



## Redescription and lectotype designation of *Helichus cordubensis* Berg (Coleoptera: Dryopidae)

G. A. RODRIGUEZ<sup>1</sup> & V. MANZO<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Facultad de Ciencias Naturales e I.M.L., Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, Miguel Lillo 205, 4000. Tucumán, Argentina.

E-mail: gialro@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup>CONICET – Facultad de Ciencias Naturales e I.M.L., Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, Miguel Lillo 205, 4000. Tucumán, Argentina. E-mail: veromanzo@yahoo.com.ar

### Abstract

*Helichus cordubensis* Berg, 1885 is redescribed based on type material and new material. A lectotype is designated for this species. Male genitalia are illustrated for the first time.

**Key words:** aquatic beetles, *Helichus*, South America, Argentina

### Introduction

Dryopidae is a common, widespread family of beetles. Currently 33 genera with about 280 species have been described. Dryopids are more abundant and diverse in the humid tropics of the Neotropical, Afrotropical and Oriental regions. The Palearctic and Nearctic regions are less diverse, and only a few species are known from the Australian region (Kodada & Jäch, 2005). This family, although relatively small in terms of the number of recognized species, is rather diverse ecologically, having humicolous, arboreal, semi-aquatic and aquatic members (Perkins, 1997). Seventy-two species have been described from the Neotropical region in the following 13 genera: *Dryops*, *Elmoparnus*, *Helichus*, *Onopelmus*, *Pelonomus*, *Parygrus*, *Guaranius*, *Quadryops*, *Ghiselinus*, *Momentum*, *Holcodryops*, *Sostea* and *Sosteamorphus* (Kodada & Jäch, 2005).

Erichson (1847) erected the genus *Helichus* for the Nearctic species *Elmis lithophilus* described by Germar (1824) from Canada. Since that time many species have been named and assigned to *Helichus*. Nelson (1989), after examining specimens of *Helichus* from many regions, discovered that most of the species belong to other genera, mostly undescribed. Hinton (1935), in his paper on North American *Helichus*, recognized two species-groups: the “*lithophilus*-group” and the “*productus*-group”, based on the type of pubescence of the last ventrite and on the form of the ovipositor. Nelson (1989) transferred all species included in the *productus*-group to the new genus *Postelichus* while he kept the species in the *lithophilus*-group in the *Helichus* Erichson. The known distribution of *Postelichus* Nelson, 1989 is the southwestern United States and Mexico.

*Helichus* is found throughout the Oriental, Nearctic and Neotropical regions. At present nine species have been reported from the Neotropical region (Kodada & Jäch 2005), most of them described at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Sharp, 1882; Berg, 1885; Grouvelle, 1896; Hinton, 1937 and 1939) when the generic concepts of *Helichus* and *Dryops* were confused. The Neotropical species of *Helichus* need to be reviewed; many species appear to belong to genera other than the one in which they were described (Shepard, personal communication).

*Helichus cordubensis* was described by Berg (1885) from Argentina (Córdoba province). No additional species of the genus have been recorded or described from Argentina. *H. cordubensis* has never been redescribed, and there are only distributional records from Argentina and Paraguay (Corigliano & Raffaini 2001; Oberto *et al.* 2004; Corigliano *et al.* 2005; Tripole & Corigliano 2005, Fernández *et al.* 2008; Shepard & Aguilar Julio 2010).

In this paper we redescribe *H. cordubensis* Berg because the original description was incomplete, and in particular lacked a description of the male genitalia. Thus, this species is unambiguously diagnosed and redescribed based on