

NEW RECORDS OF *DICREPIDIUS RAMICORNIS*
(COLEOPTERA: ELATERIDAE: ELATERINAE) FROM
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HISPANIOLA

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ABSTRACT

Dicrepidius ramicornis (Palisot de Beauvois, 1805) is an elaterid beetle widely distributed in the Americas. Although first recorded from “Saint-Domingue” by Chevrolat in 1867, its presence in Hispaniola has been subsequently overlooked. In this note, I provide the first data-backed records for this species from the Dominican Republic and the first from Hispaniola since then.

Key words: beetles, inventory, arthropods, fauna, Caribbean, Greater Antilles.

RESUMEN

Dicrepidius ramicornis (Palisot de Beauvois, 1805) es un escarabajo elatérido ampliamente distribuido en las Américas. Aunque registrado por primera vez para “Saint-Domingue” por Chevrolat en 1867, su presencia en La Hispaniola ha sido subsiguientemente ignorada. En esta nota se dan los primeros registros respaldados por datos de esta especie para la República Dominicana y los primeros para La Hispaniola desde 1867.

Palabras clave: escarabajos, inventario, artrópodos, fauna, Caribe, Antillas Mayores.

The distinctive elaterid *Dicrepidius ramicornis* was originally described by Palisot de Beauvois (1805) as *Elater ramicornis* based on specimens collected in South Carolina, United States. Candèze (1859) cites it as a common species in the Antilles, Mexico and the southern United States. Chevrolat (1867) presents the only record of this species for the island of Hispaniola when he gave its distribution as Cuba, Saint-Domingue (probably in reference to the Haitian part of the island), Guadeloupe, Mexico and South America. Fleutiaux & Sallé (1889) record it for the island of Guadeloupe. However, all subsequent literature mentions of *D. ramicornis* ignore the record from Hispaniola. Champion (1894) records it as inhabiting southern states of North America, Mexico, Nicaragua to Brazil, and Cuba and Guadeloupe in the Antilles. Schwarz (1906) cites its distribution as Mexico, Antilles, South America. Leng & Mutchler (1915), in their preliminary list of the Coleoptera of the West Indies, cite it as known from Guadeloupe and Cuba, while Schenkling (1925) in his catalog of Elateridae gives its distribution as Mexico, Nicaragua, Antilles and S. America. The most comprehensive resource is the beetle catalog of Blackwelder (1944), where the distribution of *D. ramicornis* is given as Mexico, Nicaragua, Brazil, Chaco, Argentina, Cuba, I. de Pinos, and Guadeloupe. Undoubtedly because of no subsequent mentions of Hispaniola, this species was overlooked and not included in the recently published checklist of Hispaniolan arthropods (Perez-Gelabert, 2008). *Dicrepidius ramicornis* came to my attention only recently, when Casari (2009) described a new species of *Dicrepidius*, gave new records of *D. ramicornis* from Brazil and mentioned the Hispaniolan record by Chevrolat (1867). To provide further support for the record of Chevrolat, I give here

