Review of the genus *Essostrutha* Thomson

(Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)

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The hemilophine genus *Essostrutha* was proposed by Thomson (1868) to accommodate *Saperda laeta* Newman from Mexico. Lacordaire (1872) added the variety *miniata* and Bates (1881) described three new species of *Essostrutha.* There appeared to be some uncertainty as to the identities of some of the described forms with Bates proposing the name *fimbriolata* for *Amphionycha albina* Pascoe and also elevating *miniata* to a species level.

As presently defined, this genus occurs only in Mexico and Guatemala. The five species, *ramsdeni* Fisher (1926), *roberto* Fisher (1935), *scaramuzzai* Fisher (1936), *montivagans* Fisher (1942), and *alayoi* Zayas (1956) described as *Essostrutha* from Cuba are tentatively assigned to the genus *Adesmus* Latreille based upon the flattened front of the head, prominent humeri and emarginate apices of the elytra.

Essostrutha Thomson

Essostrutha Thomson, 1868, Physis, 2: 198; Lacordaire, 1872, Genera des coleopteres, 9: 895; Bates, 1881, Biologia Centrali-Americana, Coleoptera, 5: 210.

Form small to moderate-sized, subparallel. Head with front transverse, convex, median line extending onto neck; mandibles stout, curved at apex; palpi unequal, slender; eyes finely faceted, deeply emarginate, upper lobes small, widely separated, lower lobes as long as genae; antennae slender, a little longer than body, scape much shorter than third segment, fourth slightly longer than scape, segments ciliate beneath, ciliae becoming less numerous toward apex. Pronotum broader than long, sides sinuate; base impressed laterally and dorsally on each side of middle; prosternum narrow, intercoxal process very slender, expanded at apex, coxal cavities closed behind; mesosternum with intercoxal process arcuate, lying below tops of coxae. Elytra about twice as long as broad, disk plane; apices rounded. Legs short, femora rather slender; middle tibiae sulcate externally, front tibiae internally; claws bifed. Abdomen normally segmented.

Type species: *Saperda laeta* Newman (monobasic).

The robust form, convex front of the head, rather short antennal scape and fringed antennae characterize this genus. The closest relative, *Erana* Bates, differs by the smaller size, longer antennal scape and by having the fringe of hairs above as well as below on the antennal segments.

The Pan-Pacific Entomologist 54:125-128. April 1978.

