



Dung beetles of the tribe Phanaeini (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae) from Roraima state, Northern Brazil: checklist and key to species

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Abstract: Phanaeini comprises about 160 species in 12 genera restricted to the Americas. Since the diversity of this tribe remains little known in several regions of Brazil, this study presents a guide to its 13 species with presence in the biologically rich and largely unexplored state of Roraima: *Coprophanaeus (Coprophanaeus) abas* (MacLeay, 1819), *C. (C.) dardanus* (MacLeay, 1819), *C. (C.) gamezi* Arnaud, 2002, *C. (C.) jasius* (Olivier, 1789), *C. (Megaphanaeus) lancifer* (Linnaeus, 1767), *Oxysternon (Oxysternon) conspicillatum* *conspicillatum* Werber, 1801, *O. (O.) durantoni* Arnaud, 1984, *O. (O.) ebeninum* (Nevinson, 1890), *O. (O.) festivum viridanum* (Olsoufieff, 1924), *O. (O.) silenus chicheryi* Arnaud, 2001, *Phanaeus (Notiophanaeus) bispinus* Bates, 1868, *P. (N.) bordoni* Arnaud, 1996 (first record from Brazil), and *Sulcophanaeus faunus* (Fabricius, 1775). The species of *Dendropaemon* were not considered herein because the genus is presently under taxonomic revision.

Keywords: Inventory, Amazon, Guyana Shield.

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Resumo: Phanaeini abrange cerca de 160 espécies pertencentes a 12 gêneros restritos às Américas. Como a diversidade desta tribo permanece pouco conhecida em diversas regiões do Brasil, este estudo apresenta um guia de identificação das 13 espécies com registro de ocorrência no estado biologicamente rico e amplamente inexplorado de Roraima: *Coprophanaeus (Coprophanaeus) abas* (MacLeay, 1819), *C. (C.) dardanus* (MacLeay, 1819), *C. (C.) gamezi* Arnaud, 2002, *C. (C.) jasius* (Olivier, 1789), *C. (Megaphanaeus) lancifer* (Linnaeus, 1767), *Oxysternon (Oxysternon) conspicillatum* *conspicillatum* Werber, 1801, *O. (O.) durantoni* Arnaud, 1984, *O. (O.) ebeninum* (Nevinson, 1890), *O. (O.) festivum viridanum* (Olsoufieff, 1924), *O. (O.) silenus chicheryi* Arnaud, 2001, *Phanaeus (Notiophanaeus) bispinus* Bates, 1868, *P. (N.) bordoni* Arnaud, 1996 (que aqui é reportado pela primeira vez no Brasil), e *Sulcophanaeus faunus* (Fabricius, 1775). As espécies do gênero *Dendropaemon* não foram incluídas no trabalho por estarem em processo de revisão taxonômica.

Palavras-chave: Inventário, Amazônia, Escudo das Guianas.

Introduction

Dung beetles of the subfamily Scarabaeinae are primarily scavengers that feed mostly on carrion, animal excrement and decomposing fruits (Halfpter & Matthews 1966). Thus, such insects display a crucial role in the balance of several ecosystems, representing highly informative bioindicators regarding the conservation status of tropical environments (Halfpter & Favila 1993). Such a peculiar feeding biology renders to dung beetles enormous ecological importance, acting directly in the fertilization and renewal of the soil, in the biological control of agricultural pests and also as secondary seed dispersal (Nichols *et al.* 2008).

The tribe Phanaeini was introduced by Hope (1838) without further comments, and was defined in more details by Kolbe (1905) who, based on the cup-like shape of the antennal club and lack of protarsi, included in this group the following genera: *Phanaeus* MacLeay, 1819, *Oruscatus* Bates, 1870, *Gromphas* Brullé, 1837, *Bolbites* Harold, 1868, *Dendropaemon* Perty, 1830 and *Megatharsis* Waterhouse, 1891. Gillet (1911) added the genera *Ennearabdus* van Lansberge, 1874a and *Pleronyx* van Lansberge, 1874b (then spelled *Pteronyx*) to Kolbe's (1905) group, formally allocating it as a subtribe of Coprini. Thirteen years later, d'Olsoufieff (1924) removed *Ennearabdus* and *Pteronyx* (*sic*), included *Diabroctis* Gistel, 1857 (as its synonym *Taurocopsis*

