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THE FOURTH *HYLOBOTHYNUS*:
SPANNING THE AMAZONIAN GAP
(COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE:
DYNASTINAE)

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THE FOURTH *HYLOBOOTHYNUS*: SPANNING THE
AMAZONIAN GAP (COLEOPTERA:
SCARABAEIDAE: DYNASTINAE)BRETT C. RATCLIFFE¹

ABSTRACT

Hylobothynus pontis Ratcliffe is described as new from Amazonian Brazil. A key and distribution map are provided for the four species in the genus *Hylobothynus* Ohaus.

The genus *Hylobothynus* Ohaus (Pentodontini) was recently reviewed by Dechambre (1979) who described *H. arnaudi* from French Guiana. *Hylobothynus obesus* Ohaus and *H. columbianus* Endrödi are known from Ecuador, Colombia and Peru (Fig. 5). Dechambre's new species indicated an apparent disjunct distribution for the genus. Dechambre questioned whether a discontinuous distribution existed for the species in the genus or whether new discoveries were to be found in the Brazilian Amazon region. The latter is true and will continue to be so for most groups for some time to come given the fact that the Amazon Basin remains an area that has, in reality, been very poorly collected.

A new species of *Hylobothynus* is described here which helps to bridge the distributional gap previously recorded for the genus. Even so, however, vast expanses of territory await proper sampling of the entomofauna, especially on the upper Amazon and Negro, Madeira, and Purus rivers in Brazil. *Hylobothynus* and other related genera will be more accurately known only after this task is completed.

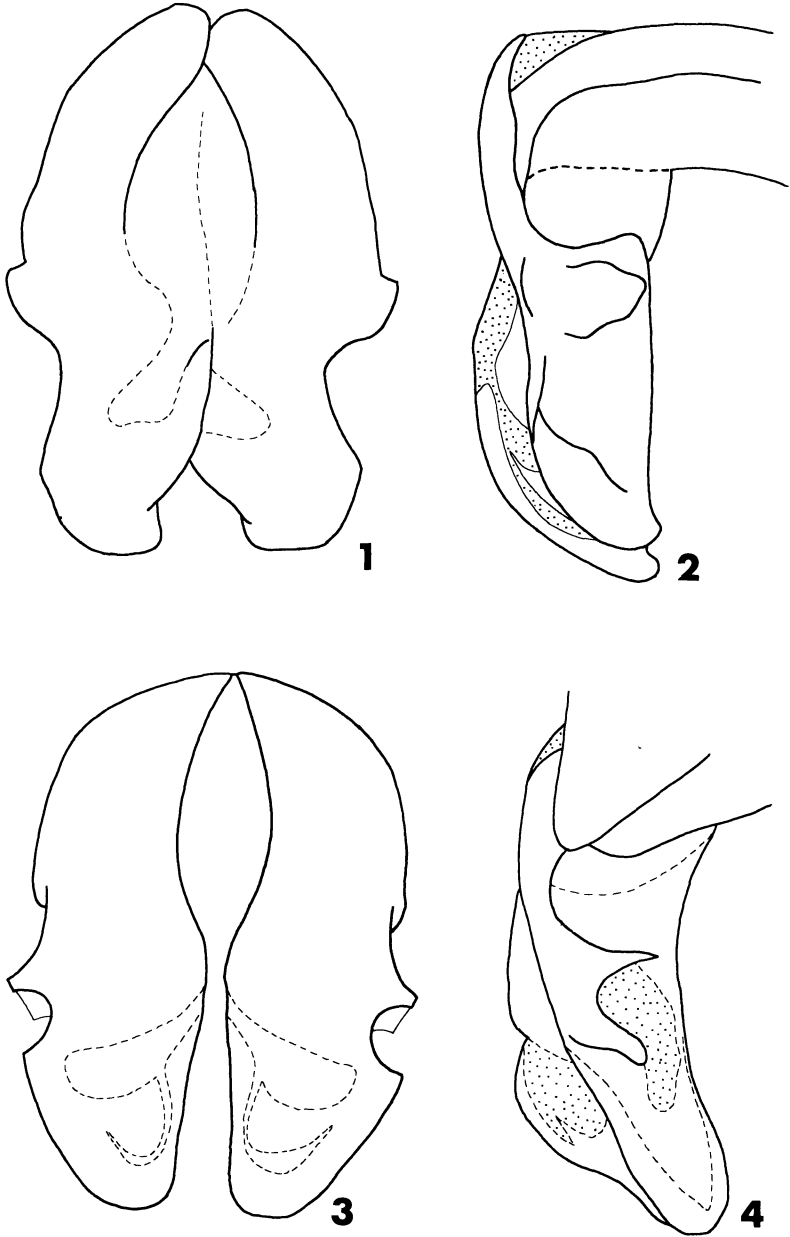
Hylobothynus pontis Ratcliffe, new species
(Figs. 1-5)

