

A new species of the genus *Ataenius* Harold, 1867 (Scarabaeidae: Aphodiinae: Eupariini) from Peru

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Abstract. A new species of the genus *Ataenius* Harold, 1867 - *A. peruvianus* sp. nov. from Peru is described and illustrated. The species belongs to the *scutellaris* group.

INTRODUCTION

There are 191 described species of the genus *Ataenius* Harold, 1867 currently known from South America. From South America, after Stebnicka's studies, only Deloya (2012) has described single species of that genus. Most of currently known species, as well *A. peruvianus* sp. nov., live in tropical forests of Central and South America. Members of genus *Ataenius* are usually attracted to the light, but the newly described species was collected in a flight interception trap. *A. peruvianus* sp. nov. belongs to the *scutellaris* group, but can be easily distinguished from other species of the group because of many details of its morphology.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimen was observed with a Nikon SMZ-U stereoscopic microscope. The photos published here were taken by the use of the Canon EOS 5D Mark III connected with Canon MP-E 65mm macro lens. Photos were edited in the Helicon Focus 7 and Adobe Photoshop Elements 2018 programs.

For morphological terms used in the description of specimens I follow Dellacasa et. al. (2010) and Stebnicka (2007).

The holotype of the new species is indicated by a red, printed label bearing the status of the specimen, sex, its name, name of the author, and year and month of the designation.

The holotype is a part of private collection of author deposited in Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals in Kraków (Poland).

Because of fragile body of unique specimen the epipharynx of new species was not examined.

TAXONOMY

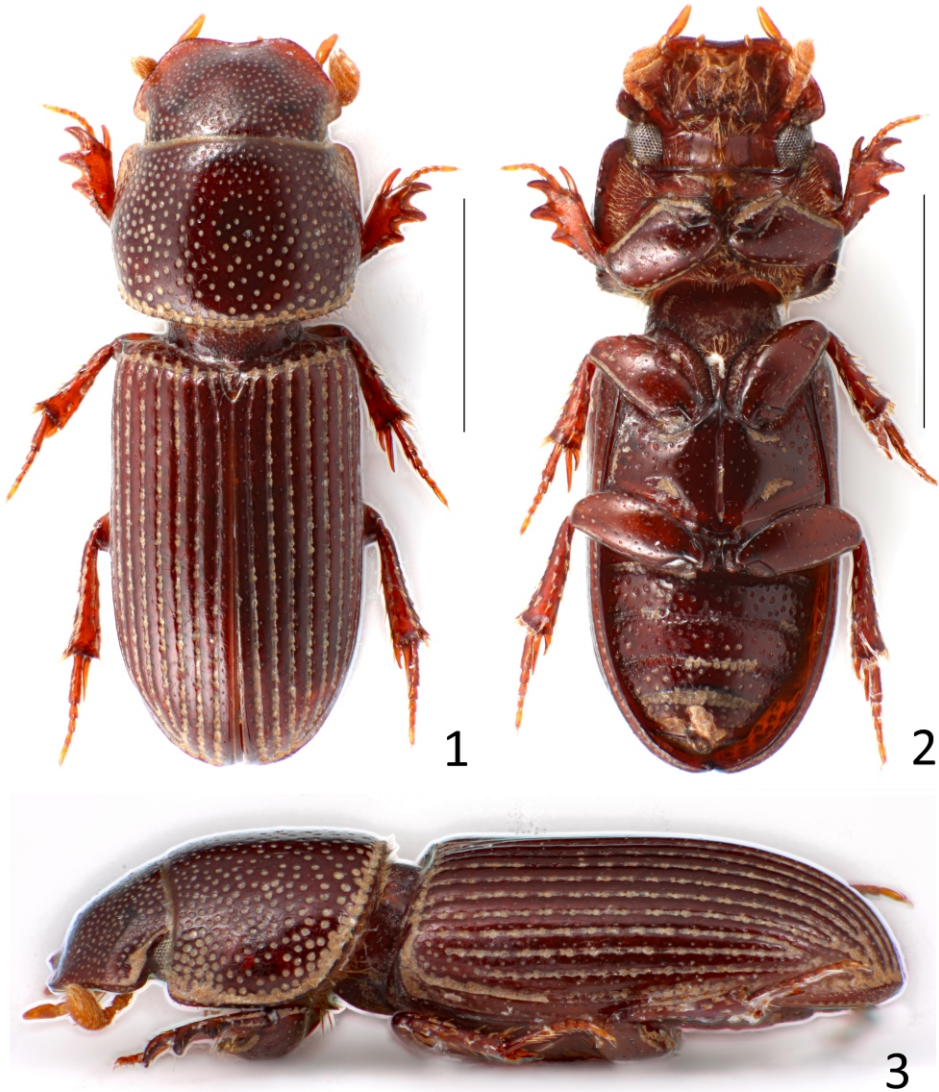
***Ataenius peruvianus* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1-4)

Type locality. Peru, Junin dep., Satipo prov., near Rio Venado vill.

