

## Two new species of the *Epimetopus mendeli* species group and notes on its adult and larval morphology (Coleoptera: Hydrophiloidea: Epimetopidae)

Martin FIKÁČEK<sup>1,2)</sup>, Maxwell V. L. BARCLAY<sup>3)</sup> & Philip D. PERKINS<sup>4)</sup>

<sup>1)</sup> Department of Entomology, National Museum, Kunratic 1, CZ-148 00 Praha 4, Czech Republic;  
e-mail: mfikacek@gmail.com

<sup>2)</sup> Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague, Viničná 7,  
CZ-128 44 Praha 2, Czech Republic

<sup>3)</sup> Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD, United Kingdom;  
e-mail: m.barclay@nhm.ac.uk

<sup>4)</sup> Department of Entomology, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138,  
USA; e-mail: perkins@oeb.harvard.edu

**Abstract.** The *Epimetopus mendeli* species group is delineated based on characters of the head, elytra and male genitalia. Three species are included in the group: *E. mendeli* sp. nov. (Peru), *E. flavicaptus* sp. nov. (Ecuador) and *E. angulatus* Balfour-Browne, 1949 (Bolivia). The external morphology of *Epimetopus mendeli* sp. nov. is described and illustrated in detail, and the diagnostic characters for the other two species of the group are discussed and illustrated. Larval morphology, including the primary chaetotaxy of *E. mendeli* sp. nov., is described in detail based on first instar larvae from the egg case carried by an identified female. The larva is compared with the previously published description of larval *Epimetopus* Lacordaire, 1854 and the morphology of the abdominal apex is discussed, revealing only slight differences between various *Epimetopus* larvae. Larva of *E. mendeli* sp. nov. is also briefly compared with the larvae of remaining hydrophiloid families.

**Key words.** Epimetopidae, *Epimetopus*, new species, adult, larva, primary chaetotaxy, morphology, Neotropical Region, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru

### Introduction

The hydrophiloid family Epimetopidae includes 29 tropical species (HANSEN 1999, SHORT & FIKÁČEK 2011) characterized by the pronotum bearing several longitudinal ridges and largely covering the head, body surface covered by setiferous granules and elytra bearing high ridges or prominent tubercles. Little is known about the biology of the beetles: adults are usually collected at light, or at the edges of streams or standing water and appear to be