d’Olsoufieff, 1924), *Oxysternon* Castelnau, 1840 and *Tetramereia* Klages, 1907 (then described as new as *Boucomontius* d’Olsoufieff, 1924). In addition, the same author splitted *Phanaeus* into five subgenera: *Phanaeus*, and the new taxa *Sulcophanaeus*, *Coprophanaeus*, *Metallophanaeus* and *Megaphanaeus*. Based on the system proposed by d’Olsoufieff, Edmonds (1972) elevated *Sulcophanaeus* and *Coprophanaeus* to genus level. Furthermore Edmonds (1972) described *Mioxysternon* as a subgenus of *Oxysternon*, and subgenera *Paradendropaemon* and *Coprophanaeoides* for the genus *Dendropaemon*. More recently, Edmonds (1994) described *Notiophanaeus* as a subgenus of *Phanaeus* and Arnaud (2002) described *Pteroxysternon* as a subgenus of *Oxysternon*.

Geographically restricted to the New World, the tribe *Phanaeini* includes around 160 species and 12 genera allocated in the subtribes *Phanaeina* and *Gromphadina* (Cupello & Vaz-de-Mello 2013). *Phanaeini* systematics is yet in discussion. In the field of alpha taxonomy, taxa of the group have been the subject of recent taxonomic revisions and of much discussion regarding validity of several species and subspecies (Arnaud 1996, 1996b, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2002b, 2002c, 2004, Edmonds 1994, Edmonds & Zídek 2004, 2010, 2012, Cupello & Vaz-de-Mello 2013, 2013b, Kohlmann & Solis 2012). Phylogenetic studies are scarce and the debate regarding the identity of the tribe is still open. Zunino (1983, 1985) failed to recover *Phanaeini* as a clade, allocating its 12 genera to the tribe *Onitini* (Gromphadina [then spelled Gromphina] + (Onitina + Phanaeina)); in contrast, Philips *et al.* (2004) recovered a monophyletic *Phanaeini* supported by 14 morphological synapomorphies. One less inclusive approach by Price (2007) based on 67 morphological characters suggests that the genera *Phanaeus* and *Oxysternon* are not reciprocally monophyletic. Based on morphological and molecular data, Price (2009) recovers *Phanaeus* as polyphyletic, with representatives of *Coprophanaeus*, *Sulcophanaeus*, and *Oxysternon* nested within its terminals. Finally Tarasov & Génier (2015) recover *Phanaeini* as monophyletic with the genus *Ennearabdus* appearing as its sister group forming Neotropical clade.

The Brazilian state of Roraima lies on the Guiana Shield, northern South America. In terms of natural landscapes, Roraima is highly heterogeneous; while dense Amazonian forests predominate in the southern portion of the state, open savannah spots

locally referred by ‘lavrados’ are common in central Roraima. In contrast, mountainous formations characterize the northern area of the state, where there is the Pacaraima range, the geographic divisor of the Amazonas and Orinoco basins. Such a geomorphological plasticity is evidently associated to an enormous complexity of microhabitats, rendering Roraima a high biodiversity of animals and plants (IBGE 1977).

According to Vaz-de-Mello (2000), the diversity of dung beetles of Roraima is poorly known; considering all trustworthy records, there are only 47 Scarabaeinae species documented in the state. Nonetheless, considering the ecological importance of the group, the knowledge on the scarab diversity and the availability of tools allowing precise identification of species are crucial to provide proper support to future studies of conservational concern. Herein we provide a detailed inventory of the *Phanaeini* species occurring in the limits of the Roraima state, presented as a checklist of species containing detailed geographic data, as well as a key to species and an illustrated guide.

Materials and Methods

We examined specimens from the following entomological collections (acronyms in parentheses): Setor de Entomologia da Coleção Zoológica da Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso, Departamento de Biologia e Zoologia, Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brasil (CEMT), Coleção de Invertebrados do Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus, Amazonas, Brasil (INPA), and Patrick and Florent Arnaud private collection, Saintry sur Seine, France (CPFA). In addition, we performed an extensive investigation of the literature approaching South American Scarabaeine (species descriptions, taxonomic revisions and regional inventories) computing all trustworthy records attributed to Roraima localities.

Results and Discussion

We reported 13 species of the tribe *Phanaeini* from localities within the limits of the state of Roraima (Table 1), since the publication of the most recent studies making reference to

Table 1. Checklist of *Phanaeini* species known to occur in Roraima.