Type material. Holotype (♀): Peru, Junin dep., Satipo prov., near Rio Venado vill., 11°11'78"S, 74°168'W, 14.-29.iv.2019, by flight interception trap, leg. A. Sokolov.

Description. Dorsum (Fig. 1). Body length 3.1 mm, elongate, moderately shiny, reddish-brown, glabrous except: apical part of elytra, margin of: base and hind angles of pronotum and margin of genae.



Figs. 1-3. *A. peruvianus* sp. nov., ♀, holotype: 1- dorsal view; 2- ventral view; 3- lateral view. Figs. 1-3: scale lines: 1.0 mm.

Head (Fig. 4) relatively large, trapezoidal, convex, rather matt, with distinct microreticulation. Clypeus gently bordered, distinctly sinuate anteriorly, widely rounded laterally, not notched before genae, clypeal border without macrosetae. Genae obtuse, very distinctly exceeding eyes, with few very short, thin macrosetae. Frontal suture not noticeable, without gibbosities. Punctuation of pronotum simple, regularly distributed, basally moderate in size, becoming fine to its margins. Distance between punctures one to three times the puncture diameter.

Pronotum transverse, approximately as wide as base of elytra, widest in the middle, convex,

moderately shiny, without microreticulation, with sides in median part invisible from above, with simple, quite regularly distributed punctation, which is quite coarse basally and becoming moderate in size apically. Sides and base bordered by a groove, anteriorly not bordered; additionally in the groove with a belt of coarse punctures. Base and hind angles with rather short, quite thick macrosetae. Anterior and hind angles rounded.

Scutellum very small, triangular, with ogival sides, with few small punctures, moderately shiny, without microreticulation.

Elytra elongate, convex, parallel, moderately shiny, without microreticulation, with very short and very thin macrosetae before apex; with small but distinct humeral denticles; with ten striae and ten intervals. Striae distinctly, quite densely punctate with medium-sized punctures; punctures gently indenting margins of intervals. All striae joined together before apex, sixth to eighth striae slightly shortened before base. Intervals moderately shiny, convex, with rather irregularly distributed, simple punctation which is fine, but becoming moderate in size near the humeral callus.

Legs. Femora shiny, without microreticulation, quite finely and sparsely punctate, with punctures bearing very short macrosetae. Protibiae distinctly tridentate laterally, proximally serrulate; dorsal side smooth, shiny, with few very fine punctures; apical spur long, moderately broad, gently downwardly and inwardly bent, with apex rounded. Meso- and metatibiae with two almost imperceptibly transverse carinae, fimbriate apically with row of short spinules of slightly unequal length. Apex of metatibiae without accessory spine. Metatibiae superior apical spur very slightly shorter than basimetatarsomere, latter approximately as long as three and half of next metatarsomeres combined. Tarsi of middle legs as long as mesotibiae, tarsi of hind legs shorter than metatibia. Claws rather short, thin, gently arcuate.

Macropterous.

Venter (Fig. 2). Meso-metaventral plate shiny, flat, with distinct, deep, quite wide longitudinal line in the middle; surface with fine, sparse punctures. Abdominal ventrites shiny, anteriorly distinctly fluted, without microreticulation, with rather dense, moderately coarsely punctures; all punctures bearing very short and thin macrosetae. Pygidium with similar structure to ventrites.



Fig. 4. *A. peruvianus* sp. nov., ♀, holotype: head. Fig. 4: scale line: 0.5 mm.

Etymology. Toponymic; an adjective derived from the name of Peru country, where the new species was collected.

Affinity. Based on the key to groups of species by Stebnicka (2007) with no problem we can classify new species as belonging to the *scutellaris* group. However, it is to notice that *Ataenius peruvianus* sp. nov. has no accessory spine on the metatibiae, which makes our identification clearer. When we use the key to species of the *scutellaris* group by Stebnicka (2007) we can have a problem in point 5, where we should continue based on the body length. Holotype of *A. peruvianus* sp. nov. is 3.1 mm long - with that body length there is no way to choose, however, it is relatively close to the way leading to point 6. Additionally the reddish brown colour of body supports the choice of that way. In point 6 we have *A. pereirai* Petrovitz, 1970, and *A. tarumensis* Stebnicka, 2007. *A. peruvianus* sp. nov. because of all features raised in the keys, as well as colour of body, general shape of pronotum, size of punctures on elytra, macrosetation on elytra, proportion of basal metatarsomere to superior apical spur, seems to be most closely related to *A. pereirai* Petrovitz, 1970. From both possibilities mentioned at point 6 it can be easily distinguished by the following combination of features: length of body larger (3.1 mm), much sparser punctation of pronotum, genae much more exceeding eyes, head proportionally wider, body proportionally more elongate, parallel-sided, macrosetation of elytra only before its apex, metatibiae not modified, all abdominal ventrites distinctly fluted.

Because of general shape of body (especially because of so wide head) *A. peruvianus* sp. nov. is similar to some members of genus *Saprosites* Redtenbacher, 1857, but because of not so distinctly convex body (especially not so convex head), genae which distinctly more exceeding eyes, relatively smaller humeral denticles, and length of body it can be easily distinguished from all American species of that genus.

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