A new genus of Phengodidae (Coleoptera) from the Neotropical Region

Viridiana Vega-Badillo¹; Santiago Zaragoza-Caballero¹,⁴ & Michael A. Ivie²

¹ Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Posgrado en Ciencias Biológicas. CdMx, Mexico.
² Montana State University (MSU), Montana Entomology Collection (MTEC). Bozeman, MT, United States.

Abstract. Cleicosta, a new genus of Phengodidae containing two new species, C. equatoreana sp. nov., and C. monaguense sp. nov., are described. Additionally, a new combination for Cenophengus breviplumatus Wittmer, 1976 is included. Cleicosta gen. nov., is the thirty-eighth genus assigned to the beetle family Phengodidae in the new world and is also the most morphologically similar to Cenophengus LeConte, 1881. Both genera exhibit clearly separated tentorial pits, vertical frons and simple tarsomeres. In Cleicosta gen. nov., however, the antennal rami are 1.5 times longer than the corresponding antennomere, the pronotum is subquadrate and the elytra are short, reaching the first or second abdominal segment. In addition, it presents an aedeagus with lateral lobes slender, parallel exteriorly, narrowed medially to toothless apex.

Key-Words. Diversity; Taxonomy; Cleicosta; Elateroidea.

INTRODUCTION

The coleopteran family Phengodidae LeConte, 1861 comprises 37 genera and 282 species in Americas. It has traditionally been classified into three subfamilies: Phengodinae LeConte, 1861; Mastinocerinae LeConte, 1881; and Penicilliphorinae Paulus, 1975 (Constantin, 2014; Zaragoza-Caballero & Pérez-Hernández, 2014; Roza et al., 2017, 2019; Vega-Badillo & Zaragoza-Caballero, 2019; Roza & Mermudes, 2019, 2020). These subfamilies are present in the New World, from southern Canada to the north of Chile and Argentina (Costa & Zaragoza-Caballero, 2010). Recently, Kundrata et al. (2019) by phylogenetic analysis, considered Cydistinae Paulus, 1972, to be part of the Phengodidae. Cydistinae consists of two genera distributed in Asia Minor: Cydistus Bourgeois, 1885 which includes six species, and Microcydistus Kundrata et al., 2019 with one species. The collection records for this family are limited to local sites, and their low vagility suggests that its species present high levels of endemism (Roza et al., 2017). Thus, several characteristics of the phengodid species could be related to their geographical boundaries (Viviani & Bechara, 1997). The aim of this study is to increase our knowledge of the family Phengodidae by describing a new genus based on two new species and transferring one previously described species into this genus.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

We examined specimens deposited at MTEC (Montana Entomology Collection “From Ivie Michael Ivie Collection”, Bozeman Montana, U.S.A.), plus the holotype of Cenophengus breviplumatus Wittmer, 1976, deposited at NMNH (National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., U.S.A.) (Floyd Schockley, curator). All specimens are pinned. By means of a Zeiss Discovery V8 stereoscopic microscope equipped with a 1× lens and a 1.6x eyepiece, the following measurements were taken: body length, interantennal and interocular distance, length and width of head, pronotum, elytra, scape, antennomeres, maxillary and labial palps, and tarsomeres. The aedeagus was extracted from six specimens, and a wing was detached from three; these were glued onto cardboard triangles and pinned under corresponding specimens. Photographs were taken with a Zeiss Axio Zoom V16 microscope equipped with a Plan NeoFluar Z 1×10.25 FWD 56 lens. Lastly, the aedeagi of the new species were examined by means of the Hitachi SU1015 SEM microscope at the Laboratorio de Microscopía y Fotografía de la Biodiversidad, Instituto de Biología, UNAM. General terminology follows Lawrence et al. (2011), except for membranous wing veins, that
was taken from Kukalová-Peck & Lawrence (1993). Labels of the type specimens are arranged in sequence from top to bottom, where the data for each label are within double quotes (“”), a slash (/) separates the rows, and information between brackets ([ ]) provide the correct information for label brackets.