Species	Record
<i>Coprophanaeus</i> (<i>Coprophanaeus</i>) <i>abas</i> (MacLeay, 1819)*	CEMT
<i>Coprophanaeus</i> (<i>Coprophanaeus</i>) <i>dardanus</i> (MacLeay, 1819)	Edmonds & Zídek, 2010; Cupello & Vaz-de-Mello, 2013b; CEMT
<i>Coprophanaeus</i> (<i>Coprophanaeus</i>) <i>gamezi</i> Arnaud, 2002	Edmonds & Zídek, 2010; CEMT; CPFA
<i>Coprophanaeus</i> (<i>Coprophanaeus</i>) <i>jasius</i> (Olivier, 1789)*	CEMT
<i>Coprophanaeus</i> (<i>Megaphanaeus</i>) <i>lancifer</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)*	CEMT
<i>Oxysternon</i> (<i>Oxysternon</i>) <i>conspicillatum</i> <i>conspicillatum</i> Weber, 1801	Arnaud, 2002; CEMT
<i>Oxysternon</i> (<i>Oxysternon</i>) <i>durantoni</i> Arnaud, 1984	Vaz-de-Mello, 1999; CEMT
<i>Oxysternon</i> (<i>Oxysternon</i>) <i>ebeninum</i> (Nevinson, 1890)	Arnaud, 2002; CEMT; CPFA
<i>Oxysternon</i> (<i>Oxysternon</i>) <i>festivum viridanum</i> (Arnaud, 2002)*	CEMT; INPA; CPFA
<i>Oxysternon</i> (<i>Oxysternon</i>) <i>silenus</i> <i>chicheryi</i> Arnaud, 2001	Arnaud, 2001; CPFA
<i>Phanaeus</i> (<i>Notiophanaeus</i>) <i>bispinus</i> Bates, 1868*	CEMT
<i>Phanaeus</i> (<i>Notiophanaeus</i>) <i>bordoni</i> Arnaud, 1996*	CEMT
<i>Sulcophanaeus</i> <i>faunus</i> (Fabricius, 1775)*	CEMT

* = new state records.

Table 2. New records of species of Phanaeini from Roraima, their localities and examined specimens.

Species	Examined specimens from Roraima
<i>Coprophanaeus (Coprophanaeus) abas</i> (MacLeay, 1819)	BRASIL: Roraima: Amajari, Ilha de Maracá, IX-1996, Ribeiro & Vaz-de-Mello (CEMT: 1♂, 3♀♀).
<i>Coprophanaeus (Coprophanaeus) jasius</i> (Olivier, 1789)	BRASIL: Roraima: Amajari, Ilha de Maracá, IX-1996, Ribeiro & Vaz-de-Mello (CEMT: 6♂♂, 11♀♀); V-2009, Andrade (CEMT: 1♀); Cantá, Serra Negra, IX-1996, Ribeiro & Vaz-de-Mello (CEMT: 2♂♂, 1♀). Pacaraima, BV8, IX-1996, Ribeiro & Vaz-de-Mello (CEMT: 1♂, 2♀♀). Mucajáí, Rio Apiaú, VII-1997 Vaz-de-Mello (CEMT: 2♀♀).
<i>Coprophanaeus (Megaphanaeus) lancifer</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)	BRASIL: Roraima: Amajari, Ilha de Maracá, IX-1996, Ribeiro & Vaz-de-Mello (CEMT: 16♂♂, 10♀♀); V-2009, Andrade (CEMT: 5♂♂, 11♀♀).
<i>Oxysternon (Oxysternon) festivum viridanum</i> (Arnaud, 2002)	BRASIL: Roraima: Amajari, Ilha de Maracá, IX-1996, Ribeiro & Vaz-de-Mello (CEMT: 7♂♂, 15♀♀); V-2009, Andrade (CEMT: 15♂♂, 62♀♀); Boa Vista, mata, 23-XI-2008, França (CEMT: 2♀♀).
<i>Phanaeus (Notiophanaeus) bispinus</i> Bates, 1868	BRASIL: Roraima: Amajari, Ilha de Maracá, IX-1996, Ribeiro & Vaz-de-Mello (CEMT: 1♀).
<i>Phanaeus (Notiophanaeus) bordoni</i> Arnaud, 1996	BRASIL: Roraima: Amajari, Ilha de Maracá, V-2009, Andrade (CEMT: 1♂).
<i>Sulcophanaeus faunus</i> (Fabricius, 1775)	BRASIL: Roraima: Amajari, Ilha de Maracá, IX-1996, Ribeiro & Vaz-de-Mello (CEMT: 1♂).

Roraima (Vaz-de-Mello 2000, Arnaud 2002, Edmonds & Zídek 2010, Cupello & Vaz-de-Mello 2013b).