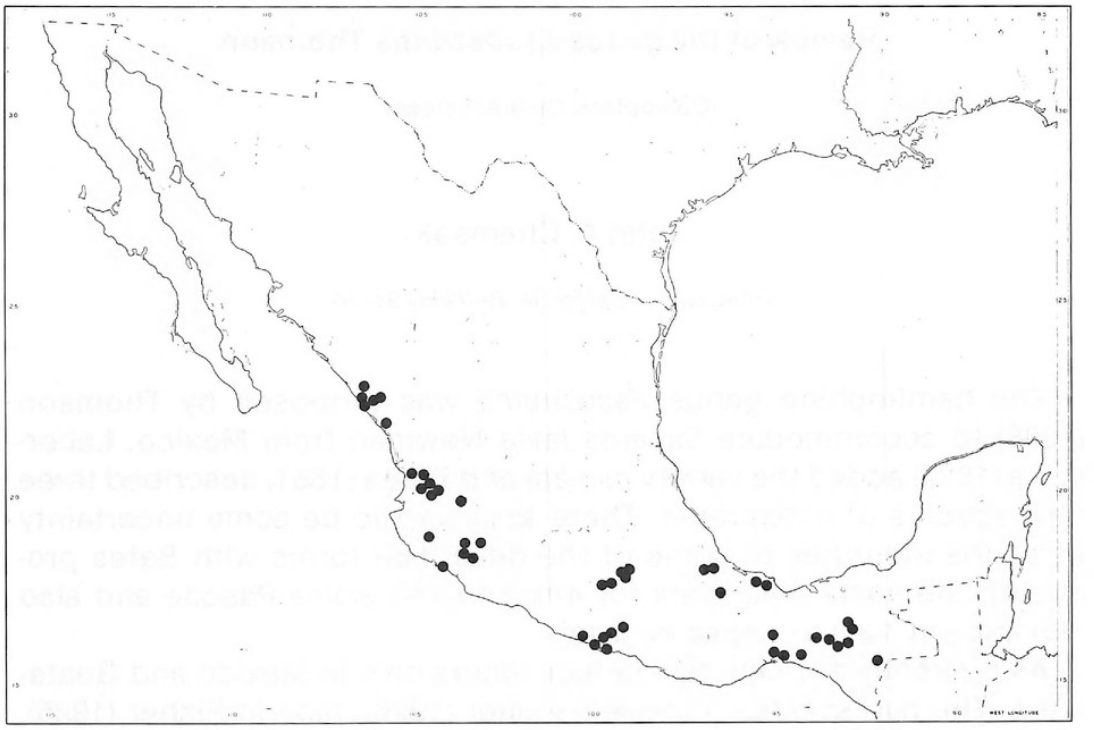

Figure 1. Known distribution of *Essostrutha laeta* (Newman) in Mexico.

Elytra partially or predominantly reddish to yellow, pale pubescence obscuring surface, if all black, suture not narrowly yellowish pubescent; pronotum very often with four black spots. Larger species, 8-16 mm. Sinaloa, Mexico to Guatemala ..... *laeta*

Elytra black, pale pubescence not obscuring surface, suture narrowly, densely yellow pubescent; pronotum with two basal black spots only. Smaller species, 7-11 mm. Sonora to Puebla ..... *binotata*

Essostrutha laeta (Newman)

Saperda laeta Newman, 1840, Entomol., 1:13.

Essostrutha laeta, Thomson, 1868, Physis, 2:199; Lacordaire, 1872, Genera des coleopteres, 9:895; Bates, 1881, Biologia Centrali-Americana, Coleoptera, 5:210.

Amphionycha albina Pascoe, 1858, Trans. Entomol. Soc. London (2)4: 256. **New synonymy.**

Essostrutha albina, Bates, 1881, Biologia Centrali-Americana, Coleoptera, 5:211.

Essostrutha laeta var. *miniata* Lacordaire, 1872, Genera des coleopteres, 9:895. **New synonymy.**

Essostrutha miniata, Bates, 1881, Biologia Centrali-Americana, Coleoptera, 5:211.