**Depositories:** The specimens are deposited in, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., U.S.A. (NMNH), the Colección Nacional de Insectos (CNIN) of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and the Museo del Instituto de Zoología Agrícola Francisco Fernández Yépez (MIZA) of the Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV).

**RESULTS**

A key, only for the mastinocerine genera exhibiting distinctly separated tentorial pits, is provided, adapted from Zaragoza-Caballero & Pérez-Hernández (2014) with modifications in couplet 2'.

2. Labial palpi 2-segmented; tarsomeres simple ........................................... 3
2'. Labial palpi 3-segmented; first tarsomeres of pro- and/or mesothoracic legs with ventral ‘comb’ of bristle-like setae ........................................... 4
3. Elytra long; last 3 tergites exposed; gular sutures divergent anteriorly; lateral lobes of aedeagus parallel, with apical teeth ............................................................. **Cenophengus** LeConte
3'. Elytra short, last 7 tergites exposed; gular sutures parallel anteriorly; lateral lobes of aedeagus narrowed medically to toothless apex .......................................................... **Cleicosta** gen. nov.
4. Fifth and sixth sternites with apical crescent-shaped area containing transverse line of dense setae; first tarsomere of pro- and mesothoracic legs with complete ‘comb’ .......................................................... **Distremocophalus** Wittmer
4'. Fifth and sixth sternites without crescent-shaped area; first tarsomere of prothoracic legs with complete ventral ‘comb’ .......................................................... **Mastinowittmerus** Zaragoza

**Cleicosta gen. nov.**

**Type species:** *Cenophengus breviplumatus* Wittmer, 1976.

**Diagnosis:** *Cleicosta* gen. nov., is morphologically similar to *Cenophengus* LeConte, 1881: both genera exhibit clearly separated tentorial pits, vertical frons and simple tarsomeres. *Cleicosta* gen. nov., differs from *Cenophengus* in the arrangement of the gular sutures: parallel anteriorly in the new genus and divergent anteriorly in *Cenophengus*. Additionally, in *Cleicosta* gen. nov., pronotum is subquadrate in shape and elytra are short (reaching only first or second abdominal segment). In *Cenophengus* the pronotum is rectangular, and elytra long, last 3 tergites exposed. Other important characteristics in *Cleicosta* gen. nov., are: aedeagus with lateral lobes parallel, elongate, narrowed medially to toothless apex; in *Cenophengus* with lateral lobes parallel, with apical teeth.

**Head:** Wider than long (Fig. 1A), fully exposed; integument smooth, glossy, coarsely punctuate; antennae 12-articulated serrated, extending slightly beyond pronotal posterior margin; antenomeres 4th to 11th with lanceolate rami, 1.5 to twice times longer than respective antenomere; frons vertically produced; interantennal distance nearly equal to first antenomere length; eyes finely faceted, hemispherical, variable in length; labrum 3 times wider than long; mandibles simple, thin, falcate; maxillary palpi 4-segmented; terminal palpomere bullet-shaped with apex acute, longer than preceding 3; 3rd palpomere shorter than 2nd; labial palpi 2-segmented; terminal palpomere fusiform, 5 times longer than preceding one; tentorium with 2 distinctly separated pits; gular sutures parallel anteriorly (Fig. 1B).

**Thorax:** Pronotum subquadrate (Fig. 1C); anterior angles rounded, posterior angles acute, lateral margins rounded; integument smooth, glossy, densely punctured (Fig. 1D); pronotal anterior margin almost straight; sternal suture complete. Elytra short, reaching 1st or 2nd abdominal segment, 3 to 4 times longer than wide, subparallel, apex rounded. Posterior wings with posterior median vein (MP 1 + 2) always present; posterior radial vein (RP) absent; radial cell open; venation otherwise variable. Length of legs gradually increasing from pro- to metathoracic legs; tarsi simple; in all pairs of legs, length of 4th tarsomere equal to half the length of 5th; claws simple.

**Abdomen:** Integument shiny, punctured, densely setose; penultimate sternite with posterior margin sinuate; last sternite deeply notched. Aedeagus with median lobe cylindrical, with apex rounded; lateral lobes elongate, parallel externally, narrowed medially to toothless apex (Figs. 1E-G).