Vaz-de-Mello (1999) mentioned *Oxysternon (O.) durantoni* as the first Phanaeini record to Roraima; two years later, Arnaud (2001) described *O. (O.) silemus chicheryi* from the confluence of the rivers Negro and Branco. Arnaud (2002) added *O. (O.) conspicillatum conspicillatum*, *O. (O.) ebeninum* and *O. (Mioxysternon) spiniferum spiniferum* as state records; however, the latter record is an error due to confusion of the abbreviations of the states Rondônia (RO) and Roraima (RR) (FZVM, personal observation in CPFA). In a taxonomic revision of *Oxysternon*, Edmonds & Zídek (2004) synonymized *O. festivum festivum* and *O. f. viridanum* mentioning one specimen from Roraima. In the same year, Arnaud (2004) resurrected *O. f. viridanum*. After examining specimens from the same localities that based Edmond & Zídek's (2004) decisions, we concluded that their record of Roraima shall be attributed to *O. f. viridanum* (sensu Arnaud, 2004). Edmonds & Zídek (2010) added *Coprophanaeus (C.) dardanus* and *C. (C.) gamezi* as state records. Finally Cupello & Vaz-de-Mello (2013) mention again *C. (C.) dardanus*.

In the holdings of CEMT, we recovered specimens of *Coprophanaeus (C.) abas*, *C. (C.) jasius*, *C. (Megaphanaeus) lancifer*, *Oxysternon (Oxysternon.) festivum viridanum*, *Phanaeus (Notiophanaeus) bispinus*, *P. (N.) bordoni* and *Sulcophanaeus faunus*, all representing new state records (Table 2). *Oxysternon (Mioxysternon) spiniferum*, *Phanaeus chalcomelas*, *P. cambeforti*, all widespread in Amazonia, were not recorded in our samples; nonetheless, we included these species in our identification key, considering its potential occurrence in Roraima, as well as the Phanaeini genera *Gromphas* and *Dendropaemon*.

Key to the species of Phanaeini from Roraima

1. Basal antennomere of antennal club not concave apically, two apical antennomeres not embraced by basal antennomere and

clearly visible... ***Gromphas* Brullé, 1837** (Figure 3GJ)

Basal antennomere of antennal club concave apically, two apical antennomeres embraced by basal antennomere (Figure 3F) ... 2

2. Mesotarsus and metatarsus with two or three tarsomeres (Figure 3M) ... ***Dendropaemon* Perty, 1830**

Mesotarsus and metatarsus with five tarsomeres ... 3

3. Clypeus anteriorly without strong emargination; if toothed, teeth external with respect to clypeal margin. Tooth of protibiae rounded ... 4

Clypeus with two acute teeth separated by a strong "V"-shaped emargination, and with external emarginations separating them from adjacent clypeal border, producing the two acute external lobes. Protibiae with four strongly pronounced teeth... ***Coprophanaeus* d'Oloufieff, 1924** (Figure 1) ... 6

4. Metasternum without spiniform process ... 5

Metasternum with curved spiniform process extending between apexes of procoxae... ***Oxysternon* Castelnau, 1840** (Figure 2C) ... 10

5. Body very large (superior to 25 mm) and with black color. Anterior margin of pronotum (circumnotal ridge) not interrupted behind each eye ... ***Sulcophanaeus faunus* (Fabricius, 1775)** (Figure 3KL)

Body size less than 25 mm, dorsally with brown color or black with green or blue metallic reflections. Anterior margin of pronotum (circumnotal ridge) interrupted behind each eye ... ***Phanaeus (Notiophanaeus)* Edmonds, 1994** ... 15

6. Very large, usually longer than 28 mm. Elitral interstriae with strong transverse carinae. Dorsum color metallic, predominantly blue. Cephalic horn long and slightly tapering towards apex ... ***Coprophanaeus (Megaphanaeus) lancifer* (Linnaeus, 1767)** (Figure 1IJ)

Small to medium size, rarely exceeding 28 mm. Elitral interstriae weakly convex, without strong sculpture. Varied

