



A new *Ateuchus guatemalensis* (Bates, 1887) (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) synonym from Mexico

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This note reports on placement of *Ateuchus benitojuarezi* Moctezuma, Sánchez-Huerta, & Halffter, 2018 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae: Ateuchini) as a junior synonym of *Ateuchus guatemalensis* (Bates, 1887) **new synonymy**. *Ateuchus guatemalensis* was originally described from Guatemala and is now known from Chiapas (Mexico), Honduras, and Nicaragua (Kohlmann & Vaz-de-Mello 2018). With the new synonymy discussion below, *A. guatemalensis* also occurs in the Chimalapas region in Oaxaca (Mexico), thus following a very typical biogeographic distribution pattern known from other dung beetles that encompasses the Pacific slope between the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to the Nicaraguan lakes (Solís & Kohlmann 2012).

Recently, Moctezuma *et al.* (2018) described a new species from Oaxaca named *Ateuchus benitojuarezi* Moctezuma, Sánchez-Huerta, & Halffter, 2018. The characters they used to diagnose their new species were the existence of an apical spiniform process of the “canoe-shaped” copulatory accessory lamella (only known in *A. guatemalensis*; homologous to the frontolateral peripheral sclerite (FLP) of Tarasov & Génier 2015), which is part of the normal variation of accessory copulatory lamellae in *Ateuchus*; and a slightly V-shaped clypeus (their photograph shows a specimen with a highly eroded clypeus), where the *A. benitojuarezi* paratypes I examined show the typical broadly V-shaped clypeus (just like in *A. guatemalensis*). A decisive and basically invariant character in the identification of *Ateuchus* is the shape of the copulatory hooks of the internal sac of the aedeagus, which is identical in *A. benitojuarezi* and *A. guatemalensis*. Additionally, *A. guatemalensis* is the only Mesoamerican species that has a distinctly punctate thorax, a distinctly convex pygidium, and an almost effaced anterior pronotal margin, which were all observed in the *A. benitojuarezi* paratypes I examined. Moctezuma *et al.* (2018) cite 8.1 mm as the mean length for *A. benitojuarezi*; however, the measurements of the four studied paratypes have a mean of 7.25 mm (it is unclear if the originally published mean was incorrect or if I only had smaller paratypes available for study). Lastly, Moctezuma *et al.* (2018) did not mention any specific specimens of *A. guatemalensis* used for making comparisons, so it is unclear if their observations were based on specimen comparisons or only based on previously published descriptions. After examining paratypes (kindly provided by G. Halffter) of *A. benitojuarezi* and comparing them with *A. guatemalensis* material from Las Flores, Masaya, Nicaragua; El Zumbador, San Marcos, Guatemala; and Unión Juárez, Chiapas, Mexico; the following synonymy is established: *Ateuchus benitojuarezi* Moctezuma, Sánchez-Huerta, & Halffter, 2018 = *Ateuchus guatemalensis* (Bates, 1887) **new synonymy**.

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