Essostrutha fimbriolata Bates, 1881, Biologia Centrali-Americana, Co-

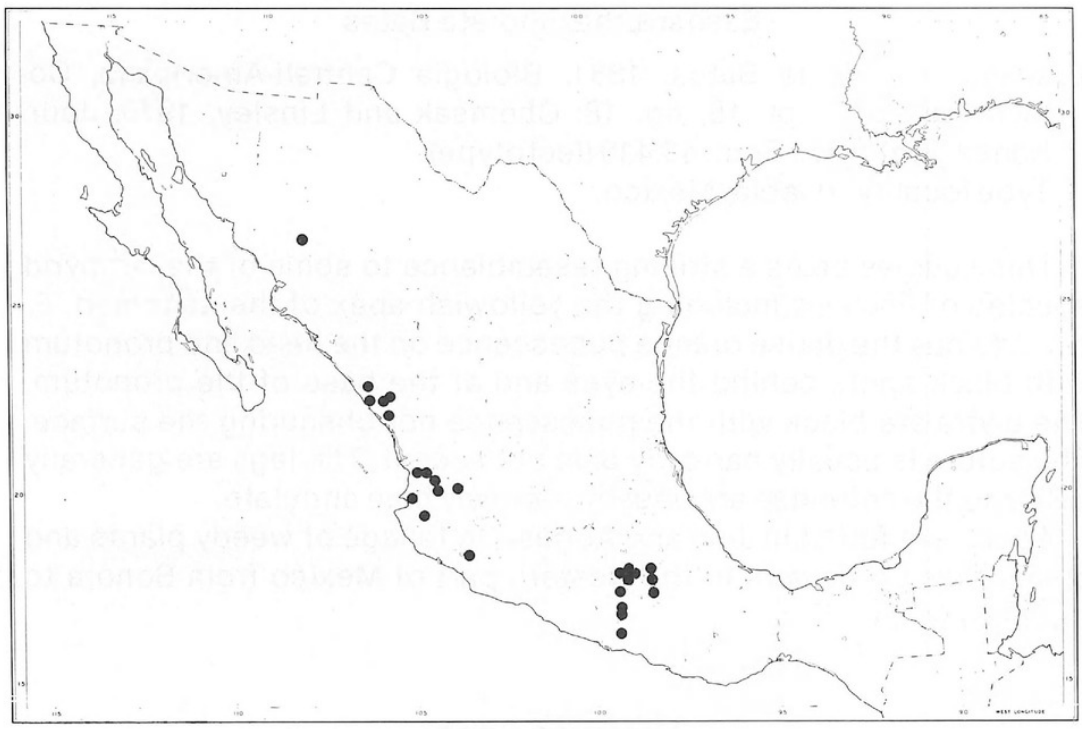

Figure 2. Known distribution of *E. binotata* Bates.

leoptera, 5:210; Casey, 1913, Memoirs on the Coleoptera, 4:364. Chemsak and Linsley, 1970, Jour. Kansas Entomol. Soc. 43:410 (lectotype). **New synonymy.**

Essostrutha cinnabarina Bates, 1881, Biologia Centrali-Americana, Coleoptera, 5:211; *ibid.*, 1885: 428; Chemsak and Linsley, 1970, Journ. Kansas Entomol. Soc. 43:410 (lectotype). **New synonymy.**

Type locality: of *laeta*, Mexico; *albina*, Guatemala; *miniata*, Mexico; *fimbriolata*, Playa Vicente, Mexico; *cinnabarina*, Zapote, Guatemala.

This common species may be easily recognized by the dense, short, appressed reddish to yellowish or grayish pubescence. Males are generally unicolorous with only the black pronotal spots present but occasionally also have the apices of the elytra narrowly black. Females usually have the elytra broadly black at the apices and at least a narrow black basal band. Occasionally only the humeri are black. Individuals of both sexes with all black elytra do occur, particularly in Vera Cruz and neighboring Oaxaca. These occur with normally colored individuals.

The most striking variation is expressed by the color of the pale pubescence of the body. This ranges from bright red to yellow to almost gray. The pronotal spots are sometimes reduced to only the basal pair.

This species ranges from the state of Sinaloa to Veracruz to Guatemala (Fig. 1). Adults are commonly encountered on grasses and foliage in June through August.

Essostrutha binotata Bates

Essostrutha binotata Bates, 1881, Biologia Centrali-Americana, Coleoptera, 5:212, pl. 15, fig. 18; Chemsak and Linsley, 1970, Jour. Kansas Entomol. Soc., 43:410 (lectotype).
Type locality: Puebla, Mexico.

This species bears a striking resemblance to some of the lampyrid species of *Photinus* including the yellowish apex of the abdomen. *E. binotata* has the dense orange pubescence on the head and pronotum with black spots behind the eyes and at the base of the pronotum. The elytra are black with the pubescence not obscuring the surface. The suture is usually narrowly pale pubescent. The legs are generally pale and the antennae are usually narrowly pale annulate.

Adults are found in July and August on foliage of weedy plants and sometimes on flowers in the western part of Mexico from Sonora to Puebla (Fig. 2).

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RECENT LITERATURE

Kaston, B.J. 1978. How to Know the Spiders. 3rd edition, Wm. C. Brown Co. 272 pp, 700 figs. $5.95 soft cover.

This new edition of Kaston's well known work in the Jaques Picture Key Nature Series includes 13 genera and 121 species not included in the other editions, bringing the total to nearly twice that covered in the first edition. An excellent introductory section, a combined illustrated glossary and index, as well as superb illustrations serve to make this book indespensible to the spider enthusiast — ARH.