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with a note on color variation (Coleoptera: Cleridae: Clerinae)

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Abstract. The monotypic clerid genus *Ohanlonella* Rifkind (Coleoptera: Cleridae: Clerinae), described from Oaxaca, is reported for the first time from the state of Veracruz. The recently discovered population shows distinctly different coloration from the type series of *O. esperanzae* Rifkind, but appears to be otherwise identical. The Veracruz morph is briefly characterized and illustrated, and its significance is discussed.

Resumen. El género monotípico de cléridos *Ohanlonella* Rifkind (Coleoptera: Cleridae: Clerinae), descrito de Oaxaca, es reportado por primera vez para el estado de Veracruz. La población recientemente descubierta muestra una coloración claramente distinta de la serie típica de *O. esperanzae* Rifkind, pero en general parece ser la misma especie. El fenómeno de Veracruz se caracteriza brevemente, se ilustra y se discute su importancia.

Key Words. Clerid fauna, polychromatism, cline, Sierra Madre, Oaxaca, Veracruz.

Introduction

I described *Ohanlonella esperanzae* Rifkind from two specimens collected in cloud forest near Valle Nacional, Oaxaca, Mexico, on the Atlantic versant of the Sierra Madre de Oaxaca (Rifkind 2008). These individuals are colored dark brown, with the elytra displaying iridescent green and purple reflections; the proximal 3/4 of the femora is testaceous. I report here the existence of the first specimens of this genus to be collected since their original description. These represent a new state record for Mexico, and are figured here because of their distinctive coloration, which differs significantly from that of the types.

Materials and Methods

The image of the holotype of *O. esperanzae*, presented below (Fig. 2), appeared in the original description. I examined five specimens of *O. esperanzae*, collected in Veracruz, Mexico. I photographed one using an Apple Iphone 7 Plus through the eyepiece of a Zeiss dissecting microscope. Specimens are deposited in the following collections:

CIUM – Insect Collection of the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos, Morelos, Mexico.

IEXA – Colección Entomológica del Instituto de Ecología, A. C. Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico.

JNRC – Collection of Jacques Rifkind, Valley Village, California, U.S.A.

Results

Specimens of *O. esperanzae* were collected at light traps in Veracruz, Mexico (**new state record**), as follows: (3) Tequila, Kohyomyxtla, 31–V / 1–VI / 2011, Alt. 1800 m, E. Mora, et al., Cols.; (1) same data as previous except 28–29 / VI / 2011, L. Delgado, et al., Cols.; (1) Tequila, Duraznotla, 2–3 de mayo de 2011, Alt. 1650, E. Mora, L. Lara, L. Delgado, et al., Cols.

As shown in Fig. 1, the individuals from Veracruz have orange-testaceous coloration on the pronotum and on a narrow band at the elytral anterior margin (including the humeri). These differ from the specimens of the Oaxacan type series, which have uniformly dark coloration on the dorsal pronotum and elytra (Fig. 2). I was unable to find differences other than coloration to separate individuals from the two populations. The Veracruz collecting localities lie approximately 120 km northwest of the

Oaxaca type locality, and are situated at about the same elevation. The Veracruz morph may represent a subspecific population, but the paucity of systematic collecting in the areas between the Veracruz and Oaxacan populations renders this conjectural, especially since physiographic maps suggest the presence of suitable habitat in the intervening parts of northern Oaxaca and the eastern salient of Puebla. Alternatively, these populations may represent two poles of a north–south clinal variation. An example of such clinal chromatic difference has been previously documented in Cleridae (Rifkind 2014). Assigning taxonomic status in clerids based on coloration alone is generally problematic, since many species exhibit a broad range of intraspecific color variation (see, for example, Ekis (1977) for polychromatism in species of *Colyphus* Spinola, and Opitz (2014) for an illustration of extreme color and pattern variability in the enopliine *Agnatis variabilis* Opitz). Thus, for now it seems judicious to treat the Veracruz *Ohanlonella* morph as falling within the range of variation of *O. esperanzae*.

Acknowledgments

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Figures 1-2. *Ohanlonella esperanzae* Rifkind. 1) Veracruz morph. 2) Oaxaca morph.