Type Material. — Holotype male, labeled "BRASIL: Amazonas, 88 km N Manaus, XI-10-1976, B. Mascarenhas." Allotype female, labeled "BRASIL: Amazonas, Reserva Campinas, 60 km N Manaus, III-3-1977. B. C. Ratcliffe." Types deposited at INPA-Manaus.

Paratypes (6) with the following data: (a) same as allotype but with date of I-14-1977 (1 female); (b) Manaus, Amazonas, BRAZIL, II-28-1977, B. Mascarenhas (1 male); (c) BRASIL: Amapá, Serra do Navio, VII-17-1961, J. & B. Bechyne (1 female); (d) BRASIL: no data but presumably Amazonas near Manaus (3 males). Paratypes deposited in the collections of the Universidade de São Paulo (São Paulo), Museo Paraense Emilio Goeldi (Belem), the U.S. National Museum (Washington, D.C.), Henry F. Howden (Ottawa), and Brett C. Ratcliffe (Lincoln).

Holotype. — Male. Length 24.3 mm; greatest width 14.0 mm. Color very dark piceous, almost black, shining. *Head*: Vertex nearly impunctate, extremely finely areolate or shagreened. Front weakly, triangularly depressed, base of triangle forming clypeofrontal carina; surface rugose to punctate, extremely finely areolate or shagreened between punctures; punctures moderately large, deep, umbilicate.

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Figs. 1-2. *Hylobothynus pontis* Ratcliffe, n. sp., caudal and lateral view of parameres. Figs. 3-4. *Hylobothynus columbianus* Endrödi, caudal and lateral view of parameres.

Clypeofrontal carina weakly produced at middle, continuous with anterior margin of eye canthus. Clypeus acuminate, basal third of lateral margins parallel, then angled sharply towards midline; apex with 2 large, acute teeth, teeth separated by a wide, deep, U-shaped notch; surface transversely, weakly rugose, very slightly depressed either side of midline. Eyes large; interocular width 2.0 transverse eye diameters. *Pronotum*: Base not margined, sides and anterior border evenly curved, margined; posterior angle round, obtuse; anterior angle acute. Surface extremely finely areolate or shagreened, sparsely punctate, becoming slightly more punctate anteriorly either side of middle; punctures moderately large, shallow. Scutellum triangular, completely impunctate. *Elytra*: Striae deeply impressed, each stria with row of large punctures; punctures deep (becoming smaller at apex), umbilicate, most separated by less than single diameter. Stria 2 absent. Striae 4-5 becoming obsolete before reaching apex; striae near humerus do not cross humeral umbone to base. Intervals extremely finely areolate or shagreened. *Pygidium*: Strongly convex in lateral view, twice as wide as long in caudal view. Margins coarsely punctate except at apex; punctures moderate in density, shallow. Surface extremely finely areolate or shagreened as on pronotum. *Genitalia* (Figs. 1-2): In caudal view, lateral wing-like projection of each paramere large, broad; apex of each paramere broadly rounded, emarginate on median edge.