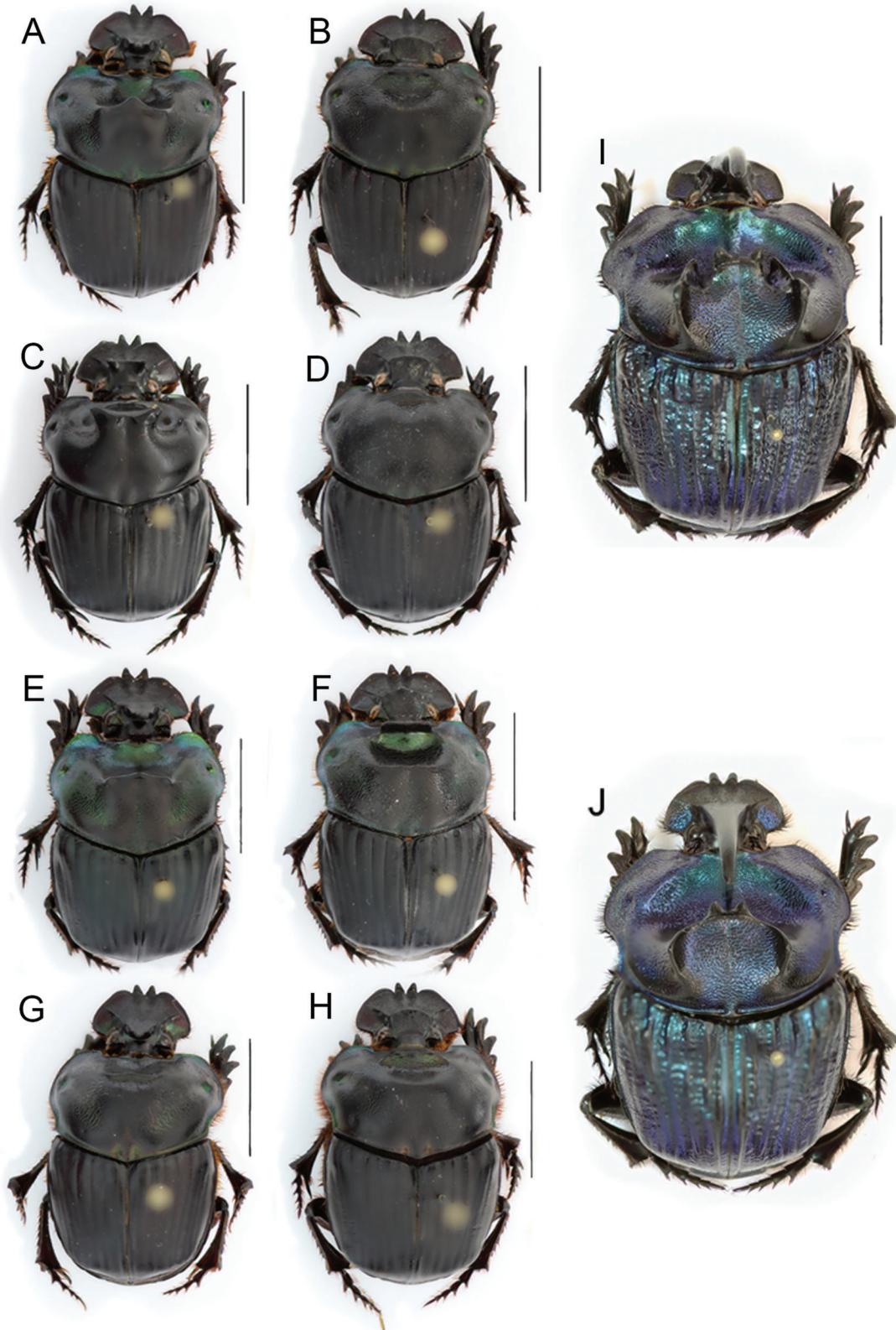


Figure 1. Species of the genus *Coprophanaeus* reported from Roraima: A - *C. abas* (male), B - *C. abas* (female), C - *C. dardanus* (male), D - *C. dardanus* (female), E - *C. gamezi* (male), F - *C. gamezi* (female), G - *C. jasius* (male), H - *C. jasius* (female), I - *C. lancifer* (male), J - *C. lancifer* (female). Scale bars = 10 mm.

