A new species of *Villiersicometes* Santos-Silva, 2003 (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Disteniinae)

Gérard-Luc Tavakilian  
*Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, tava@mnhn.fr*

Antonio Santos-Silva  
*Universidade de São Paulo, toncriss@uol.com.br*

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/insectamundi

Part of the Entomology Commons

https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/insectamundi/746

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Systematic Entomology, Gainesville, Florida at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Insecta Mundi by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.
A new species of *Villiersicometes* Santos-Silva, 2003 (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Disteniinae)

Gérard L. Tavakilian
Antenne IRD, Entomologie
Département de Systématique et Évolution
Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle
45, rue Buffon, F-75005 Paris

Antonio Santos-Silva
Museu de Zoologia
Universidade de São Paulo
Caixa Postal 42.494
04218-970, São Paulo, SP, Brasil

Date of Issue: June 15, 2012
A new species of *Villiersicometes* Santos-Silva, 2003
(Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Disteniinae)
*Insecta Mundi* 0233: 1-3

**Published in 2012 by**
Center for Systematic Entomology, Inc.
P. O. Box 141874
Gainesville, FL 32614-1874 USA
http://www.centerforsystematicentomology.org/

*Insecta Mundi* is a journal primarily devoted to insect systematics, but articles can be published on any non-marine arthropod. Topics considered for publication include systematics, taxonomy, nomenclature, checklists, faunal works, and natural history. *Insecta Mundi* will not consider works in the applied sciences (i.e. medical entomology, pest control research, etc.), and no longer publishes book reviews or editorials. *Insecta Mundi* publishes original research or discoveries in an inexpensive and timely manner, distributing them free via open access on the internet on the date of publication.

*Insecta Mundi* is referenced or abstracted by several sources including the Zoological Record, CAB Abstracts, etc. *Insecta Mundi* is published irregularly throughout the year, with completed manuscripts assigned an individual number. Manuscripts must be peer reviewed prior to submission, after which they are reviewed by the editorial board to ensure quality. One author of each submitted manuscript must be a current member of the Center for Systematic Entomology. Manuscript preparation guidelines are available at the CSE website.

**Managing editor:** Paul E. Skelley, e-mail: insectamundi@gmail.com

**Production editor:** Michael C. Thomas, Brian Armitage, Ian Stocks

**Editorial board:** J. H. Frank, M. J. Paulsen

**Subject editors:** G.B. Edwards, J. Eger, A. Rasmussen, F. Shockley, G. Steck, Ian Stocks, A. Van Pelt, J. Zaspel

**Spanish editors:** Julieta Brambila, Angélico Asenjo

**Printed copies (ISSN 0749-6737) deposited in libraries of:**
CSIRO, Canberra, ACT, Australia
Museu de Zoologia, São Paulo, Brazil
Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, Ottawa, ON, Canada
The Natural History Museum, London, Great Britain
Muzeum i Instytut Zoologiczny PAN, Warsaw, Poland
National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan
California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA, USA
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Gainesville, FL, USA
Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL, USA
National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA
Zoological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint-Petersburg, Russia

**Electronic copies (On-Line ISSN 1942-1354, CDROM ISSN 1942-1362) in PDF format:**
Printed CD mailed to all members at end of year.
Florida Center for Library Automation: http://purl.fcla.edu/fcla/insectamundi
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Digital Commons: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/insectamundi/
Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main: http://edocs.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/volltexte/2010/14363/

**Author instructions** available on the Insecta Mundi page at:
http://www.centerforsystematicentomology.org/insectamundi/

Copyright held by the author(s). This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons, Attribution Non-Commercial License, which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author(s) and source are credited. http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/
A new species of Villiersicometes Santos-Silva, 2003  
(Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Disteniinae)

Gérard L. Tavakilian  
Antenne IRD, Entomologie  
Département de Systématique et Évolution  
Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle  
45, rue Buffon, F-75005 Paris  
tava@mnhn.fr

Antonio Santos-Silva  
Museu de Zoologia  
Universidade de São Paulo  
Caixa Postal 42.494  
04218-970, São Paulo, SP, Brasil  
toncriss@uol.com.br

Abstract. Villiersicometes absalom sp. nov., a new species of Villiersicometes Santos-Silva, 2003 (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Disteniinae) is described from French Guiana. The species is illustrated and a key to the species of the genus is provided.

Keywords. French Guiana; New species; Taxonomy.

Introduction

Villiers (1957) described Microcometes to accommodate M. bijubatus Gounelle, 1911, M. wagneri Gounelle, 1911 and M. lineatus Villiers, 1957. Santos-Silva (2003) noted that Microcometes Villiers, 1957 was a junior homonym of Microcometes Cienkowski, 1875 (Protozoa) and established Villiersicometes as a new name for Microcometes Villiers.

