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The longhorn beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) of three Ecuadorian protected natural areas

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Abstract

This study presents the results of the longhorn beetle surveys conducted in three protected natural areas in Ecuador. Species collection was carried out in Yasuni National Park, El Pahuma Orchid Reserve and Lalo Loor Dry Forest Reserve in different seasons in the years 2008, 2011, and 2018. A total of 39 species of Cerambycidae were collected across the three protected natural areas. Four of them are recorded for the first time for the Ecuadorian fauna: *Achryson surinamum* (Linnaeus, 1767); *Eburodacrys elegantula* Gounelle, 1909; *Pantomallus fuliginus* Bates, 1872; and *Colobothea juncea* Bates, 1865.

Key words: Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, fauna, Specially Protected Natural Areas, South America

Introduction

Longhorn beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) is one of the largest, most diverse, ecologically and economically important groups of beetles in the world (Rossa & Goczał 2021). Cerambycids are the significant part of the deadwood insect biodiversity in the boreal and tropical forests, supporting their ecological sustainability (Löfroth *et al.* 2023; Gatti *et al.* 2018). The importance of Cerambycidae is very high in the early stages of wood decomposition in the forests, when they promote the physical disaggregation of the wood debris (Parisi *et al.* 2018). The longhorn beetles are agents of biological control for weed species of plants, the larvae of some species are used as edible foods in India and other countries (Kariyanna *et al.* 2017). A few Asian longhorn beetle species are serious invasive pests in other countries in adjacent regions, in Europe and in the United States (Ernstsons *et al.* 2021; Böll & Helmer 2022). The study of the longhorn beetle diversity is an important task in the research on the fauna of protected natural areas.

The most comprehensive list of Ecuadorian longhorn beetles is Checklist of the Cerambycidae of Ecuador (ECU) by Hovore (2002). For continental Ecuador, 603 species of Cerambycidae are recorded. Taking into account species distributed only in the Galapagos archipelago (9), the number of verified species of the Ecuadorian fauna is 612 species (Hovore 2002). Monné *et al.* (2006) listed 751 species for Ecuador. The checklist of Bezark (2025) already lists 969 species of longhorn beetles for the country.

However, new species are still being described regularly from Ecuador and new faunal finds of Cerambycidae are being published (e.g. Lingafelter & Tishechkin 2017; Bezark & Santos-Silva 2023; Vlasak & Santos-Silva 2023, Vlasak *et al.* 2025). Nevertheless, data on the species composition of longhorn beetles in protected natural areas remain fragmentary. Therefore, the study of local cerambycid species diversity remains highly relevant.