**Etymology:** The new genus is named *Cleicosta* in recognition of the outstanding work of Dr. Cleide Costa, on her eightieth birthday. Her first name was abbreviated as “Clei” in order to avoid homonymy with the elaterid genus *Cleidecosta* Johnson, 2002. Gender feminine.

**Cleicosta breviplumata** (Wittmer, 1976) comb. nov. (Figs. 2A-D)

*Cenophengus breviplumatus* Wittmer, 1976: 450.

**Type material:** Holotype (♂ NMNH): “Monserrate/ Bogota/ Colombia/ 10,000/ ALT 03.V.46/ E.A.Chapin” “Cenophengus breviplumatus/ det. W. Wittmer"** Type No./ 73885/ USNM"“Loan from/ USNMNH/ 2081909”.

**Diagnosis:** *Cleicosta breviplumata* comb. nov., is similar to *C. monaguense* sp. nov., but they differ in their interantennal and interocular distances. In *C. breviplumata* comb. nov., the interantennal distance equals the width of the antennal fossa, whereas in *C. monaguense* sp. nov., it is greater. The interocular distance is four times greater than eye width in *C. breviplumata* comb. nov.; in *C. mona-
guense sp. nov., it is three times greater. Additionally, in *C. breviplumata* comb. nov., the first and second tarsomeres are equal in length in all three pairs of legs, whereas in *C. monaguense* sp. nov., the first tarsomere is shorter than the second in all legs.

**Redescription:** Holotype, male. Body length 4.0; maximum body width 0.46. Body color brown.

**Head:** Surface concave, wider (0.50) than long (0.44); at eye level, wider (0.50) than pronotum (0.46); integument

![Figure 1. Cleicosta monaguense sp. nov., SEM images: (A) head dorsal; (B) head ventral; (C, D) pronotum. Aedeagus: (E) dorsal; (F) lateral; (G) ventral.](image-url)
smooth, coarsely punctuate, each puncture bearing a brown seta; interantennal distance (0.12) equal to antennal fossa width (0.11); eyes small, hemispherical, finely faceted, not prominent, longer (0.2) than wide (0.08); interocular distance (0.33) 4 times greater than eye width; antennae short (1.63), barely reaching pronotal posterior margin; 1st antennomere (0.15) as long as 2nd and 3rd combined; 3rd cup-shaped and short (0.05), 4th in length 0.12, 5th to 10th about equal in length (0.16); 11th 0.1 in length; 12th (terminal) bullet-shaped with apex acute (0.15); antennal rami lanceolate, 1.5 times longer than respective antennomere; labrum bilobed; terminal max-

Figure 2. Cleicosta breviplumata comb. nov., habitus: (A) dorsal; (B) lateral; (C) ventral; (D) posterior wings. Cleicosta monaguense sp. nov., habitus: (E) dorsal; (F) lateral; (G) ventral; (H) posterior wing. Cleicosta equatoreana sp. nov., habitus: (I) dorsal; (J) lateral; (K) ventral; (L) posterior wing. Venation: posterior medium vein (MP 1 + 2), posterior radial vein (RP), radial cell (CR); posterior anal vein (AP), anterior anal vein (AA) divided into AA 1 + 2 and AA 3 + 4, the cubital-anal vein (CuA) and MP 4, MP 3a, MP 3b posterior veins.
illary palpomere robust, spindle-shaped (0.12), longer than preceding 3 combined; terminal labial palpomere spindle-shaped (0.05), 5 times longer than preceding one.

Thorax: Pronotum wider (0.49) than long (0.45); integument smooth, coarsely punctuate; each puncture bearing a brown seta; disc convex, anterior margin almost straight, anterior angles rounded, lateral margins convergent anteriorly, posterior margin rounded, posterior angles acute; scutellum spatulate, with small notch on posterior margin; integument shiny, densely punctured; each puncture bearing a brown seta; elytra short, 3.5 times longer (1.3) than wide (0.37); posterior wings (Fig. 2D) with posterior medium vein (MP 1 + 2) distinct, posterior radial vein (RP) absent, radial cell (CR) open; cubital-anal area of wings with posterior anal vein (AP) distinct, anterior anal vein (AA) incomplete and distinct, cubital-anal vein (CuA) distinct, mid-posterior veins MP 4 and MP 3b present; 1st and 2nd tarsomeres of pro-, meso- and metathoracic legs about equal in length.

