizophilum* **sp. nov.**, *C. serratum* **sp. nov.**, and *C. tuberculosum* **sp. nov.** *Neolecanium urichi* (Cockerell) is transferred to *Cryptostigma* as *C. urichi* (Cockerell) comb. nov., and *C. quinquepori* (Newstead) is synonymized with *Cryptostigma urichi*, comb. nov. Lectotypes are designated for *Cryptostigma saundersi* Laing, *Lecanium silveirai* Hempel, *Lecanium urichi* Cockerell and *Akermes quinquepori* Newstead. *Cryptostigma inquilina* (Newstead) is amended to *C. inquilinum* in order to match the neutral ending “stigma”. The following names are treated as *nomina nuda*: *Cryptostigma jamaicensis* and *Lecanopsis jamaicensis* (Ben-Dov, 1993: 97).

Key words: *Cryptostigma*, taxonomic keys, Myzolecaniinae, soft scales

Resumen

El presente estudio revisa las escamas blandas del género *Cryptostigma* Ferris (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Coccidae), cual está compuesto por especies del Nuevo Mundo asociadas con hormigas, abejas sin aguijón o de hábitos subterraneos. El