Santos-Silva and Martins (2010) reviewed Villiersicometes and commented that all differences pointed out for the three species (C. wagneri, C. bijubatus and C. lineatus) are specific and/or sexual variations, not associated with any locality. However, they chose to keep the three species as valid until the types could be examined in loco. We examined photo of a paratype of C. lineatus, and more recently a specimen from Paraíba (Brazil). This latter suggests that C. lineatus is a distinct species.

This new species differs considerably from others in the genus, making it easily recognizable.

The collection acronyms used in the text are as follows:
MNHN — Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France  
MZSP — Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

Villiersicometes absalom sp. nov.  
(Fig. 1, 2)

Diagnosis. Villiersicometes absalom sp. nov. differs from other species in the genus by: larger size (length can surpass 6 mm); elytral base orangish, well delimited, distinctly contrasting with the remaining color. Other species in the genus are smaller (length always less than 6 mm), the elytra do not have an orangish area at base (in V. lineatus Villiers, 1957 the lighter area of the elytra is not restricted to the base and distinctly surpasses the middle).

Etymology. In the Bible, Absalom, David’s handsome son, was killed by Joab who found him caught by the branches of a tree, due to his very long hair. It is considered a noun in apposition.
Description. Male (Fig. 1). Integument dark-brown; parts of mouthparts, pedicel and antennomeres III-V or III-IV brown; part of coxae and trochanters lighter brown; elytral base orangish (including humeri and scutellum); dark portions of elytra with violaceous reflections, ascending along the suture towards the scutellum, but not reaching it, and along the epipleuron up to base of humerus.

Upper ocular lobes reaching the level of the apex of antennal tubercles; distance between upper ocular lobes equal to 1.3 times largest width of the scape. Last segment of maxillary palps strongly thickened, truncate at apex. Antennae 1.5 times longer than body; scape 1.1 times longer than antennomere III, slightly curved at inner base, not distinctly narrowed at basal third.

Prothorax longitudinal; lateral tubercles small, acute, projected and placed before middle. Pronotum with short setae, decumbent, whitish and moderately dense. Elytra very coarsely confluent punctate throughout; each elytron with two distinct carinae, starting at base: the innermost only surpassing the middle of the elytron; the outermost reaching the apical third to fourth; setae rather short, bristling, aligned in streaks on basal two-thirds; elytral apex truncate. Prosternal process distinctly narrowed towards apex; apex slightly rounded; setae long, relatively abundant. Metasternum with violaceous reflections; punctuation coarse, shallow, more dense towards metepisterna and finer and sparser towards central sulcus; setae long, decumbent. Ventrites with violet reflections; punctuation moderately coarse (in parts finer), shallow and more dense laterally; setae long, not notably dense.

Female (Fig. 2). Very similar to the male. Differing by the shape of last segment of maxillary palps, distinctly narrower and fusiform.

Dimensions in mm (male/female). Total length, 5.4-6.5/6.4; prothorax: central length, 0.9-1.0/1.0; width between apex of lateral tubercles, 1.0-1.2/1.1; anterior width, 0.8-0.9/0.9; posterior width, 0.8-0.9/0.9; humeral width, 1.1-1.2/1.3; elytral length, 3.7-4.5/4.3.

Type material. Holotype male, from FRENCH GUIANA: Route de Kaw (pk 46; light trapping), 28.VIII.1986, G. Tavakilian coll. (ex collection IRD # 984 in MNHN). Paratypes, 1 male and 1 female, both from French Guiana, as follows: Male ♂ Haute Courcibo (DZ EDF; light trapping), 16.VII.1990, J.-M. Baloup coll. (MZSP); Female - Piste de Bélizon (Pk 24; light trapping), 06.VIII.1991, A. Docquin & Sénécaux coll. (MNHN).
Key to the species of Villiersicometes

1. At least the apical two-thirds of elytra completely dark metallic blue. French Guiana ................................................................. V.absalom sp. nov.
   — Apical two-thirds of elytra brownish or greenish, never with metallic color ...................................... 2

2(1). Elytra with brownish and distinct stripe on basal two-thirds of sutural region. Brazil (Bahia, Espírito Santo) ................................................................. V. lineatus (Villiers, 1958)
   — Elytra without brownish stripe on basal two-thirds of sutural region ........................................ 3

3(2). Slender body; distance between elytral setae in the striae greater than their length. Brazil (Pernambuco, Espírito Santo?, Rio Grande do Sul?) ....... V. bijubatus (Gounelle, 1911)
   — Robust body; distance between elytral setae in the striae equal or shorter than their length. Brazil (Bahia, Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, São Paulo, Santa Catarina, Rio Grande do Sul), Argentina (Misiones) ................................................................. V. wagneri (Gounelle, 1911)

Acknowledgments

We express our gratitude to Daniel Heffern (Texas, USA) and Ian P. Swift (California State Collection of Arthropods, USA) for reviewing our manuscript.

Literature Cited


Received March 26, 2012; Accepted April 13, 2012