Pseudochramesus acuteclavatus (Hagedorn), a Hitherto Little Known Scolytinae (Curculionidae) from Brazil

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Scolytinae beetles, despite its economic and ecological importance, mainly in forested environments, do not receive due attention in Brazil. Except for Hypocryphalus mangiferae and Hypothenemus hampei, agricultural pests, virtually nothing is known regarding biological aspects and related natural enemies. The genus Pseudochramesus Blackman has a strictly neotropical distribution. Pseudochramesus acuteclavatus (PA) is known to occur in Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil (Mato Grosso and Rio de Janeiro states). Nothing is known about this species, other than one host record, Piptadenia sp. (Fabaceae Mimosoideae). A Anadenanthera falcata tree (Mimosoideae), broken by a storm in October 2010 in UNESP campus (20°25'11.65" S 51°20'28.19" W), Ilha Solteira, São Paulo state, Brazil, was found to be attacked by PA in February 2011. Three 1-m long branches were cut and put in emergence cages, and emerging insects were collected daily from February 2011-January 2012. Over 4,600 beetles emerged, and sex ratio was close to 1:1. There were two emergence peaks, a small one around mid February and a large around mid May 2011. A large complex of predators, parasitoids and commensals also emerged. Predatory species found were Airora (2 new spp.) (Trogossitidae), Calliodis picturatus and Scolopella brasiliensis (Anthocoridae). Probable commensal species were Dysmerus boliviensis and Rhabdophloeus sp. (Laemophloeidae), Peritropoides pennyi (Miridae) and an undetermined Oxypodini (Staphylinidae). We also collected 226 parasitoids, whose emergence peak was in early March 2011. Of the determined species, Bephratoides (3-4 spp., Eurytomidae), Bohartiellus sp., Ecphylus (2 spp.), Ptesimogastroides sp. (Braconidae), and Theocolax elegans (Pteromalidae), it appears only one Ecphylus species is associated with PA. The remaining might be parasitoids of Buprestidae and Cerambycidae species which also emerged. These are the first species associated with PA reported in the literature.

Keywords: bark beetle; predators; parasitoids.