Phanaeini (Coleoptera: Scarabaeinae) from Roraima

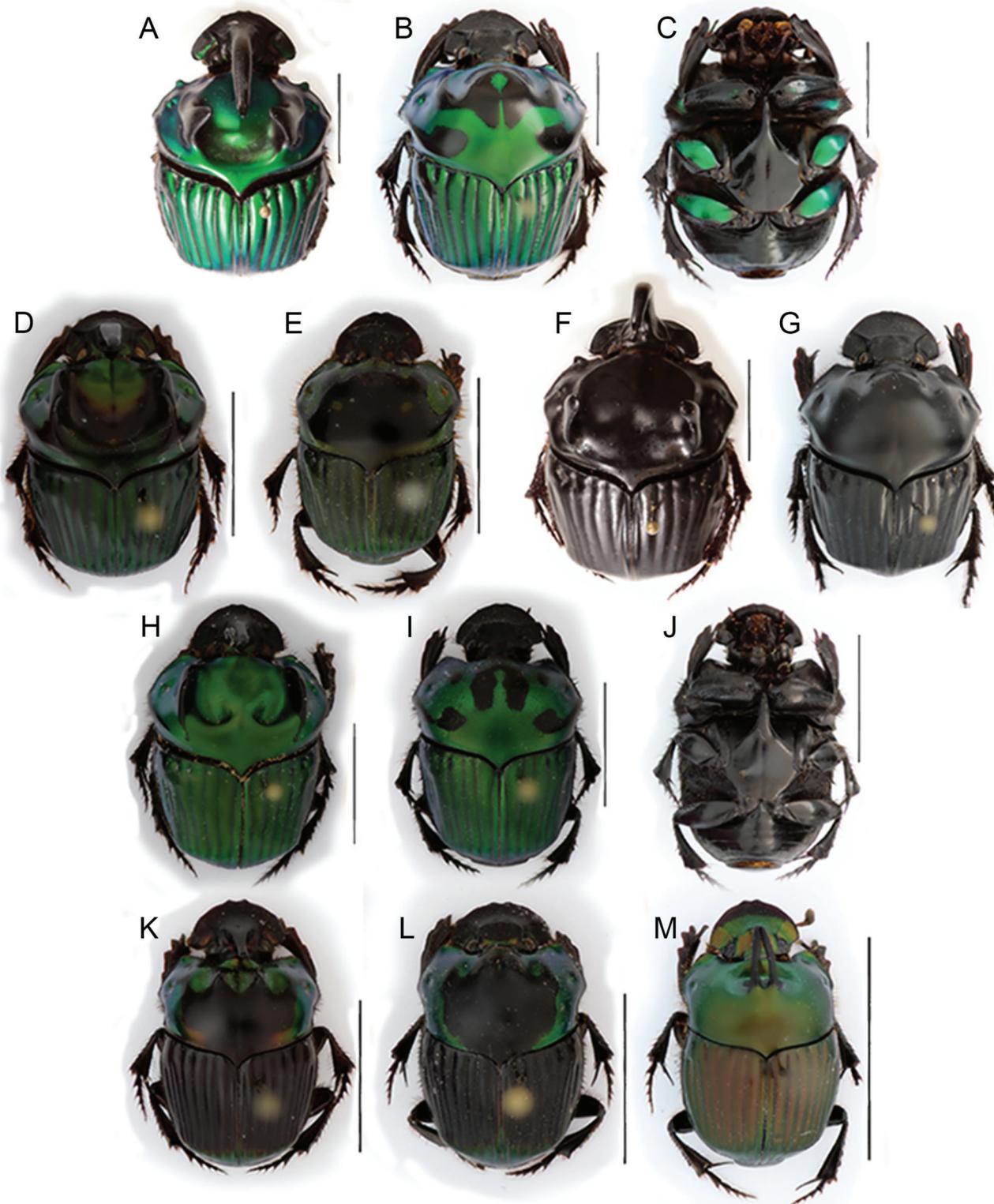


Figure 2. Species of the genus *Oxysternon* reported from or potentially occurring in Roraima: A - *O. conspicillatum conspicillatum* (male), B - *O. conspicillatum conspicillatum* (dorsal view, female), C - *O. conspicillatum conspicillatum* (ventral view, female), D - *O. durantoni* (male), E - *O. durantoni* (female), F - *O. ebeninum* (male), G - *O. ebeninum* (female), H - *O. festivum viridanum* (male), I - *O. festivum viridanum* (dorsal view, female), J - *O. festivum viridanum* (ventral view, female), K - *O. silenus chicheryi* (male), L - *O. silenus chicheryi* (female), M - *O. spiniferum spiniferum* (male). Scale bars = 10 mm.