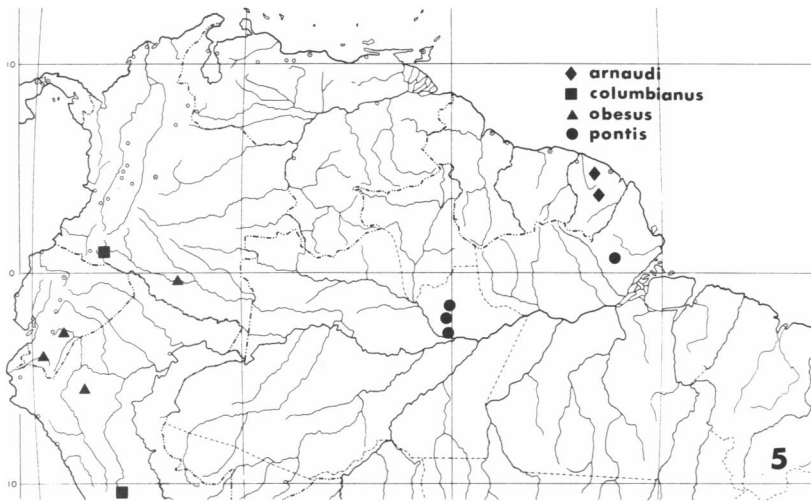


Fig. 5. Distribution map for the species of *Hylobothynus*.

Allotype. – Female. Length 28.8 mm; greatest width 16.0 mm. As holotype except in the following respects: *Pronotum*: Punctuation greatly reduced, punctures almost completely obsolete. *Elytra*: Stria 2 present for nearly half of length of elytron. *Pygidium*: Weakly convex in lateral view.

Variation. – Males (4): Length 25.0-28.0 mm; greatest width 14.9-16.5 mm. Variation is slight in the male paratypes. The punctures of the pronotum are greatly reduced (similar to that of the allotype), and the angulation of the inside apex of the paramere is not as pronounced in one example.

Females (2): Length 25.5-27.2 mm; greatest width 15.5 mm. The female paratypes do not differ appreciably from the allotype. In one example stria 2 is present as in holotype, in second example stria 2 is absent. Punctuation on the pronotum varies from as holotype to reduced as in allotype.

Remarks.—*Hylobothynus pontis* is most easily distinguished from *H. columbianus* by the form of the male genitalia (Figs. 1-4). The inside apex of each paramere in *H. pontis* is angularly emarginate whereas it is straight or nearly so in *H. columbianus*. In addition, in caudal view the lateral wing on the paramere is broad and lacking a pronounced U-shaped notch below the wing in *H. pontis* whereas the wing is slender and the notch a very pronounced "U" in *H. columbianus*.

All of the specimens of *H. pontis* described here (except for the three specimens lacking data) were taken at black light.

Etymology.—This species is referred to as a bridge because its occurrence in central Amazonia provides a connection between the eastern and western species of *Hylobothynus*.

The genus *Hylobothynus* may be most readily distinguished from other Neotropical pentodontines by the presence of a greatly expanded, triangular, apical segment of the maxillary palpus. Endrödi (1969) provided a key to the Neotropical Pentodontini, including *Hylobothynus*.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *Hylobothynus*

- | | | |
|--------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Base of pronotum margined | 2 |
| 1'. | Base of pronotum not margined | 3 |
| 2(1). | Base of pygidium impunctate or with a few large punctures.
Size greater than 30 mm | <i>obesus</i> Ohaus |
| 2'. | Base of pronotum rugopunctate. Size less than 25 mm | <i>arnaudi</i> Dechambre |
| 3(1'). | Apex of paramere broadly rounded, angularly emarginate
on inside margin in caudal view; lateral wing broad in
caudal view | <i>pontis</i> Ratcliffe, n. sp. |
| 3'. | Apex of paramere less broadly rounded, lacking an angular
emargination on inside margin in caudal view; lateral wing
slender in caudal view | <i>columbianus</i> Endrödi |

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