

**A new species of the genus *Hemirhopalum* Sharp, 1902 (Coleoptera: Dermestidae) from Brazil**

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**Taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Dermestidae, *Hemirhopalum*, Megatominae, South America, Brazil**

**Abstract.** *Hemirhopalum brasiliense* sp. nov. from Brazil (South America) is described, illustrated and compared with a similar species *Hemirhopalum bicolor* Sharp, 1902 from Nicaragua.

#### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Hemirhopalum* Sharp, 1902 belongs to the subfamily Megatominae and currently includes 14 valid species worldwide. With two exceptions (*Hemirhopalum rufipenne* Pic, 1916 and *H. hadrotomoide* Sharp, 1902, both occurring in Mexico and North America), the genus is restricted to the Neotropical Region (Mroczkowski 1958, Háva 2003, 2012).

When examining some dermestids deposited in the collection of the well known Spanish entomologist Paulino Plata Negrache, a so far undescribed species of the genus *Hemirhopalum* Sharp, 1902 was detected. In the material, the new species is represented by a single female specimen only, but differences from all the other members of this genus are quite distinctive to justify the description of the new species as presented below.

#### MATERIAL AND METHODS

Only a single specimen of the new species could be examined, the holotype. It is a female missing the left antenna club as well as all the legs on its right side. The left legs lost their tarsi except the first two mesotarsites. The terminology used in this paper follows Lawrence and Ślipiński (2010).

The following abbreviations of measurements were used:

EW      elytral width = maximum elytral width.  
TL      total length = distance from anterior margin of pronotum to apex of elytra.

## DESCRIPTION

### *Hemirhopalum brasiliense* sp. nov.

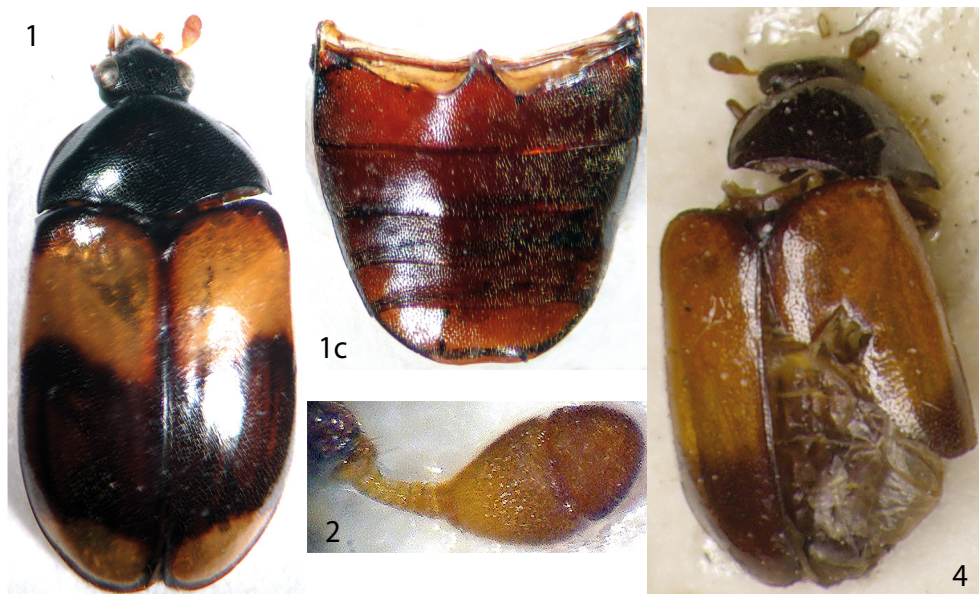
(Figs 1-3)

**Type material.** Holotype (♀): Labelled “Tapuruquara, Rio Negro. AM, 14.-16.II.1963, J. Bechyné coll.”. The specimen is deposited in the private collection of Prof. Dr. Paulino Plata Negrache and later will be passed to the Museum of Natural Sciences in Madrid (C.S.I.C.). The specimen is additionally provided with a red label “Holotypus, *Hemirhopalum brasiliense* n. sp., ♀, det. A. Herrmann & J. Háva 2012”.

**Description of holotype.** Body measurements in mm: TL 5.4, EW 3.0. Body shiny black, longish oval, maximum width behind its middle (Fig. 1). Dorsal surface bare, apparently without any pubescence, but a stereo microscope shows an extremely short and hardly visible single seta in each dot of the puncture under magnification 80x, at very bright illumination. Head as broad as long, densely and coarsely punctate between eyes and antenna, distance between punctures somewhat smaller than puncture diameter. Palpi light brown to yellow, one ocellus present on front. Antennae with 11 antennomeres, light brown to yellow except the first segment which is dark brown; the 2-segmented club is clearly distinct, ovate and much broader than other antennomeres; it is approximately twice as long as the shaft, covered by hardly visible procumbent pubescence and a few single setae (Fig. 2); the first two segments of the shaft carry a few longer setae too. Eyes quite large, with tiny ocelli, apparently without setae under magnification 80x. Pronotum shiny black, quite densely and coarsely punctate (as in the head), almost twice as wide as long, narrowed anteriorly, broadest at the apical part, its distinct lateral margins are completely visible from above; cuticle between the punctuation shiny. Posterior angles almost rectangular and with rounded edge, completely visible from above; anterior angles obtusely angled and also visible from above. Elytra with much finer punctuation than pronotum, the space between spots bigger than puncture diameter; cuticle shiny and entirely black, without notable pubescence; each elytron with two yellow-red fasciae. One of it covers nearly the whole anterior half except the shoulder, the other one the apical fifth of elytra. Although the colour of the fasciae is more yellowish than red, there is a possibility that living beetle shows red fasciae and after death, red often turns yellow or brown. Scutellum small and somewhat triangular, shiny black and with the same punctures as elytra. Punctuation and colour of the underside (mesoventrum, metaventrum and abdominal ventrites) similar to that of the pronotum. Abdominal ventrites brown, the puncture in the middle is sparse and fine, but increases seriously in density and roughness towards lateral margins. Each dots of the puncture (this holds for the whole underside) is provided with a single decumbent seta, which reaches the next spot (Fig. 3). Legs somewhat flattened, entirely black, provided with the same kind of punctures and setae as in the abdomen and other parts of the underside. Tarsi missing in this specimen. The remaining two mesotarsites are brown.

Male specimen, biology and variability unknown.

**Differential diagnosis.** The new species can be easily distinguished from the similar one *Hemirhopalum bicolor* Sharp, 1902: 651, by the two yellow-red fasciae of its elytra, *H.*



Figs. 1-4. *Hemirhopalum brasiliense* sp. nov. (holotypus, female): 1- habitus dorsal view; 2- antenna; 3- visible abdominal sternites (ventral view) (photo by A. Herrmann); *Hemirhopalum bicolor* Sharp, 1902 (holotype): 4- habitus dorsal view (photo by J. Háva).

*bicolor* has only one fascia, which is located in the anterior part only (Fig. 4). From all other species of this genus, *H. brasiliense* sp. nov. differs by its bicoloured elytra without visible pubescence.

**Etymology.** The name is an adjective derived from the name of the country where the specimen was collected.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.** We are deeply indebted to Paulino Plata Negrache (Spain) for lending his very interesting material.

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Received: 22.10.2012

Accepted: 10.11.2012

