

Beetles (Coleoptera) of Peru: A Survey of the Families. Mycteridae Blanchard, 1845

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Diversity in Peru: Two subfamilies, 8+ genera, 24+ species.

Recognition: This small family of ~29 genera and ~160 species worldwide (Pollock, 2010) is difficult to characterize, as the three subfamilies comprising it are uniquely distinct. Individuals of the subfamilies Mycterinae and Hemipeplinae are reasonably uniform in structure and fairly easily recognized. Mycterines are absent from the New World tropics; individuals of *Hemipeplus* Latreille, of which at least two species are recorded from Peru, are notably very elongate, flattened dorsally, and parallel-sided (see Pollock, 2010, Fig. 11.20.1 D–E). The most structurally diverse group is the subfamily Euryrinae (= Lacconotinae of authors), in which the majority of Peruvian species are included. Although there is no “easy” diagnosis for this taxon, there are important similarities in the structure of the male genitalia and also the presence (in most species) of an elliptical binding patch at the elytral apices, visible dorsally as a darkened area. Described larvae of all Mycteridae are elongate, variously dorsoventrally flattened, and with distinct urogomphal plates (e.g., Costa and Vanin, 1977, 1984; Pollock, 1995, 2002; Pollock and Ivie, 2004).

Habitat: The biology of this family is poorly known, though both adults and larvae appear to be tied closely to vegetation, including grasses and palms. Most *Hemipeplus* seem to be associated with palms (e.g., Thomas, 1985; Pollock, 1999). For example, *H. marginipennis* (LeConte) is found between unopened leaflets of *Sabal palmetto* (Walt.) Lodd. in Florida, while specimens of *H. microphthalmus* (Schwarz) are found within leaf sheaths of *Andropogon* L. and other grasses in the southeastern United States (Thomas, 1985; Thomas and Woodruff, 1986). One species of *Hemipeplus* has been implicated as a pest of palms in Sulawesi (Lepesme, 1947). For the euryrines, the knowledge of biology and habitat is very incomplete; few accounts have been published. However, those few papers indicate that larvae occur under loosened bark of dead trees (e.g., *Physcius* Champion, *Physiomorphus* Pic, and *Phaeogala* Fairmaire; see Pollock, 1995; Pollock and Ivie, 2004; and Pollock *et al.*, 2000, respectively), in burrows perpendicular to the long axis of the dead tree or log (e.g., *Stilpnonotus* Gray, see Costa and Vanin, 1984), or as was seen in the hemipeplines, associated with palm vegetation (e.g., *Eurypus* Kirby, see Costa and Vanin, 1977).

Adult mycterids are collected most commonly by using methods such as hand-collecting and beating from vegetation or surfaces (probably best done at night), Malaise traps, flight-intercept traps, UV blacklight, etc. Since most larvae seem to be associated with dead, coarse woody debris (i.e., dead logs, stumps, snags, etc.) adults are most likely to be collected in areas with this kind of forest habitat. Most of the new records presented below were collected passively, using a mass-collection method; clearly, this technique works

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