

**Taxonomic status of *Strongylium rubrithorax* Brèthes, 1920,
with placement under the genus *Blapida* Perty, 1830
(Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae)**

Alfredo Edgardo GIRALDO-MENDOZA

Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina,
Museo de Entomología Klaus Raven Büller. Av. La Molina s/n, Lima 12, Lima, Perú
e-mail: aegmendoza@gmail.com

Taxonomy, new synonymy, Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Stenochiinae, Cnodalonini, *Blapida*, Neotropical Region

Abstract. The species *Strongylium rubrithorax* Brèthes, 1920 is newly synonymized under *Blapida peruensis* Gebien, 1917.

INTRODUCTION

The most recent checklist of the Peruvian tenebrionid fauna recorded fourteen species for the genus *Strongylium* Kirby, 1818 (Smith et al. 2015). This list was updated in the faunistic review by Giraldo and Flores (2016), suggesting the exclusion of *Strongylium rubrithorax* Brèthes, 1920 and some other species, without detailing the rationale for such decisions. The Peruvian species *S. rubrithorax* was described from one specimen from Chanchamayo, including the following measurements and characters (Brèthes 1920): length = 22 mm, width = 8 mm; head, antenna, pronotum, pro-mesosternum and legs ferruginous red; elytra olivaceous green with intervals 2, 3, 5, 7 and 9 yellow; elytral suture, metasternum and abdominal ventrites black; boat shaped body; interocular distance equal to distance between eyes and epistome; pronotum transverse with rounded anterior angles, right posterior angles and lateral margins on sides; elytral striae basally paired 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8, also some joined at apical third 3-6, 4-5 and 7-8; elytral suture spined apically; prosternal process fitting into a well-defined mesosternal notch. In the present work, the synonymy of *S. rubrithorax* under *Blapida peruensis* Gebien, 1917 is proposed.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimens are housed or were studied in the following entomological collections:
IADIZA Instituto Argentino de Investigaciones de las Zonas Áridas, Mendoza, Argentina;
MACN Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales Bernardino Rivadavia, Buenos Aires, Argentina;
MEKRB Museo de Entomología Klaus Raven Büller, Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, Lima, Peru;

- MUSM Museo de Historia Natural Javier Prado, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru;
- UNSAAC Laboratorio de Entomología, Universidad Nacional San Antonio Abad del Cusco, Cusco, Peru.

RESULTS

Genus *Blapida* Perty, 1830

Blapida peruensis Gebien, 1917

Strongylium rubrithorax Brèthes, 1920: 38 **syn. nov.**

Material examined: Thirty eight *B. peruensis* specimens were examined in Peruvian collections (MEKRB, MUSM, UNSAAC), (Fig. 2): PERU: Cusco, La Convención, Echarate, C. C. Santa Rosa, 12°34'16.10"S 73°06'07.56"W, 1249 m, light trap, C. Carranza & C. Rossi, 1 spec., (MUSM), C. P. Nuevo Mundo, 11°32'39.9"S 73°08'07.8"W, 324 m, III-2014, M. Deza, 1 spec., (MEKRB), C. P. Palma Real, 12°37'37.6"S 72°41'34" W, 746 m, XI-2002, I. Tisoc, 1 spec., (MEKRB), Montecristo, 1800 m, VI-2005, A. Bustamante, 1 spec., (UNSAAC), Sahuayaco, 800 m, 15-III-1996, R. Casafranca, 5 spec., (UNSAAC). Huánuco, Leoncio Prado, Tingo María, 09°18'05.43"S 76°02'10.03"W, 647 m, V-2000, J. I. Cortez, 1 spec., (MEKRB), X-2006, N. Suárez, 1 spec., (MEKRB), VII-2008, V. Almeyda, 1 spec., (MEKRB), VII-2008, M. Obregon, 1 spec., (MEKRB). Junín, Chanchamayo, 11°03'15.79"S 75°19'44.53"W, VII-1964, H. Brignete, 1 spec., (MEKRB), IV-1999, S. Hun, 1 spec., (MEKRB), III-2005, J. Gonzales, 1 spec., (MEKRB), IV-2005, R. Trujillo, 1 spec., (MEKRB), V-2007, K. Osorio, 1 spec., (MEKRB), VI-2007, P. Alva, 1 spec., (MEKRB), VI-2007, G. Castañeda, 1 spec., (MEKRB), VI-2007, C. Diaz, 1 spec., (MEKRB), VII-2008, F. Sifuentes, 1 spec., (MEKRB), XI-2009, L. M. Cruces, 1 spec., (MEKRB), XI-2009, M. Rivera, 1 spec., (MEKRB), Alto Yurinaki, 1000 m, I-1968, P. Höcking, 1 spec., (MUSM), 22-IX-1981, P. Höcking, 1 spec., (MUSM), 28-III-1982, P. Höcking, 1 spec., (MUSM), 10-IX-1988, P. Höcking, 1 spec., (MUSM), San Ramón, 11°07'26.11"S 75°21'34.57"W, 820 m, XI-2012, J. Maximiliano, 1 spec., (MEKRB), valle de Chanchamayo, VI-1942, J. M. Schunke, 1 spec., (MUSM), 10-XII-1945, J. M. Schunke, 1 spec., (MUSM); Satipo, 500 m, 20-IX-1990, P. Höcking, 1 spec., (MUSM). Madre de Dios, Tambopata, Zona Reservada Tambopata, 300 m, 18-22-IV-1983, E. Pérez, 1 spec., (MUSM). Pasco, Oxapampa, Villa Rica, 10°44'21.98"S 75°16'10.99"W, 1460 m, VII-2008, F. Bernaola, 1 spec., (MEKRB), San Juan de Cacazu, 850 m, 15-VIII-1987, 1 spec., (MUSM). Puno, Sandia, San Pedro de Putina, Punco, P. N. Bahuaja-Sonene, 13°23'29.4"S 69°29'00.1"W, 322 m, 24-25-IX-2010, E. Rázuri & E. Guillermo, 1 spec., (MUSM). San Martín, Rioja, 1 spec., (MUSM); Tocache, 08°11'18.96"S, 76°30'37.08"W, 497 m, I-2007, R. Ordoñez, 1 spec., (MEKRB).

