

A new apterous *Stenus* species from the mountains of El Salvador, Central America (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) (279th Contribution to the knowledge of Steninae)

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ABSTRACT

Description of *Stenus (Hemistenus) salvadorensis* sp. n. from the high mountains of El Salvador is provided.

RESUMEN

En este trabajo se describe a *Stenus (Hemistenus) salvadorensis* sp. n. de El Salvador.

The group of *Stenus popocatepetlensis* Puthz, of Northern hemispheric origin, is a small group of apterous endemics, which live in high mountains of Central America (Puthz, 2000). Previously only 11 species were known from Mexico. The new species, described below, demonstrates that this species group has invaded Central America farther southward down to El Salvador. Its geographically nearest Mexican relatives have been recorded from Oaxaca. I suppose that there are more species of the group, e. g. in Chiapas and in Guatemala, which wait for their collectors.

Stenus (Hemistenus) salvadorensis sp. nov.

Description: Apterous, black, shining with a distinct aeneous tint, fore parts very coarsely, densely punctate, abdomen with the punctation moderately dense, moderately coarse anteriorly, fine posteriorly; pubescence distinct, recumbent. Antennae light brown, club infusate. Maxillary palpi yellowish, 3rd segment slightly darker. Legs light brown to reddish brown, apices of femora and of tarsal segments infusate. Clypeus black, labrum dark brown, sparsely pubescent.

Length: 2.5-3.2 mm (fore parts: 1.4-1.5 mm).

Head distinctly broader than elytra, frons moderately broad, concave with distinct lateral furrows, median portion about as broad as each of the lateral portions, slightly elevated, by far not extending toward the level of medial eye-margins. Punctation coarse and dense, diameter of punctures larger than cross section of 3rd antennal segment, nearly as large as apical cross section of 2nd antennal segment, interstices distinctly smaller than half diameter of punctures, becoming as large as punctures on the middle of the median portion. Antennae short, when reflexed extending toward the posterior third of pronotum, penultimate segments somewhat longer than broad. Pronotum about as broad as long, broadest in anterior half, sides moderately convex anteriorly, moderately concave in posterior half; a distinct and narrow anteriorly and posteriorly abbreviated longitudinal furrow medially. Punctation slightly coarser than on head, dense, actual middle of longitudinal furrow narrowly impunctate. Elytra strongly trapezium-shaped, broader than long, shoulders completely oblique, sides strongly divergent posteriorly, slightly restricted in posterior quarter, posterior margin deeply emarginated. Apterous. Punctation very coarse, each puncture becoming shallower posteriorly, diameter of punctures as large or yet larger than widest cross section of 2nd antennal segment, interstices smaller than half diameter of punctures. Abdomen moderately narrowed behind, paratergites very slightly directed ventrad, moderately

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broad, those of segment 4 as broad as mesotibiae at base, paratergal punctation coarse and sparse; basal furrow of first visible tergites moderately deep, no apical membranous fringe at tergite 7. Punctuation of tergite 3 moderately coarse and moderately dense, diameter of punctures about as large as medial cross section of 3rd antennal segment, interstices mostly slightly smaller than diameter of punctures; punctation becoming finer toward last tergites: punctures of tergite 7 as large as one medial eye-facet, interstices distinctly but slightly larger than diameter of punctures, tergite 10 with few fine scattered punctures. Legs slender, metatarsi two thirds as long as metatibiae, 1st segment distinctly longer than 2nd and 3rd combined, nearly twice as long as the last segment; 4th segment narrowly bilobed. The whole insect is densely reticulated, reticulation becomes shallower on pronotum and is especially distinct on last abdominal tergites.

Proportional measurements of one male-paratype: width of head: 29; average distance between eyes: 15; width of pronotum: 20.7; length of pronotum: 21; greatest width of elytra: 25; greatest length of elytra: 22.5; sutural length: 17.5 (1 unit = 0.0252 mm).

Male. Legs simple. Sternite 8 (as in Fig. 2). Sternite 9 with an acute tooth apicolaterally. Tergite 10 rounded. Aedoeagus (Fig. 1) with median lobe obtusely angled anteriorly, its apex bent dorsad, expulsion mechanism small, internal sac strongly sclerotized, tricuspid; parameres much longer than the median lobe each with 14-16 setae of different lengths.