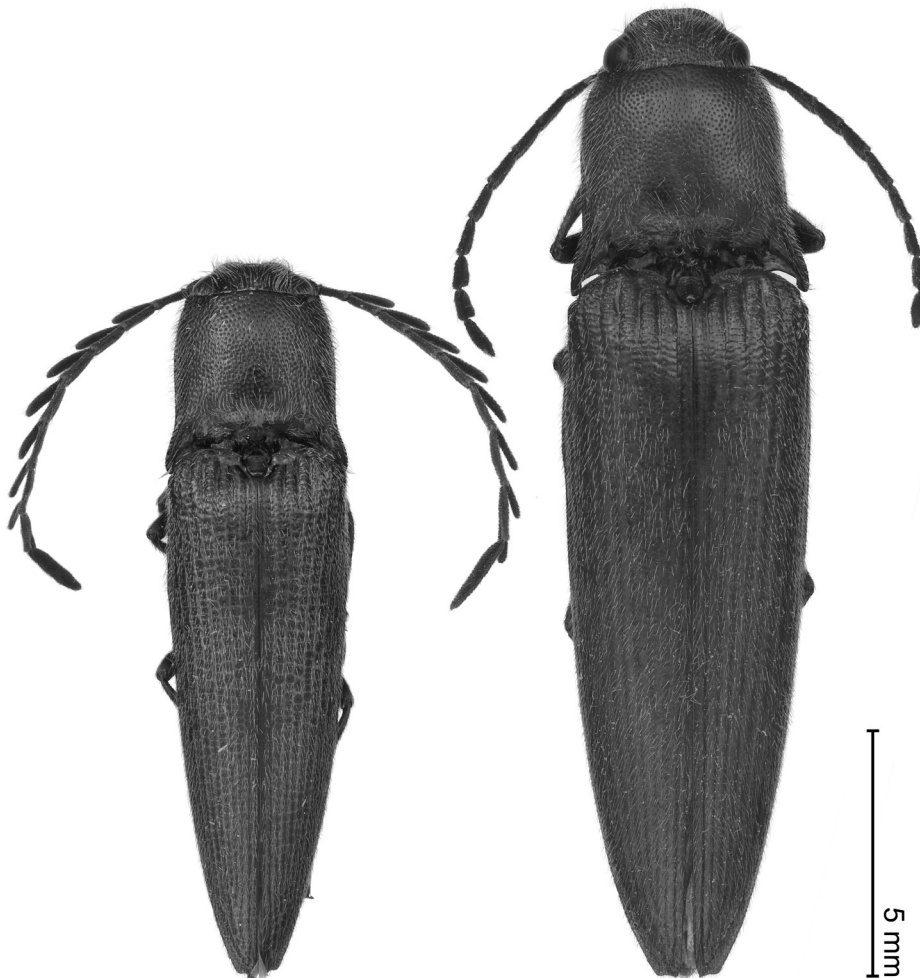


Figure 1. Habitus pictures of *Dicrepidius ramicornis* (male and female). Scale bar = 5 mm.

new records of *D. ramicornis* from four provinces of the Dominican Republic. These appear to be the first from Hispaniola since 1867 and the first specifically from the Dominican Republic.

Recognition. Figure 1. *D. ramicornis* can be recognized as an elaterid with typically elongated body, varying in size from 10-13 mm the males and 16-18 mm the females, with a gradually narrowing abdomen. Integument colored homogeneously reddish-brown, covered with fine yellowish pubescence and a fine and dense punctuation. Head with distinctively flabellate antennae just slightly longer than half the body length, all the branching antennomeres being nearly equal in length. The antenna is sexually dimorphic, with the females having a non-flabellate antenna.

Material studied. Fourteen specimens from four Dominican provinces as follows (all data as in labels): 1 male 1 female, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, El Seibo Province, 15 km S. Miches, ca. 500 m, 31 May 1973, Don & Mignon Davis. 1 male, DOM. REP: La Vega Prov., Hotel Montana, ca. 520 m, 10 km NE. Jarabacoa, 28 May 1973, Don & Mignon Davis. 7 males, DOMINICAN

REPUBLIC, Dajabon Province, 13 km S. Loma de Cabrera, ca. 400 m, 20-22 May 1973, Don & Mignon Davis. 2 males 1 female, DOM. REP: Dajabon Prov., Rio Massacre, 40 m, Balneario Don Miguel, 7 km SW. Dajabon, 26 May 1973, Don & Mignon Davis. 1 male, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, La Estrelleta [Eliás Piña] Province, 4 km SE. Rio Limpio, ca. 760 m, 24-25 May 1973, Don & Mignon Davis. All deposited at the NMNH collection, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.

The various localities from which *D. ramicornis* has been collected in the Dominican Republic indicate that this beetle may prefer humid forests from low to medium elevations. The Elateridae are the 9th largest family among beetles and over 10,000 species are known worldwide (Johnson, 2002), although there is no recently published world catalog. The checklist of Hispaniolan arthropods (Perez-Gelabert, 2008) included 39 species, while Perez-Gelabert (2011) specified that 45 species of Elateridae (16 of them apparently endemic) in 15 genera (none endemic) have been recorded in the zoological literature from Hispaniola. It is clear that many species remain to be discovered and newly described from the island. Certainly the total number of species in Hispaniola should ascend to more than double of that figure.

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