

Research Note

THE GENUS *ATAENIUS* (COLEOPTERA:SCARABAEIDAE) IN PUERTO RICO^{1,2}

A small collection of scarab beetles sent for identification to the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D. C., produced four new records of species belonging to the genus *Ataenius*. Their common name in English is Aphodian Dung Beetles. The specimens were identified by Dr. O. L. Cartwright, the specialist in the group. The specimens belong to the insect collection of the Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. They are under the care of Dr. Angel O. Berríos. The specimens were collected through the years by students in the course of general entomology, by Prof. J. A. Ramos, and by the author. The members of this genus are small, black or blackish, with expanded clypeus, and with the mandibles not visible from above, usually notched at apex. These and other characters put them in the Aphodiinae. The species usually live in cow dung and are commonly collected in light traps.

I herein record 15 species of *Ataenius* for Puerto Rico, four of them new records. The specimens in the above mentioned collection, the few records in my paper of 1967³ (hereafter "Additions"), and those listed in Wolcott's *The Insects of Puerto Rico*⁴ (hereafter "Wolcott") are the sources for these records.

COLEOPTERA

Scarabaeidae

Aphodiinae

Ataenius

A. abditus (Harold)—in Additions I say, "O. L. Cartwright . . . on second examination compared it with the type and thinks it is not *abditus* but a species close to it and may be new - from Cabo Rojo, in the USNM."

A. beattyi Chapin - in Wolcott as reported by J. A. Ramos from Mona Island.

¹ Manuscript submitted to Editorial Board December 20, 1982.

² The author thanks Dr. Wayne N. Mathis, Chairman, Department of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History, for improving the original manuscript.

³ Maldonado Capriles, J. and C. A. Navarro, 1967. Additions and corrections to Wolcott's "The Insects of Puerto Rico". *Carib. J. Sci.* 7 (1-2):45-64.

⁴ Wolcott, G. N., 1948. *The Insects of Puerto Rico*. *J. Agric. Univ. P. R.* 31 (1-4):1-975.

A. edwardsi Chapin - specimens from Santurce, Guayanilla, and Mayagüez. Recorded in Wolcott as "from Puerto Rico."

A. darlingtoni Hinton - reported in Additions as new record for Puerto Rico.

A. gracilis (Melsheimer) - reported by Wolcott as "collected from all parts of Puerto Rico". In this small collection, specimens from Mayagüez, Humacao, Añasco and Ponce.

A. havanensis Balthasar - the specimens originally identified by Cartwright as *A. miamii*, from Cabo Rojo and Mona Island, were reidentified by him as *A. havanensis*.

A. haroldi Steinheil - listed in Wolcott without locality records. A specimen from Guánica Lagoon in this collection.

A. imbricatus Melsheimer - in Wolcott as from Puerto Rico and St. Croix, and without further details.

A. liogaster Bates - recorded in Wolcott without any information, and with a question mark.

A. luteomargo Chapin - Specimens from Guánica and Carolina. Wolcott correctly says "present in Puerto Rico. . . records of *A. terminalis* Chevrolat for Puerto Rico presumably refer to *A. luteomargo*".

A. picinus Harold - in Wolcott as recorded by Ramos from Mona Island as *A. saluator*. Specimens in this collection from Guánica, Guayanilla, Cabo Rojo, San Sebastián, Mona Island, Añasco and Mayagüez. New record.

A. picipes Fleutiaux and Salle - specimens from Mayagüez and San Sebastián identified as *A. tenebrosus* were reidentified as this species. New record.

A. scutellaris Harold - specimens identified by Chapin as *A. frater* and as such recorded by Wolcott were reidentified by Cartwright as this species. Specimens from Mayagüez. New record.

A. vincentiae Arrow - specimens from Ponce and Mayagüez. New record.

J. Maldonado Capriles
Ponce School of Medicine
and Department of Plant Protection
UPR., Mayagüez