

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

The Correct Name of the Neotropical Soybean Bug (Hemiptera: Alydidae)

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O Nome Correto do Percevejo Neotropical da Soja (Hemiptera: Alydidae)

RESUMO - Uma espécie de *Neomegalotomus* é praga ocasional de soja [*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill] na Região Neotropical, incluindo o Brasil. Essa espécie era conhecida como *Neomegalotomus parvus* (Westwood); entretanto, a descoberta da espécie tipo de uma outra espécie, descrita anteriormente, requer que o nome seja trocado para *Neomegalotomus simplex* (Westwood), o que o torna o nome correto para essa praga da soja.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Espécie tipo, *Neomegalotomus*, *Glycine max*

ABSTRACT - A species of *Neomegalotomus* is an occasional pest of soybean [*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill] in the neotropics, including in Brazil. It was known as *Neomegalotomus parvus* (Westwood); but the discovery of the type specimen of a species described earlier requires that the name be changed to *Neomegalotomus simplex* (Westwood), which becomes the correct name for the soybean pest.

KEY WORDS: Type species, *Neomegalotomus*, *Glycine max*

Members of the alydid subfamily Alydinae, the broadheaded bugs, feed on the green seeds of leguminous plants (Schaefer 1980, Schaefer & Mitchell 1983). In the neotropics, members of *Neomegalotomus* (formerly *Megalotomus*), a genus indigenous to the neotropics and subneotropics, have become occasional pests on various leguminous crops, such as lablab (Santos & Panizzi 1988a), common bean (Paradela F^o *et al.* 1972), and pigeon pea (Santos & Panizzi 1998b). However, these bugs are more important as pests of soybean, *Glycine max* (L.) Merrill (Santos & Panizzi 1998b, Panizzi *et al.* 2000).

The South American species of *Neomegalotomus* was recently identified as *Neomegalotomus parvus* (Westwood) (Schaefer & Panizzi 1998, Schaefer & Ahmad, unpublished). This species was then thought to be the type species of the genus (Schaffner & Schaefer 1998). However, very recently, the holotype of *Neomegalotomus simplex* (Westwood) has become available. I find that *N. parvus* and *N. simplex* are the same species, and synonymize them here.

Westwood (1842) described both species (as members of *Alydus*) in the same publication. Until the holotype of *Neomegalotomus* (Westwood's *Alydus*) *simplex* became available, I had considered *N. parvus* to be the type of the genus, because it was the first species of what is now *Neomegalotomus* both to be described and of which a type specimen existed (Schaefer & Ahmad, unpublished). Now however that decision must be reconsidered, because of the discovery of the type of *Neomegalotomus* (Westwood's *Alydus*) *simplex*.

Westwood's description of *Neomegalotomus simplex* is on page 18 of that publication, and his description of *N. parvus* is on page 19. Thus, by page priority, *Neomegalotomus simplex* has seniority over *N. parvus*, and therefore is the type species of the genus. *Neomegalotomus parvus* (Westwood 1842, p. 19) is a junior synonym of *Neomegalotomus simplex* (Westwood 1842, p. 18).

It follows also that the correct name for the *Neomegalotomus* species which attacks soybean in the neotropics, is *Neomegalotomus simplex*, **not** *Neomegalotomus parvus*.

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