Abdomen: Integument shiny, punctured, with silky appearance due to dense setosity; penultimate sternite with posterior margin emarginate; last sternite with posterior margin deeply notched; pygidium with posterior margin emarginate; aedeagus slender.

Females and immatures: Unknown.

Distribution: Bogota, Colombia (Fig. 3).

**Cleicosta monaguense** sp. nov. (Figs. 2E-H)

**Type material:** Holotype (♂ MIZA): “VENEZUELA: Monagus [Monagas], 700 m/ Caripe, Cueva #87-82/ Guacharo, 20-30 July 1987/ Forest over coffee/ S & J Peck, Malaise FIT” “From the Michael Ivie Collection”. Paratypes: “VENEZ: Monagus, 700 m/ Caripe, Cueva #87-82/ Guacharo, 20-30 July 1987/ Forest over coffee/ S & J Peck, Malaise” “Michael Ivie Collection” (3♂ CNIN, 3♂ MTEC).

**Diagnosis:** Cleicosta monaguense sp. nov., can be separated from the similar C. breviplumata comb. nov., by its greater interantennal distance which equals twice the antennal fossa width (interantennal distance equals antennal fossa width in C. breviplumata comb. nov.). The interocular distance is three times greater than eye width in C. monaguense sp. nov., and in C. breviplumata comb. nov., it is four times greater. Additionally, in C. monaguense sp. nov., the first tarsomere is shorter than the second in all legs, whereas in C. breviplumata comb. nov., the first and second tarsomeres are equal in length in all three pairs of legs.

**Description:** Male: Body length 3.50, maximum body width 0.46. Light brown body.

Head: Surface concave, wider (0.53) than long (0.41); at eye level, wider (0.53) than pronotum (0.46); integument smooth thick and roughly dotted densely and coarsely punctuate, each puncture bearing a brown seta, interantennal distance (0.12) equal to twice antennal fossa width (0.07); eyes large, hemispherical, finely faceted, prominent, longer (0.22) than wide (0.01); interocular distance (0.31) 3 times greater than eye width; antennae short (1.17), barely reaching pronotal posterior margin, 1st antennomere (0.10) longer than next 2 combined, 3rd cup-shaped and short (0.03), 4th in length 0.10, 5th to 10th about equal in length (0.11), 11th measuring 0.09, 12th (terminal) bullet-shaped with apex acute (0.12); antennal rami lanceolate, 1.5 times as long as respective antennomere; labrum bilobed; terminal maxillary palpomere robust, spindle-shaped, as long as preceding 3 combined (0.15); terminal labial palpomere spindle-shaped (0.07), 6 times as long as preceding one.

Thorax: Pronotum wider (0.46) than long (0.42), integument smooth, densely and coarsely punctuate; each puncture bearing a brown seta; disc convex, anterior margin almost straight, anterior angles rounded, lateral margins slightly curved, posterior margin curved, posterior angles acute; scutellum spatulate, with small notch on posterior margin, integument shiny, densely punctuate, each puncture bearing a yellow seta; elytra short, 2.5 times longer (0.95) than wide (0.33); posterior wings (Fig. 2H) with posterior medium vein (MP 1 + 2) long and distinct, posterior radial vein (RP) absent, radial cell (CR) open; wing cubital-anal area with anterior anal vein (AA) (divided into AA 1 + 2 and AA 3 + 4) and posterior anal vein (AP) with anterior anal vein (AA) (divided into AA 1 + 2 and AA 3 + 4) and posterior anal vein (AP) (divided into AA 1 + 2 and AA 3 + 4) and posterior anal vein (AP).

Figure 3. Geographical distribution of Cleicosta gen. nov., species.
vein (AP) distinct, cubital-anal vein (CuA) divided into MP 4, MP 3a and MP 3b mid-posterior veins; 1st tarsomere of all legs shorter than 2nd.

