Zootaxa 3599 (5): 401–445
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3599.5.1
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:8662421E-F753-46B2-ACDE-0A5868DE6716

Cockroaches (Blattaria) of Ecuador—checklist and history of research

ĽUBOMÍR VIDLIČKA
Institute of Zoology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Dúbravská cesta 9, 845 06 Bratislava, Slovakia.
E-mail: lubomir.vidlicka@savba.sk
Department of Biology, Faculty of Education, Comenius University, Moskovská 3, 813 34 Bratislava, Slovakia.
E-mail: vidlicka@fedu.uniba.sk

Abstract

Cockroaches are an understudied group and the total number of described taxa increases every year. The last checklist of Ecuador species was published in 1926. The main aim of this study was to complete a new checklist of cockroach species recorded in Ecuador supplemented with a research history of cockroaches (Blattaria) on the territory of continental Ecuador. In addition, the checklist contains comments on Ecuadorian faunistic records, including the Galápagos Islands. A total of 114 species (105 in continental Ecuador and 18 in Galápagos Islands) belonging to 6 families and 44 genera are listed. Forty species (38.1 %) occur solely in continental Ecuador and five (27.8 %) are endemic on Galápagos Islands.

The results indicate that further research on the cockroach fauna of Ecuador as well as determination of museum collections from this territory is needed.

Key words: cockroach distribution, catalogue, South America, faunistic record

Introduction

Cockroaches (Blattaria) are a mainly tropical and subtropical order of insects. The Neotropical zone (South and Central America, including the Caribbean Islands) have, in comparison with other zoogeographic regions, the richest fauna of cockroaches. About 2,000 of approximately 5,500 known recent species are native to South America. Cockroaches are an understudied group and the total number of described taxa increases every year, especially from the Neotropical region. In the last decade checklists of cockroaches from several South American countries have been published. The greatest number of species was recorded from Brazil, probably due to its great size and diverse biotopes. In 2008, 647 species were listed from Brazil (Pellens & Grandcolas 2008), an increase of almost 70% over the 383 species listed in 1964 (Rocha e Silva Albuquerque 1964a). Recent regional faunal lists in the Neotropics have been published for Colombia (133 species; Vélez 2008), Argentina (89 species; Crespo *et al.* 2010), Venezuela (87 species; Bonfils 1987; Perez 1988), Nicaragua (97 species; Maes 1992a,b,c), Puerto Rico (48 species; Gutiérrez 1999) and Cuba (85 species; Gutiérrez 1995).

Cockroaches of Ecuador are insufficiently explored. The last summaries were compiled by Campos (1923, 1926). Additional data on occurrence of cockroaches are scattered in various publications. The Galápagos Islands are the best studied Ecuadorian region, but a number of species is very low (18 species; Peck & Herrera 2011). An annotated list of Galápagos Blattaria is given in the paper of Peck & Roth (1992).

This study is based on a critical evaluation of the published data on Ecuadorian cockroaches. The base sources were the checklists of Campos (1923, 1926) and the catalogues of Princis (1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1971). The classification is based on McKittrick (1964) and Roth (1970d, 2003a), and also takes into account the works of Grandcolas (1996) and Djernaes et al. (2012).

Determination and revision of cockroach material deposited in many museums will be carried out in following years.

Accepted by F.A. Crespo: 22 Nov. 2012; published: 9 Jan. 2013