Remarks. The characters provided in the original description of *S. rubrithorax* do not match with those observed in *Strongylium* species, but rather with those presented by Gebien (1917) for the genus *Blapida* Perty, 1830. Taking into account characters, measurements and the type locality, these characters refer particularly to *Blapida peruensis*, described based on four specimens from Chanchamayo and Pozuzo. These preliminary impressions were corroborated by examining the *S. rubrithorax* syntype housed at MACN (Bachmann and Flores 2008), which was temporarily borrowed and photographed at IADIZA (Fig. 1).

Through examination of these specimens, it is clear that the coloration and characters of *S. rubrithorax* are within the limits of intraspecific variation exhibited by *B. peruensis* (Fig. 3). Therefore, *S. rubrithorax* must be excluded from genus *Strongylium* and synonymized under *B. peruensis*, giving as a result *Blapida peruensis* Gebien, 1917 (= *Strongylium rubrithorax* Brèthes, 1920). As far as known from label data, *B. peruensis* inhabits montane

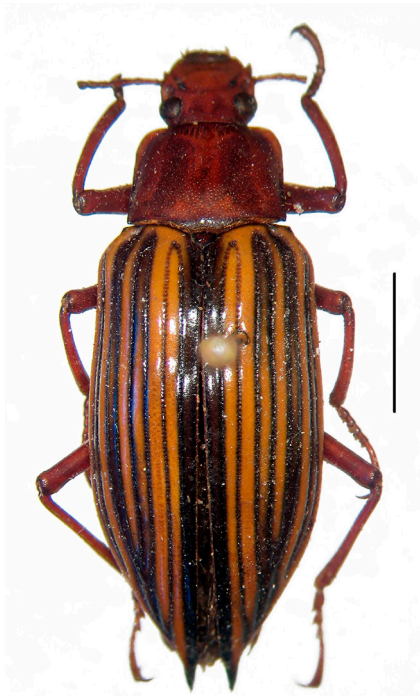


Fig. 1. Habitus of *Strongylium rubrithorax* Brèthes, 1920, MACN syntype. Scale bar = 5 mm.



Fig. 2. Habitus of *Blapida peruensis* Gebien, 1917, MUSM specimen from Pasco, San Juan de Cacazu. Scale bar = 5 mm.

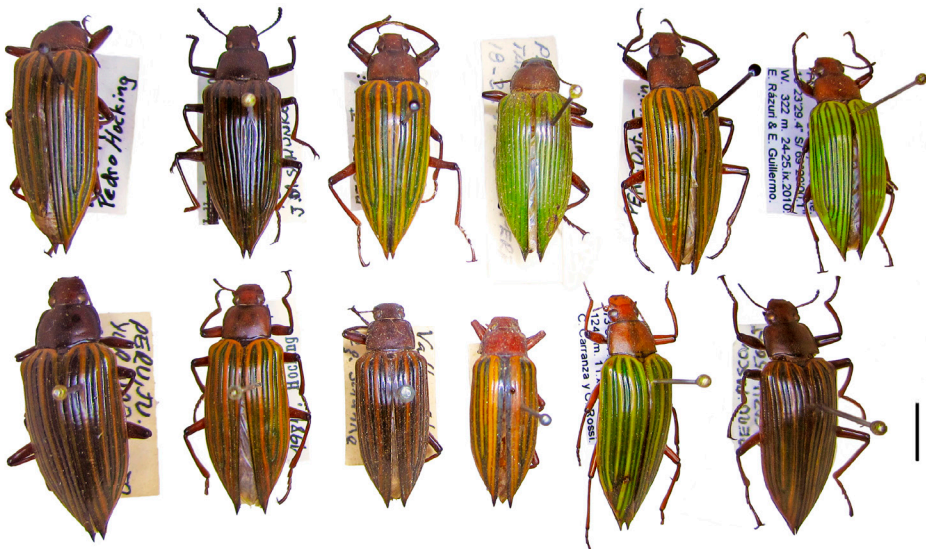


Fig. 3. Intraspecific variation observed in *B. peruensis* Gebien, 1917 specimens. Scale bar = 5 mm.



Fig. 4. Distribution map of *Blapida peruensis* Gebien, 1917 based on type localities and specimens found in Peruvian collections.

and tropical rain forests of the Peruvian Andes, from 6° to 13°S, between 300-1460 m (Fig. 4). Immature stages and other biological data are currently unknown for this species.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. Examination of the *S. rubrithorax* syntype was possible through a loan by Arturo Roig-Alsina (MACN) and the request by Gustavo Flores (IADIZA), during author's visit for the Fourth International Tenebrionoidea Symposium (November 25-26th, 2015). Also, the author thanks Clorinda Vergara (MEKRB), Erick Yábar (UNSAAC) and Mabel Alvarado (MUSM) for facilitating access to their respective entomological collections.

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Received: 25.7.2024

Accepted: 10.9.2024

Printed: 31.3.2025