**Abdomen:** Integument shiny, punctuate, with silky appearance due to dense setosity; penultimate sternite with posterior margin sinuate, last sternite with posterior margin notched; pygidial posterior margin straight.

**Female and immatures:** Unknown.

**Distribution:** Monagas, Venezuela (Fig. 3).

**Etymology:** Specific epithet alludes to the type locality.

*Cleicosta equatoreana* sp. nov. (Figs. 21-L)

**Type material:** Holotype (♂ MNHN): “ECUADOR: Sucumbios/ Sacha Lodge, 270 m/ 00.5°S, 76.5°W/ 04-14 May 1994/ P. Hibbs, Malaise” "Michael Ivie Collection".

**Diagnosis:** *Cleicosta equatoreana* sp. nov., is similar to *C. monaguense* sp. nov., however they differ in their interan-tennal distance. In *C. equatoriana* sp. nov., it is equal to antennal fossa width; in *C. monaguense* sp. nov., interan-tennal distance is greater than fossa width. Additionally, in *C. equatoreana* sp. nov., the terminal maxillary pal- pomere is 1.5 times longer than the preceding three combined, whereas in *C. monaguense* sp. nov., the terminal palpmere is equal in length as the preceding three combined.

**Description:** Male: Body length 2.4, maximum width 0.38. Body color light brown.

**Head:** Surface concave; wider (0.42) than long (0.32); at eye level, wider (0.42) than pronotum; integument smooth, coarsely punctuate, each puncture bearing an amber seta; interantennal distance (0.06) equal to antennal fossa width (0.07); eyes large, hemispherical, finely faceted, prominent, longer (0.18) than wide (0.08); in-terocular distance (0.24) 3 times greater than eye width; antennae short (0.81), barely reaching pronotal posterior border; 1st antennomere longer (0.1) than next 2 combined, 3rd cup-shaped, small (0.03), 4th 0.07 in length, 5th to 10th about equal in length (0.08), 11th 0.06 in length, 12th (terminal) bullet-shaped with apex acute (0.06); anten-nal rami lanceolate, twice as long as respective anten-nomere; labrum bilobed; terminal maxillary palpomere robust, spindle-shaped (0.12), 1.5 times longer than preceding 3 combined; terminal labial palpomere spin-dle-shaped (0.04), 4 times longer than preceding one.

**Thorax:** Pronotum wider (0.38) than long (0.31); integument smooth, coarsely punctuate, each puncture bearing an amber seta; disc convex, anterior margin almost straight, posterior margin convex with small notch; scutellum spatulate, posterior margin with small notch on posterior margin, integument shiny, densely punctu-ate, each puncture bearing an amber seta; elytra short, 3 times longer (1.02) than wide (0.32); posterior wings (Fig. 2L) with posterior medium vein (MP 1 + 2) distinct, posterior radial vein (RP) absent, radial cell (CR) open; cubital-anal wing area with undivided anterior anal vein (AA) and posterior anal vein (AP) visible; 1st and 2nd tar-someres of all legs about equal in length.

**Abdomen:** Integument shiny, punctuate, with silky appearance due to dense setosity; penultimate sternite with posterior margin emarginate.

**Female and immatures:** Unknown.

**Distribution:** Sucumbios, Ecuador (Fig. 3).

**Etymology:** Specific epithet alludes to the type locality.

**Key to species of Cleicosta gen. nov.**

1. Body length 2.4 mm; 4th (terminal) maxillary palpomere 1.5 times longer than preceding 3 combined; antennal rami lanceolate, twice as long as respective antennomere .............................. *Cleicosta equatoreana* sp. nov. 1'. Body length greater than 3 mm; 4th (terminal) maxillary palpomere as long as preceding 3 combined; antennal rami lanceolate, 1.5 times longer than respective antennomere ........................................ 2

2. Body color light brown; interocular distance 3 times greater than eye width; 1st tarsomere of all legs shorter than respective 2nd tarsomere. .............................................................. *Cleicosta monaguense* sp. nov. 2'. Body color brown; interocular distance 4 times greater than eye width; 1st and 2nd tarsomeres of all legs about same length ............... *Cleicosta breviplumata* comb. nov.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We would like to thank to Edgar Uriel Garduño Montes de Oca and Martín Zurita García for their review and comments that enriched this work. We thank Susana Guzmán Gómez and Berenit Mendoza Garfias for technical assistance in taking the photographs. The first au-thor thanks the Graduate program in Biological Sciences, UNAM.

