

***Skelleyanus eremita* new genus and new species of Mexican Aphodiini (Coleoptera: Aphodiidae)**

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Abstract. The new genus and new species *Skelleyanus eremita* from Mexico (Sinaloa) are described and figured.

Key words: Taxonomy, *Skelleyanus eremita*, new genus, new species, Mexico, Aphodiidae.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The main taxonomical characteristics of the new genus *Skelleyanus* are: a) scutellum small, triangular; b) middle and hind tibiae fimbriate with apical spinules unequal, stout, rather short, progressively elongate; c) sides of pronotum glabrous, its basal margin bordered; d) elytra glabrous; e) frontal suture not tuberculate; f) clypeus subtruncate anteriorly; g) aedeagus with paramera elongate, abruptly curved and shortly sparsely pubescent apically; h) epipharynx widely rounded at sides with corypha not reaching the anterior margin and with four apical chaetae, the median two stronger.

Even if the new genus results by the most of morphological characters above mentioned related to *Nobius* MULSANT & REY, 1870, it is distinguishable at first sight by the larger size and mostly by its aedeagal and epipharyngeal features as well as geographical distribution.

The terminology used to describe the morpho-anatomical features follows that of DELLACASA et al. (2001).

II. MATERIALS

The sole specimen available is deposited in DCGC – G. DELLACASA and M. DELLACASA collection, Genoa, Italy.

Skelleyanus gen. n.

Type species. *Skelleyanus eremita* new species.

D i a g n o s i s. Medium size species (length 6.0 mm); widely oval, moderately convex, shiny, glabrous. Brown, elytra somewhat paler distally. Head with epistome slightly convex, irregularly somewhat closely punctured; clypeus subtruncate anteriorly, rounded at sides with distal margin shortly bristled; genae protruding from eyes, frontal suture not tuberculate. Pronotum widely transverse, weakly convex, dually irregularly, rather closely punctured; lateral margins feebly arcuate, glabrous; hind angles obtusely rounded, base distinctly bordered. Scutellum small, triangular. Elytra rather shortly oval, moderately convex, superficially striate; striae closely punctured, subcrenulate; intervals flat, nearly imperceptibly punctured. Fore tibiae distally tridentate and proximally serrulate on outer margin, upper side coarsely irregularly punctured. Middle and hind tibiae with rather strong transverse carinae on outer face, fimbriate with apical spinulae stout, rather short, progressively unequal. Pygidium alutaceous, superficially, somewhat confusedly punctured and with extremely short and sparse setae; apical margin with few sparse setae moderately elongate. Aedeagus with paramera elongate, apically shortly pubescent and, in lateral view, abruptly curved. Epipharynx feebly sinuate at middle of anterior margin, widely rounded at sides; epitorma narrowly drop-shaped; corypha not reaching the front margin and with four apical chaetae, the median two stronger; pedia densely pubescent and with short spines subserially arranged laterally; chaetopariae rather short and dense.

D i s t r i b u t i o n. Mexico (Sinaloa).

E t y m o l o g y. Named in honour of our colleague and friend Paul E. SKELLEY (Gainesville, Florida). The gender is masculine.