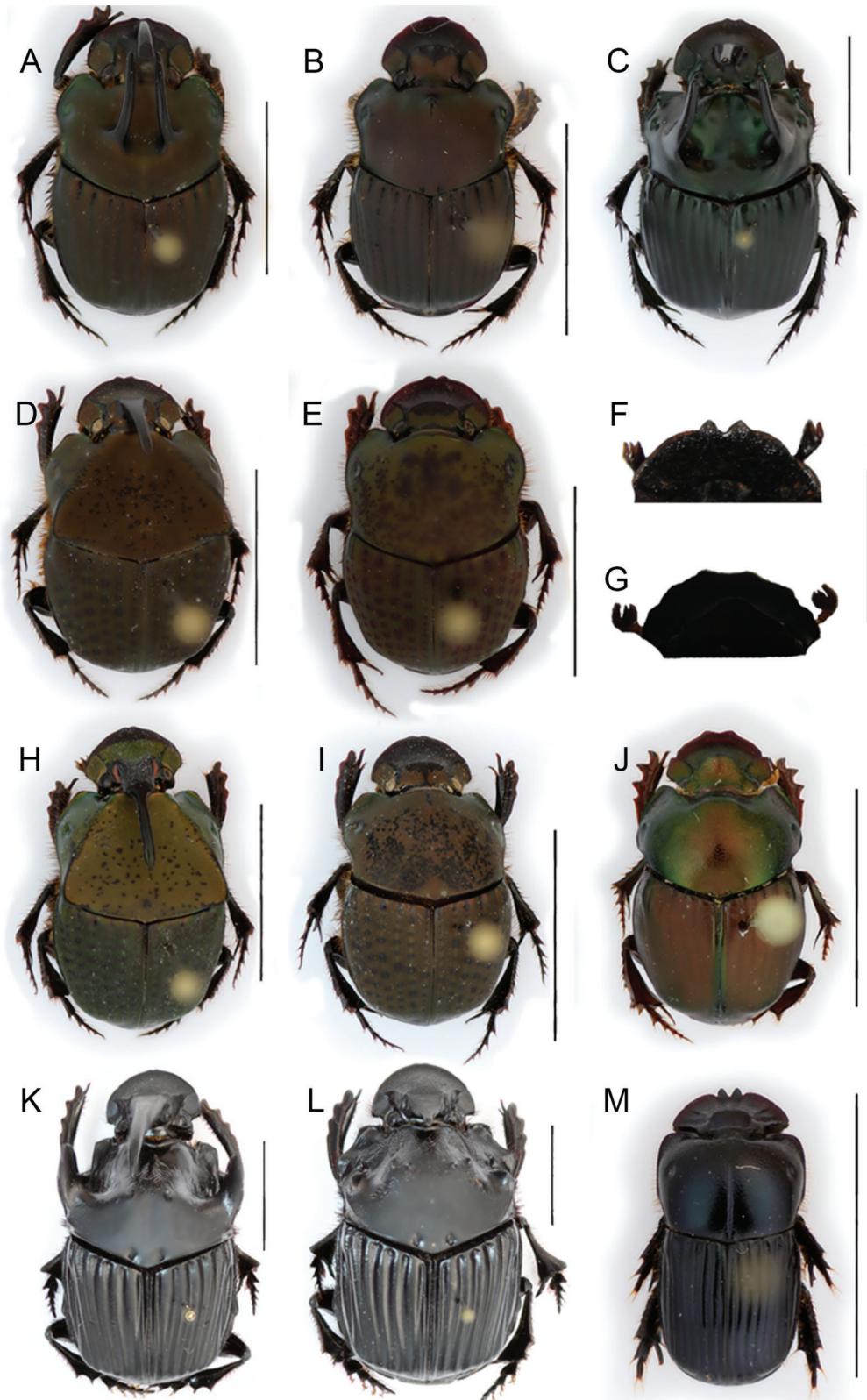


Figure 3. Species of the genera *Dendropaemon*, *Gromphas*, *Phanaeus* and *Sulcophanaeus* reported from or potentially occurring in Roraima: A - *Phanaeus bispinus* (male), B - *P. bispinus* (female), C - *P. bordoni* (male), D - *P. cambeforti* (male), E - *P. cambeforti* (female), F - anterior part of head of *Dendropaemon viridipennis*, G - anterior part of head of *Gromphas* sp., H - *Phanaeus chalcomelas* (male), I - *P. chalcomelas* (female), J - *Gromphas aeruginosa*, K - *Sulcophanaeus faunus* (male), L - *S. faunus* (female), M - *Dendropaemon* sp. Scale bars = 10 mm.