**REFERENCES**

Constantin, R. 2014. Contribution à la connaissance des Phengodidae de Guayana et description de huit espèces nouvelles (Coleoptera, Elateroidea). Coléoptères de Guayane. Le Coléoptériste (Supplément), 8: 86-104.

Costa, C. & Zaragoza-Caballero, S. 2010. Phengodidae LeConte, 1861. In: Leschen, R.A.B.; Beutel, R.G. & Lawrence, J.F. (Eds.), Coleoptera, Beetles. Vol. 2: Morphology and systematics (Elateroidea, Bostrichiformia, Curculioniformia partim), Berlin, Walter de Gruyter. p. 126-135. (Handbook of Zoology, Arthropoda: Insecta)

Kukalová-Peck, J. & Lawrence, J.F. 1993. Evolution of the hind wing in Coleoptera. The Canadian Entomologist, 125: 181-258.
Kundrata, R.; Blank, S.M.; Prosvirov, A.S.; Sormova, E.; Gimmel, M.L.; Vondráček, D. & Kramp, K. 2019. One less mystery in Coleoptera systematics: the position of Cydistinae (Elateriformia incertae sedis) resolved by multigene phylogenetic analysis. Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society, 187(4): 1259-1277. DOI

Lawrence, J.F.; Ślipiński, A.; Seago, A.E.; Thayer, M.K.; Newton, A.F. & Marvaldi, A.E. 2011. Phylogeny of the Coleoptera based on morphological characters of adults and larvae. Annales Zoologici, Warszawa, 61: 1-21.

Roza, A.S. & Mermudes, J.R.M. 2019. New genus and two new species of railroadworm Beetles from Brazil, with a discussion on asymmetry of aedeagus in the family (Coleoptera: Phengodidae). Annales Zoologici, Warszawa, 69: 805-816. DOI

Roza, A.S. & Mermudes, J.R.M. 2020. A new genus of railroad-worm beetles from the Atlantic Rainforest from Brazil (Coleoptera: Phengodidae, Mastinocerinae). Papéis Avulsos de Zoologia, 60(Special Issue): 1-12, e202060(s.i.).10. DOI

Roza, A.S.; Mermudes, J.R.M. & Silveira, L.F.L. 2019. New species and rediagnosis of Akamboja, and a new record for A. minimum (Coleoptera: Phengodidae, Mastinocerinae). Journal of Natural History, 52: 2935-2947.

Roza, A.S.; Quintino, H.Y.S; Mermudes, J.R.M. & Silveira, L.F.L. 2017. Akamboja gen. nov., a new genus of railroad-worm beetle endemic to the Atlantic Rainforest, with five new species (Coleoptera: Phengodidae, Mastinocerinae). Zootaxa, 4306: 501-523.

Vega-Badillo, V. & Zaragoza-Caballero, S. 2019. Nueva especie del género Phengodes (Phengodella) (Coleoptera: Phengodidae) y una clave para los fengódidos de Belice. Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad, 90: e902863.

Viviani, V.R. & Bechara, E.J.H. 1997. Bioluminescence and Biological Aspects of Brazilian Railroad-Worms (Coleoptera: Phengodidae). Annals of the Entomological Society of America, 90: 389-398.

Wittmer, W. 1976. Arbeiten zu einer Revision der Familie Phengodidae (Coleoptera). Entomologische Arbeiten aus dem Museum G. Frey, 27: 415-524.

Zaragoza-Caballero, S. & Pérez-Hernández, C.X. 2014. Sinopsis de la familia Phengodidae (Coleoptera): trenecitos, bigotudos, glow-worms, railroad-worms o besouros trem de ferro. México, D.F., Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. 128p.

Published with the financial support of the “Programa de Apoio às Publicações Científicas Periódicas da USP”