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March 1999

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Kissinger, David G., "Description of a new genus, *Sayapion*, from North and Central America (Coleoptera: Apionidae)" (1999). *Insecta Mundi*. 327.

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Description of a new genus, *Sayapion*, from North and Central America (Coleoptera: Apionidae)

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Abstract. A new genus, *Sayapion* Kissinger (type-species: *Apion segnipes* Say) is proposed for the 10 members of the *Apion segnipes* species group of *Coelocephalapion* Wagner orphaned when *Coelocephalapion* Wagner was raised to generic level (Kissinger, 1992). The species transferred from *Apion* to *Sayapion* as new combinations are as follows: *Sayapion aponipes* (Kissinger), *S. arizonae* (Fall), *S. basale* (Sharp), *S. cinereum* (Gerstaecker), *S. laterale* (Sharp), *S. paranipes* (Kissinger), *S. pronipes* (Kissinger), *S. segnipes* (Say), *S. sublaterale* (Kissinger), and *S. terale* (Kissinger).

Genus *Sayapion* Kissinger, new genus

Type-species. *Apion segnipes* Say.

Description. A member of Apionini. Vestiture on dorsal surface generally white, prominent, largely uniform; may be whiter and more distinct on lateral surface of prothorax, mesothorax, and metathorax. Femora, tibia, and base of antenna light reddish yellow.

Rostrum with marked sexual dimorphism; dorsal margin of scrobe oblique, may be dentiform. Frons not narrower than the dorsal tip of rostrum. Dorsal margin of head in profile more or less distinctly, broadly rounded above eye. Subcephalic ridges low, extending to near middle of eye.

Prothorax with more or less distinct basal flange, this may be reduced; sides in basal one-half vary from parallel to distinctly converging. On apex of elytra striae join as follows: 1, union between 1 and (2+9) more or less reduced, 3+4, 5+6, 7+8; intervals 7 and 9 with 1 long sensory seta near apex (may be doubled), interval 3 with short sensory setae along length.

Male characters: legs unmodified; median lobe of aedeagus comparatively long, very slender, cylindrical, in profile apex either bulbous or distinctly produced ventrally; endophallus with small to large teeth-like structures in arrangement characteristic of species, there may be large (0.200mm) sclerite at base; paramere long, slender, with long, moderately narrow apical lobes, lightly sclerotized to near apex, lacks macrochaetae; transverse clear areas separated medially; with moderately long, slender projection to distinct articulation between basal area

and free ring of basal piece, with high median longitudinal crista extending from near clear areas to well beyond basal margin; pygidium with strong transverse sulcus with a raised apical flange ("apionine type").

Discussion. The group is remarkably uniform. Four species, *basale* (Sharp), *laterale* (Sharp), *sublaterale* (Kissinger) and *terale* (Kissinger), have the frons somewhat narrower than the dorsal aspect of the rostral tip. Three species, *basale* (Sharp), *laterale* (Sharp), and *sublaterale* (Kissinger), tend to have the subcephalic ridges higher than *segnipes* (Say). Two species, *laterale* (Kissinger) and *terale* (Kissinger), have short sensory setae sparsely scattered along interval 5. The group ranges from the eastern half of North America into southern Arizona and Panama. An undetermined species has been seen from Paraguay. The group keys out to couplets 46, 47, 54, and 68-71 in the "Key to males of species of *Coelocephalapion* occurring in North and Central America" in Kissinger (1968).

References

- Kissinger, D. G. 1968. Curculionidae subfamily Apioninae of North and Central America. Taxonomic Publications, South Lancaster, Mass. 559 p.
- Kissinger, D. G. 1992. Apionidae from North and Central America. Part 4. Generic classification and introduction to the genus *Coelocephalapion* Wagner, with new species from Mexico and Venezuela (Coleoptera). *Insecta Mundi* 6(2): 65-77.