Female: Sternite 8 (as in Fig. 3). Valvifer acute apicolaterally. Tergite 10 rounded. Spermatheca (Fig. 4) extending into an excavated, sclerotized plate distally.

Type Material: Holotype (♂) and 3 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀-paratypes: EL SALVADOR: Chalatenango, El Pital, 13.1 km N San Ignacio, 2650 m, 14°23'N, 89°18'W, cloud forest litter, 28.VIII.1994, R. Anderson 226 E: in the Natural History Museum of the University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, and in the author's collection.

Discussion: *Stenus salvadorensis* sp. nov. is distinguished from its Mexican relatives that have a moderately densely punctate abdomen by the declining paratergites with sparse punctures, by the shorter length and by the sexual characters. In my key for the group (Puthz, 2000) it should be inserted at key number 30. From both species there, *S. cuitlahuac* Puthz and *S. veracruzmontis* Puthz it can be easily distinguished by the above mentioned characters, furthermore by the generally sparser punctation throughout.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Dr. James S. Ashe for sending the material, Volker Assing and José Luis Navarrete-Heredia, Universidad de Guadalajara, for various help concerning this manuscript.

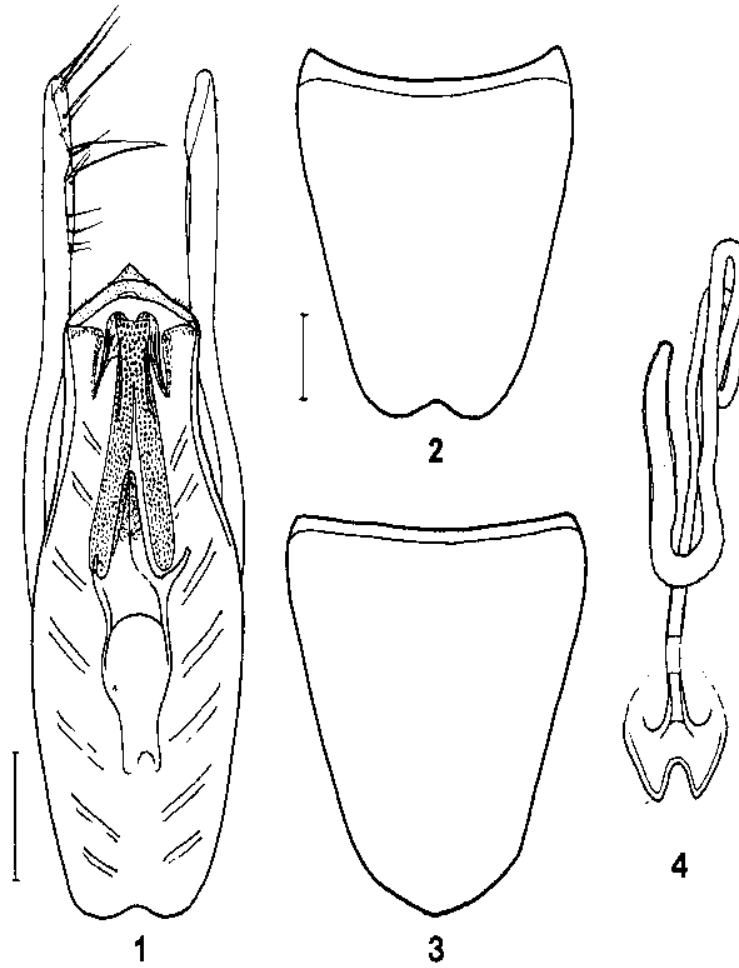
LITERATURE

Puthz, V., 2000. Aptere *Stenus*-Arten aus den mexikanischen Hochgebirgen (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae). *Mitteilungen des Internationalen Entomologischen Vereines*, 25: 103-127.

Recibido: 14 de septiembre 2002

Acceptado: 21 de octubre 2002

A new aperous *Stenus* species from El Salvador



Figures 1-4: *Stenus (Hemistenus) salvadorensis* sp. nov. (paratypes): 1 : ventral aspect of aedeagus, 2 : 8th sternite of male, 3 : 8th sternite of female, 4 : spermatheca and associated sclerite. Scale = 0.1 mm (1=4, 2=3). Setae shown on only one paramere.