

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

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Taxonomy, description, new species, Coleoptera, Dermestidae, *Hemirhopalum*, Paraguay

Abstract. A new species, *Hemirhopalum drechseli* sp. nov. from Paraguay, is described, illustrated and compared with similar species.

INTRODUCTION

When identifying some dermestids sent by the entomologist Ulf Drechsel from Paraguay to the first author, an as yet undescribed species of the genus *Hemirhopalum* was revealed. Currently 17 valid species are included in the genus *Hemirhopalum* Sharp, 1902 worldwide (Háva 2015), so far only two of them, *Hemirhopalum longipenne* Pic, 1916 and *Hemirhopalum pici* Háva, 2014, have been recorded from Paraguay. The distribution of the genus is restricted to the Neotropical Region (including Mexico); only one species, *Hemirhopalum hadrotomide* Sharp, 1902, occurs in Mexico. Since more than six decades no additions happened to the species contents of this genus, but in the last few years, five new *Hemirhopalum* species have been described (Herrmann & Háva 2013, Háva 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018). In the present paper the authors describe another new species of the genus.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimens were stored for 5 days in a solution of 1% pepsin in hydrochloric acid to free them roughly from protein tissues and making the extremities of the body moveable. The abdomen was disconnected from the body and glued upside-down onto the same cardboard plate, just behind the beetle. Before this, the genitalia were excluded and then cleaned with a fine needle in a drop of 99 percent glycerol. Afterwards it was also glued onto the plate behind the beetle, firmly embedded in a drop of a solution consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone, aqua demineralisata and diglycerol (the liquid solution becomes permanently solid after a few minutes). Photos of body and abdomen were taken with a digital SLR camera Sony alpha 35, connected with an objective Nikon CF N Plan Achromat

4x 160/- and extension rings; for the photos of the genitalia and antenna a Bresser Junior USB-Handmikroskop at 200x magnification was used. Because of the low depth of field all photos were taken as layered images, afterwards combined on a PC by using the stacking program COMBINEZP.

Nomenclature and systematic in this paper follow Háva (2015).

The size of the beetles and their body parts can be useful in species recognition, so following measurements were made:

- a) total length (TL) - linear distance from anterior margin of pronotum to apex of elytra.
- b) pronotal length (PL) - maximal length measured from anterior margin to posterior margin.
- c) pronotal width (PW) - maximal linear transverse distance.
- d) elytral length (EL) - linear distance from shoulder to apex of elytron.
- e) elytral width (EW) - maximal linear transverse distance.

The type specimens of the described species are provided with a red, printed label showing the following text: „HOLOTYPUS [respectively PARATYPUS], *Hemirhopalum drechseli* n. sp., Herrmann & Háva det. 2017”.

DESCRIPTION

Hemirhopalum drechseli sp. nov.

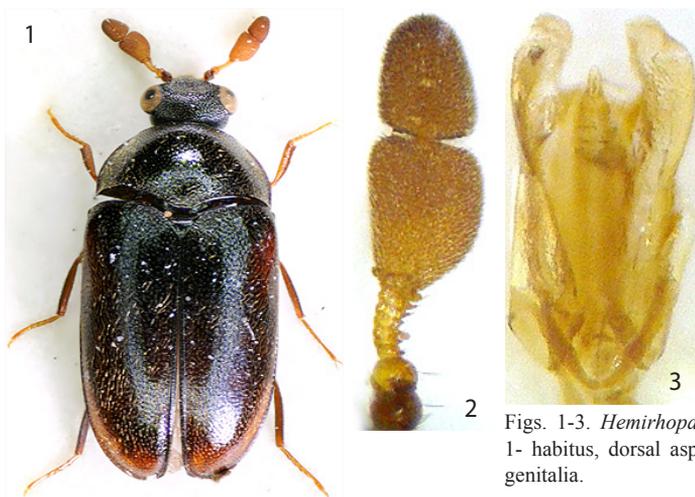
(Figs. 1-3)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: „Paraguay, Dep. Paraguari, Salto Cristal, 14.IX.1991 leg. Drechsel”. Paratype (1 ♂): with the same data as holotype. The holotype is deposited in the collection of the first author, the paratype in the collections of the second author.

Description. Male. Body small and slender, longish parallel (Fig. 1); measurements (in mm): TL 3.0, PL 0.6, PW 1.4, EL 2.3, EW 1.7. Head black, appears dull because of rough and dense punctation, covered very sparsely with decumbent short brown hairs; palpi brown. Eyes large with short and hardly visible erect microsetae. Median ocellus distinctly present on front. Antennae entirely brown, 11-segmented, the club as well as the first antennomere slightly darkened, the last two segments forming a very big and distinct club densely covered by fine decumbent brown pubescence, the ultimate segment somewhat shorter and smaller than the penultimate one (Fig. 2); shaft slightly shorter than the club, sparsely provided with some strong, erect brown hairs. Pronotum bulged, broadest at the apical rectangular edges, narrowed towards the front, entirely black, somewhat less densely punctate as the head, at the first glance naked, but covered sparsely with extremely small decumbent bright short hairs, lateral margins distinctly edged, both visible from above at the same time. Scutellum small, dark and triangular, with a few decumbent hairs and punctures. Punctation and pubescence of the elytra exactly like those on the pronotum; humeri with a distinct bump (Fig. 1). Legs long and slender, entirely honey brown, their edges sparsely covered with erect, short brown hairs. Tarsi roughly as long as the tibiae. Mesosternum darkish, punctured and furnished as in the elytra. Abdominal sternites black, punctate as the head, sparsely covered with decumbent light brown hairs. Genitalia as shown in (Fig. 3).

Female. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. The new species looks quite similar to *Hemirhopalum testaceipes* Pic, 1936 but differs from it by the decumbent short brown hairs (long, grey in *H. testaceipes*), from *H. longipenne* Pic, 1916, it differs by the small body form (TL 3.0) (TL 4.0 in *H. longipenne*) and brown cuticle (black in *H. longipenne*).



Figs. 1-3. *Hemirhopalum drechseli* sp. nov., holotype: 1- habitus, dorsal aspect; 2- antenna of male; 3- male genitalia.

Name derivation. The name of the new species is dedicated to honour the entomologist Ulf Drechsel from Paraguay who has been the collector of the type specimens.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. A great thank goes to Ulf Drechsel from Paraguay for sparing generously interesting dermestids of his collection to the first author.

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Received: 20.12.2017

Accepted: 10.3.2018

Printed: 5.10.2018

