

A NEW AMBLYCERUS AFFECTING SEEDS OF PROSOPIS  
CHILENSIS IN PUERTO RICO AND HISPANIOLA

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Among the insects found affecting the seeds of forest trees in Puerto Rico by L. F. Martorell is a new species of the bruchid genus *Amblycerus* here described and named in his honor. The same species has been intercepted in material originating in Haiti and the Dominican Republic by inspectors of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, United States Department of Agriculture.

AMBLYCERUS MARTORELLI Bridwell, new species

Nearly the size and habitus of *Amblycerus robiniae* (Fabricius) (= *Spermophagus haffmanseggi* of the Leng Cataolgue not of Gyllenhal) but lacks the black integumentary areas of that species, is smaller, and has differently shaped pronotum and scutellum, shorter calcaria and numerous differences in sculpture. Reddish brown with appressed pubescence, uniformly yellowish cinereous above and pale beneath, nearly evenly disposed and partly concealing the surface sculpture, without blackish hairs except for single black hairs in the larger punctures of pronotum and elytral intervals. Pectus often infusate, sternites with ill-defined paler margins.

Length, 5-6.5; width, 3-3.5 mm.

Eyes emarginate for about one-fourth their length, coarsely faceted, strongly convex, projecting about one-half their width; front at clypeus separating the eyes by about one-half their width, strongly punctulate, without coarser punctures, with only a slight vestige of a glabrous unpunctured line near clypeous, mentum without punctures. Antennae with 3 narrow joints at base, joints 2 and 3 together about as long as joint 1 and longer than 4, joints 4-10 longer than broad, compressed and expanded with inner apical angles produced, these joints subserrate and closely applied to each other.

Prothorax about as broad at base as the elytra, transverse, dorsum coarsely and rather densely punctured on the sides, a broad longitudinal median area without these punctures, impressed lines along lateral margins above and below ending far from the anterior margin, flanks without coarse punctures; prosternum very narrow between the coxae, extending slightly beyond them, slightly expanded and truncate at apex, not received in any special structure of mesosternum; this nearly vertical, flat, hairy, and truncate at apex, meeting metasternum at an obtuse angle; metasternum not gibbous, with apex set off by the impressed marginal line; scutellum parallel sided, oblong-subquadrate, pointed at apex, emarginate on either side of the point, the lateral angles rounded.

Elytra about thrice as long as prothorax, widest near middle, broadly, obliquely, subtruncately separately rounded at apex, intervals 2, 4, 6, and 8 slightly costate giving a slight vittate effect, intervals dotted with fine darkish punctures each bearing a single black decumbent hair. Pygidium nearly plane, oblique, about as broad as long, margins converging in a convex curve to the broadly truncate or rounded apex, disc infusate, margins pale, a pale pubescent longitudinal line, punctured except for a small subbasal area on either side. Last sternite longer than the preceding in female, shorter than preceding in male.

Hind coxa with about 30 irregularly disposed, rather coarse shallow punctures on the large pubescent area and with several fine strongly impressed punctures on the glabrous shining area near the insertion of the trochanter. Inner and outer carinae of ventral margin of hind femur obsolescent on basal half, inner carina unarmed as is usual in *Amblycerus*. Calcaria of hind tibia but little unequal, as 5 to 4, longer outer calcar not half as long as basal tarsal joint; outer dorsal surface of hind tibia with a line of closely placed punctures extending from base to apex, ventral surface with two lines of punctures where it meets the outer and inner faces in an even curve, apex obliquely truncate with about five rounded teeth at dorsal apex.

Described from 41 specimens in the United States National Museum, reared from pods of *Prosopis* (or *Neltuma*) *chilensis*, labeled as follows:

Type a male, also 16 female and 8 male paratypes: from seed-pods of *Neltuma juliflora* (= *chilensis*), P. R. Acc. No. 785-40, Guánica, PUERTO RICO, 12-5-40, L. F. Martorell.

Five female and 3 male paratypes, from mesquite, HAITI, 27-9-35, N. Y. 47420.

Six female and 2 male paratypes, from *Prosopis chilensis*, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Chicago No. 1126, 21-xi-41. These were submitted by the Division of Plant Quarantine, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. U. S. N. M. Type No. 56542.

The transverse pronotum, coarsely punctured laterally and finely punctulate on a broad median area; the impunctate mentum and flanks of pronotum; the very narrow prosternal process slightly wider at apex; the hind tibia with dorso-lateral line of punctures and with subequal calcaria less than half as long as basal tarsal joint; these characters separate *A. martorelli* from *A. robiniae*, *A. hoffmanseggi*, and most species of *Amblycerus* known to me. *A. hoffmanseggi* (Gyllenhal), *A. nigromarginatus* (Motschulsky), *A. obscurus* (Sharp), and *A. baeri* (Pic) may be one species judging from the descriptions, and the species I have doubtfully determined as *A. hoffmanseggi* resembles *A. martorelli* closely but the calcaria are more unequal in length, the longer outer one being one and one-half times as long as the inner and more than half as long as the basal tarsal joint and the mentum is distinctly punctured. It is found from Mexico to Brazil breeding in the seeds of several species of *Cassia* (sens. lat.). From *A. piurae* (Pierce), which breeds in *Prosopis* in Peru, *A. martorelli* differs in coloration, no part of its body and appendages being as dark as the nearly black antennae, legs, disc of elytra, breast, and sternites of *A. piurae*. They are not mere variants since the median lobe of the aedeagus in *martorelli* is much more expanded near apex and more nearly parallel sided in *piurae*. Typical examples of *A. testaceus* (Pic) from the Chaco of Argentina are very unlike *martorelli*, but I have seen associated with these entirely testaceous individuals others resembling *martorelli*. These have, however, only a few rather fine punctures on the sides of the pronotum, only visible when the pubescence is removed. Its host plant is still unknown, but seems to be neither *Prosopis* nor *Cassia*.

*Amblycerus martorelli* has been compared with all the West Indian species of *Amblycerus* in the United States National Museum, including nearly all the described species and numerous undescribed forms, and it resembles none of them at all closely. Its presence in Puerto Rico and Hispaniola seems certainly the result of accidental introduction from some unknown region of North or South America where it lives at the expense of *Prosopis chilensis*. This plant occurs in the West Indies only where it has been introduced. For the most part such introductions have occurred in recent years, but in Jamaica before the middle of the eighteenth century.