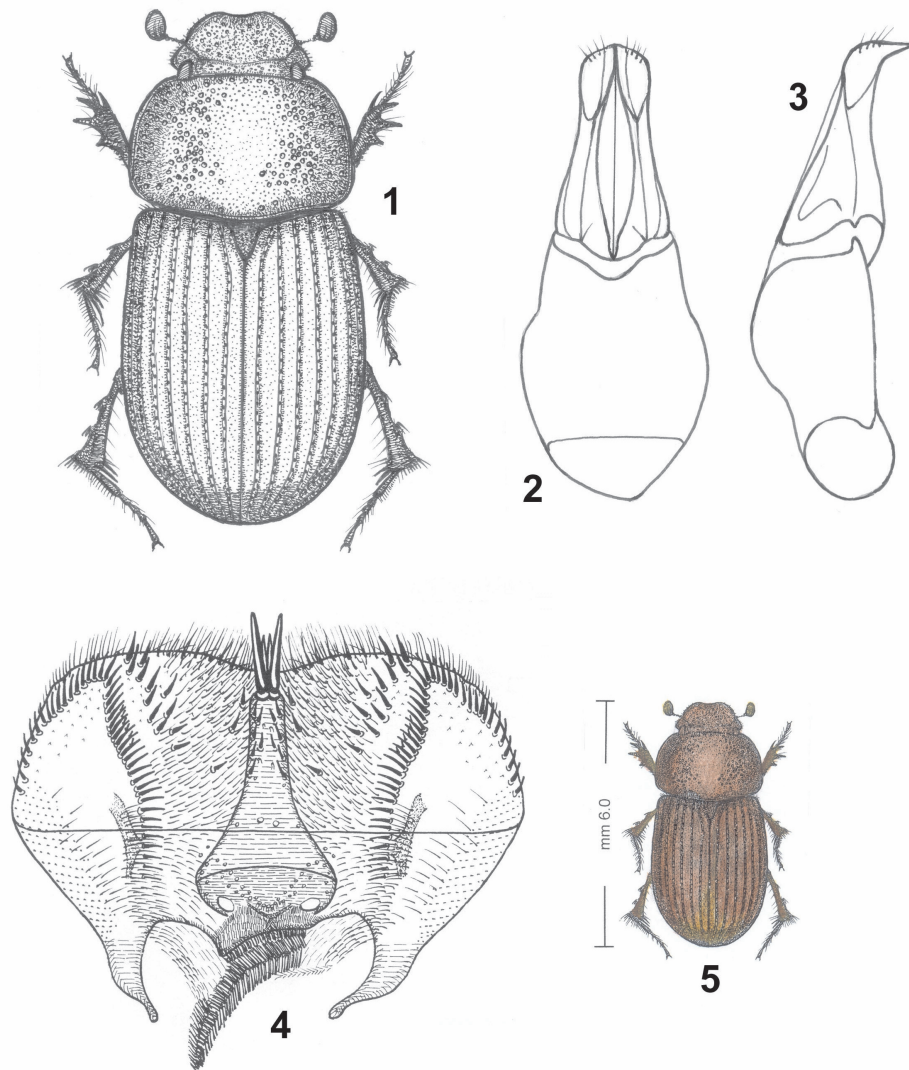
Skelleyanus eremita sp. n.

(Figs 1-5)

Type locality. Chirimollos, Sinaloa, Mexico.

Type repository. DELLACASA Collection. Genoa (Italy).

Description of male. Length 6.0 mm; widely oval, moderately convex, shiny, glabrous. Brown; juxtasutural interval and elytral apex paler; legs pale brown; antennal club testaceous. Head with epistome slightly convex on disc, finely, irregularly not closely punctured; clypeus subtruncate anteriorly, widely rounded at sides, thinly bordered, edge very shortly bristled; genae obtusely rounded, somewhat auriculate, shortly bristled, feebly prominent; frontal suture finely impressed, not tuberculate; front irregularly sparsely punctured. Pronotum transverse, moderately convex, dually punctured; large coarse punctures, ten times larger than small, closely irregularly scattered on sides, lacking medially;



Figs 1-5. *Skelleyanus eremita* gen. n., sp. n. (Holotype male, loc. Chirimollos, Edo. Sinaloa, Mexico). 1 – habitus (morphological details); 2,3 – aedeagus (dorsal and lateral views); 4 – epipharynx; 5 – habitus.

extremely fine small punctures subregularly sparse throughout but more superficial and somewhat sparser on disc; lateral margins feebly arcuate, rather thickly bordered, edge glabrous, hind angles obtusely rounded; base faintly bisinuate, distinctly bordered. Scutellum slightly convex, punctured on basal half. Elytra rather short, widely oval, feebly broadened posteriorly, moderately convex, superficially striate; striae rather closely punc-

tured, slightly crenulate; intervals flat, nearly imperceptibly sparsely punctured. Hind tibiae superior apical spur shorter than first tarsal segment, latter somewhat longer than following three combined; aedeagus Fig. 2-3. Female: unknown.

Type material. The holotype male bears the following labels:

1 – white, printed: Km 230 carr. from Durango to Mazatlán (MEX 40), loc. Chirimollos, 23°26'48.3"N-105°50'53.6"W, 20.VII.2004, m 1100;

2 – white, printed: MEXICO, Edo. Sinaloa, Leg. DELLACASA M. & Martínez I.;

3 – red, printed: HOLOTYPE, *Skelleyanus eremita* n. sp., DELLACASA et alii, des. 2009.

Distribution. Known from the type locality only.

Bionomics. Almost unknown: the holotype was collected in summer.

Etymology. The specific name is chosen because the holotype was the sole aphodine collected during all day.

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