

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

**The Correct Name of “*Megalotomus*” Pests of Soybean
(Hemiptera: Alydidae)**CARL W. SCHAEFER¹ AND ANTÔNIO R. PANIZZI²¹Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut,
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An. Soc. Entomol. Brasil 27(4): 669-670 (1998)O Nome Correto de “*Megalotomus*” Pragas da Soja (Hemiptera: Alydidae)

RESUMO - Registra-se o fato de que espécies de *Megalotomus* ocorrendo ao sul da América do Norte passam a pertencer ao gênero *Neomegalotomus* (ver Schaffner & Schaefer, Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am. 91, 1998). Várias destas espécies são pragas da soja [*Glycine max* (L.) Merr.], e portanto o uso do nome genérico correto é importante.

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 However, in an unpublished Ph.D. dissertation (1964) J. C. Schaffner showed that these Neotropical species are not related to the genus *Megalotomus*, whose members occur only in the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 But because Schaffner's dissertation remained unpublished, this new generic name was not available, and until 1998 these soybean pest-alydids have remained in *Megalotomus* - a genus to each they are not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

(1997), and Santos & Panizzi (1997).

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