

Checklist of Scolytinae (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) of the French Guiana

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Scolytinae (Curculionidae) are an important group of forest insects; many of their species inflict constant and significant damage to both natural and implanted forests. The French Guiana, a French department in South America, is covered by over 90% of its area by the Amazon forest. The majority of these forests are largely unexplored and in a pristine condition, and characterized by a high degree of biodiversity. Studies on the local insect biodiversity are scarce. The main goal of the "Société Entomologique Antilles Guyane" (SEAG) is to study the insect fauna of the French Guiana and the Caribbean, using several insect collecting techniques. We report here a partial checklist of Scolytinae of one particular French Guiana site. The study site was the Réserve Naturelle des Nouragues (Saut Pararé), composed of ca. 106,300 ha of a primary ombrophilous rainforest, and located in the commune of Camopi (4°4'18"N 52°43'57"W). Between July 2009 and July 2010, we run a total of 12 unbaited window traps, size 1 m x 2 m. So far, we were able to determine to species 49 Scolytinae. We found so far representatives in the genera *Eupagiocernus* (subtribe Bothrosternina), *Amphicranus*, *Metacorthylus* (Corthylina), *Phloeoborus* (Hylesinina), *Dendrosinus* (Phloeosinina), *Phrixosoma* (Phrixosomina), *Camptocerus*, *Cnemonyx*, *Scolytopsis*, *Scolytus* (Scolytina), *Ambrosiodmus*, *Dryocoetoides*, *Sampsonius*, *Taurodemus*, *Xyleborus* and *Xylosandrus* (Xyleborina). There was a predominance of species with the xylomycetophagous feeding habit, with 78% of the analyzed species. Phloeophagous species contributed with 15%, xylophagous species 6% and spermophagous species with 1% of the species. The biodiversity of host plants of Scolytinae in this biome is high, making it difficult for more host specific beetles to predominate. However, xylomycetophagous species feed on ambrosia fungi, which are plant host generalists, explaining the predominance of this type of feeding habit of the French Guiana Scolytinae.

Keywords: xylomycetophagy; window trap; ambrosia fungi.