- coloration, but elytra in the middle and posterior part of pronotum always black. Male cephalic horn laminate... *Coprophanaeus (Coprophanaeus) d'Oloufieff, 1924* ... 7
7. Anterior margin of pronotum (circumnotal ridge) interrupted behind each eye. Frontoclypeal carina of males rectangular, with two horns in extremes sides. Pronotum of males with strong bilobed projection, with an oval concavity at each side, below it; anterolateral portions strongly deep ... *Coprophanaeus (Coprophanaeus) dardanus* (MacLeay, 1819) (Figure 1CD)
- Anterior margin of pronotum (circumnotal ridge) not interrupted behind each eye. Frontoclypeal carina of males with trituberous horn. Pronotum of males with either one or three apical tubercles in central projection, anterolateral portions not deep ... 8
8. Posteromedian region of pronotum strongly punctured, especially between the fossae; pronotum of large males with three tubercles almost aligned; tubercles of females pronotum not distinct, only with a high ridge in anteromedian region. Species associated with savannah formations ... *Coprophanaeus (Coprophanaeus) gamezi* Arnaud, 2002 (Figure 1EF)
- Posteromedian region of pronotum weakly punctured, smooth between the fossae. Species associated with forest formations, sympatrical ... 9
9. Pronotum of large males with central tubercle longer than lateral tubercles, triangularly expanded with an obtuse tip; in females anteromedian region of pronotum with a high transverse carina, rectangular in posterior view ... *Coprophanaeus (Coprophanaeus) abas* (MacLeay, 1819) (Figure 1AB)
- Pronotum of large males with central tubercle not much larger than others, not triangularly expanded, small and with acute tip; in females anteromedial region with a high transverse carina, trapeziform in posterior view ... *Coprophanaeus (Coprophanaeus) jasius* (Olivier, 1789) (Figure 1GH)
10. Specimens longer than 15 mm. Clypeus with one transversally oriented ventral carina... *Oxysternon (Oxysternon) Castelnau, 1840* ... 11
- Specimens up to 13 mm long. Clypeus without ventral carina ... *Oxysternon (Mioxysternon) spiniferum* Castelnau, 1840 (Figure 2M)
11. Elytra bicolored, dorsally black but with metallic posteriad and laterad. Pronotum green with red metallic reflexes, generally with one black spot in its median region. Pronotum of males with two small tubercles ... *Oxysternon (Oxysternon) silenus chicheryi* Arnaud, 2001 (Figure 2KL)
- Elytra unicolored, entirely green (except for striae that appear black in first glance) or black. Large males usually with two large tubercles in pronotum ... 12
12. Femora ventrally green. Elytra and pronotum also green, with black spots in female pronotum. Cephalic horn of males usually large and curved towards the median region of pronotum. Pronotum of males with one median depression forming two lateral carinae, and in the apex with two large tubercles curved towards the middle ... *Oxysternon (Oxysternon) conspicillatum conspicillatum* (Weber, 1801) (Figure 2ABC)
- Middle and posterior femora ventrally black, other characters variable ... 13
13. Coloration uniformly black. Cephalic horn of males curved towards the median region of pronotum. Pronotum of males flat, with two large tubercles curved towards the middle region of pronotum ... *Oxysternon (Oxysternon) ebeninum* (Nevinson, 1890) (Figure 2FG)
- Coloration metallic, at least elytra green, other characters variable ... 14
14. Size usually between 15 and 19 mm. Pronotum and elytra always distinct in color, pronotum usually red at least in anterior region (black in the middle), elytra green with dark striae. Posterior region of abdomen metallic green ... *Oxysternon (Oxysternon) durantoni* Arnaud, 1984 (Figure 2DE)
- Size usually between 18 and 25 mm. Pronotum and elytra with the same color, except for black spots in the pronotal disc of females and small males. Ventral region totally black, including the posterior region of abdomen ... *Oxysternon (Oxysternon) festivum viridanum* d'Oloufieff, 1924 (Figure 2HIJ)
15. Disc of pronotum of males never flattened, but either convex or strongly concave, with two projections directed towards the anterior region (Figure 3A) ... 16
- Disc of pronotum of males flattened, without projections (Figure 3D) ... 17
16. Color dorsally brown. Pronotum of males with two median tubercles anteriorly directed. Elytra with striae strongly punctured ... *Phanaeus (Notiophanaeus) bispinus* Bates, 1868 (Figure 3AB)
- Dark coloration, with green or blue reflex. Pronotum of males with two lateral tubercles, directed medially and then anteriorly. Elytral striae with very fine punctures if any ... *Phanaeus (Notiophanaeus) bordoni* Arnaud, 1996 (Figure 3C)
17. Anteromedial angle of metasternum capped. Basal third of cephalic horn of males abruptly expanded laterally. Pronotum of males with disperse black punctures; pronotum of females with a concavity, bearing an small anterior tubercle, a bigger posterior tubercle, and at each side with one lateral tubercle ... *Phanaeus (Notiophanaeus) chalcomelas* (Perty, 1830) (Figure 3HI)
- Anteromedial angle of metasternum smooth. Cephalic horn of males not abruptly expanded. Pronotum of males with black punctures concentrated in posteromedian region; pronotum of females lacking concavity, with three central tubercles disposed approximately in a transverse row, sometimes the central one more anterior than lateral ones ... *Phanaeus (Notiophanaeus) cambeforti* Arnaud, 1982 (Figure 3DE)

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