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A new callipodoid milliped genus and species from Sinaloa, with the proposal of a new tribe in the subfamily Tynommatinae (Schizopetalidae)

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ABSTRACT

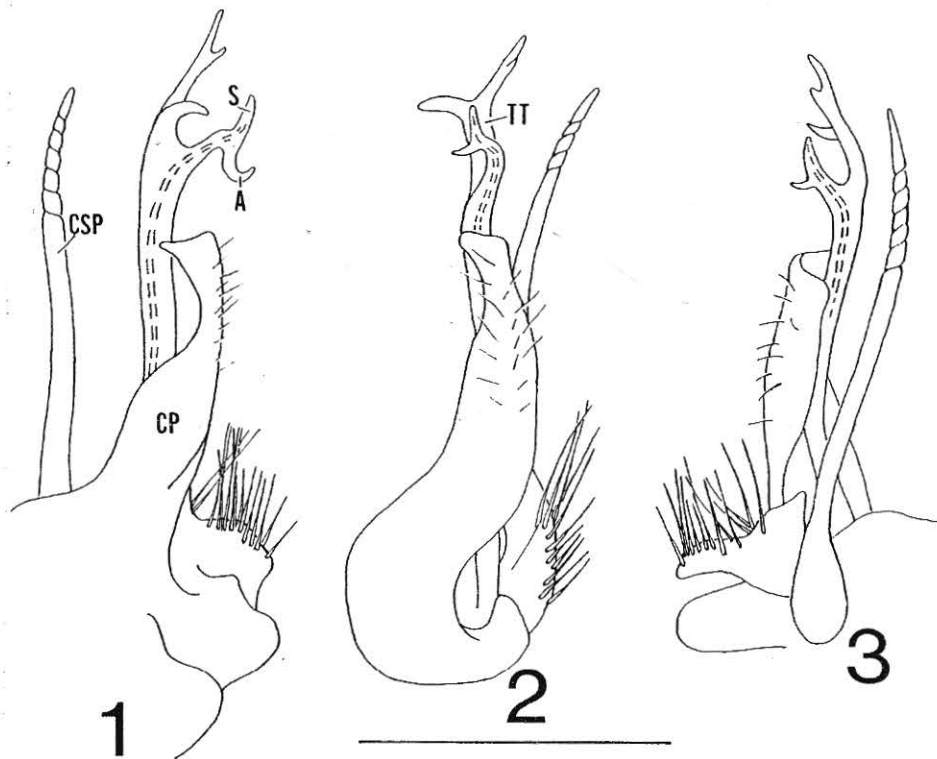
Aspidiophon divisum, n. gen., n. sp., is described from a male collected in southern Sinaloa, Mexico. Unique features including a coxal process that ensheathes the telopodite stem, a narrow, divided tibiotarsus, and the absence of the medial sternal lamina justifies the proposal of a new tribe to accommodate this genus.

In my recent (1997) proposal of *Colactoides grandis* from Chihuahua, I remarked that other new schizopetalids could exist in remote areas of northern Mexico, especially in the Sierra Madre Occidental. While being from a more coastal, less montane locality, the present new genus and species, which require a new tribe, corroborate that prediction and further suggest that the fauna of mainland Mexico may be more diverse than that of the southwestern United States and Baja California, where there are three tribes: Colactidini, Diactidini, and Tynommatini (Shelley, 1996). As I know of no additional schizopetalid material, the new species and its higher taxa are here put on record to stimulate investigations of the milliped fauna of Sonoran Mexico.

Aspidiophonini, new tribe

DIAGNOSIS: Moderate-sized Tynommatinae with uniformly brownish coloration. Inner primary crests on segments 3-5 subparallel. Crest transition point

unknown (owing to fragmented condition of specimen). Gonopods of moderate size, extending well ventrad beyond ends of pleuroterga, visible *in situ*, and clearly separated from 7th pair of legs. Sternum medially reduced, without anterior sternal plates and flagella; medial sternal lamina absent but caudal sternal process present, extending to level of end of solenomere, fused to opposite member. Coxae densely setose medially, narrowly separated at midline, coxal process present, arising from anterior margin, in form of sheath or shield around lateral, anterior, and medial sides of telopodite stem. Telopodite arising from caudal side of coxa, without prefemoral process; tibiotarsus long and slender, not laminate, divided into lateral and medial branches at level of solenomere, latter with subterminal spur; solenomere branch located anterior to tibiotarsus; process "A" uncinuate and inconspicuous, shorter than solenomere, without marginal spur.



Figs. 1-3. *Aspidiophon divisum*. 1, right gonopod, lateral view. 2, the same, anterior view. 3, the same, medial view. A, process "A"; CP, coxal process; CSP, caudal sternal process; S, solenomere; TT, tibiotarsus. Scale line = 0.50 mm for each figure.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from the type locality in southern Sinaloa.

COMPONENT: *Aspidiophon*, new genus.

REMARKS: With a long caudal sternal process and a coxal process, the *Aspidiophonini* is closely related to the geographically proximate tribe *Colactidini*, which occurs to the north in Sonora, Durango, Chihuahua, and adjacent United States. It differs in the origin and form of the coxal process, a sheath or shield around the stem of the telopodite, instead of a dactyliform projection; the narrow, divided tibiotarsus instead of a laminate structure; the position of the solenomere branch anterior to the tibiotarsus instead of lateral; the absence of the median sternal lamina; and the basal fusion of the caudal sternal processes of the left and right gonopods.

Aspidiophon, new genus

TYPE SPECIES: *Aspidiophon divisum*, new species.

DIAGNOSIS: With the characters of the tribe.

DISTRIBUTION: Same as that of the tribe.

REMARKS: The generic name refers to the sheathing or shielding nature of the coxal process of the gonopod.

Aspidiophon divisum, new species

Figures 1-3

TYPE SPECIMEN: Male holotype (American Museum of Natural History) collected by W. J. Gertsch and J. Woods, 2 August 1964, two miles (3.2 km) north of Piaxtla, Sinaloa, Mexico. There are several places in Sinaloa with Piaxtla in the name, but the most likely one, and the only one from which it is possible to be north of on a road, is Piaxtla de Abajo, a small town on Highway 2, which runs from Highway 15 to San Dimas; coordinates are 23°52' N, 106°39' W.

DIAGNOSIS: With the characters of the tribe and genus. The holotype is too fragmented for measurement, but consists of head and 58 segments (including the epiproct).

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from the type locality, near the southern extremity of Sinaloa. This is one of the two southernmost records of the Callipodida in the Western Hemisphere, the other being the small-bodied female from Copala, on Highway 40 east of Mazatlán, which was assigned to *Colactis tiburona* (Chamberlin) by Shelley (1997) but which may be referable to *A. divisum*.

REMARKS: The species name refers to the narrow, divided condition of the gonopod tibiotarsus.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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