SCIENTIFIC NOTE

The Correct Name of “Megalotomus” Pests of Soybean (Hemiptera: Alydidae)

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O Nome Correto de “Megalotomus” Pragas da Soja (Hemiptera: Alydidae)


PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Insecta, Heteroptera, alidídeo, taxonomia.

In the recent years since soybean [Glycine max (L.) Merr.] has become an important crop in Brazil, several species of Alydidae have become pests of this crop (Panizzi 1988). Like other members of the subfamily Alydinae (Schaefer 1980, Schaefer & Mitchell 1983), these species feed on legumes; it is therefore not surprising that they have turned to soybean.

These species have been placed in the genus Megalotomus. However, in an unpublished Ph.D. dissertation (1964) J. C. Schaffner showed that these Neotropical species are not related to the genus Megalotomus, whose members occur only in the Northern Hemisphere. Schaffner (1964) created for these Neotropical species, the new genus Neomegalotomus. But because Schaffner’s dissertation remained unpublished, this new generic name was not available, and until 1998 these soybean pest-alydids have remained in Megalotomus - a genus to each they are not related. In 1998, Schaffner & Schaefer published the new name, Neomegalotomus, for these Neotropical species, and the name has been used since (e.g., Santos & Panizzi 1998 a,b).

All references to species of Megalotomus south of North America should be considered to be references to Neomegalotomus. This includes the literature on the soybean pests Megalotomus parvus (Westwood) and M. rufipes (Westwood). Other species recorded from in or near Brazil in the genus Megalotomus and now transferred to Neomegalotomus are N. latifascia (Berg), N. pallescens (Stål), N. consobrinus (Westwood), and N. debilis (Walker) (Schaffner 1964). A revision of the genus is underway by CWS.

Among the recent references to soybean pests whose generic name should be changed from Megalotomus to Neomegalotomus, are Panizzi et al. (1996), Ventura & Panizzi
Literature Cited


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