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A new species of *Elaphidion* Audinet-Serville from the Antilles (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Cerambycinae, Elaphidiini)

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Coleoptera; taxonomy;
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Elaphidiini; Antigua and Barbuda;
Elaphidion; neotropical region;
robustum; West Indies.

Abstract. – *Elaphidion robustum*, a new species from the Antillean Island Antigua is described and illustrated. Three species-group names in *Elaphidion* Audinet-Serville, 1834 are corrected.

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Introduction

Currently, *Elaphidion* Audinet-Serville, 1834 includes 59 species distributed from the United States of America to southern Central America and across the Antilles (Tavakilian & Chevillotte 2021). The majority of *Elaphidion* species is found in the Antilles, with only 11 species occurring outside of this area. Only *E. cryptum* Linsley, 1963 and *E. irroratum irroratum* (Linnaeus, 1767) are known from both the Antilles and the continental area (Monné 2021; Tavakilian & Chevillotte 2021; Bezark 2021b).

Antigua is a small island in the northern part of the Lesser Antilles volcanic arc, with about 280 km² (Donovan *et al.* 2014). According to Daltry (2007), the island has flat and scrubby plains giving rise to gently rolling limestone hills in the north and to higher volcanic hills in the south. According to Daltry (2007), scant natural vegetation remains, with the best examples around Ayers Creek, Half Moon Bay, and Nonsuch Bay.

Here we are describing a new species of *Elaphidion* from Antigua and correcting three species-group names in this genus.

Material and Methods

Photographs of the holotype of the new species and a paratype female, and a female of *Elaphidion conspersum* were taken in the MZSP with a Canon EOS Rebel T3i DSLR camera, Canon MP-E 65mm f/2.8 1-5X macro lens, controlled by Zerene Stacker AutoMontage software; measurements were taken in “mm” using measuring ocular Hensoldt/Wetzlar - Mess 10 in the Leica MZ6 stereomicroscope, also used in the study of the specimens. Photographs of the other paratypes of the new species, and other females of *E. conspersum* were taken by the first author with a Canon EOS Rebel T5i DSLR, Canon EF 100mm f/2.8 1X macro lens; measurements were taken in millimeters (mm) using a scale bar photographed with the specimen.

The acronyms used in the text are as follows:

- **BMNH**: The Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom.
- **JVCO**: Josef Vlasak collection, Pennsylvania, USA.
- **MZSP**: Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil.

Taxonomy

Elaphidion robustum sp. nov.

(Fig. 1-16)

ZooBank: <http://zoobank.org/6E486B23-A4A9-4F0D-85E3-AFD9176B40F8>

Holotype, ♂: Antigua and Barbuda: Antigua, Half Moon Bay, 1-7.VII.2018, J. Vlasak leg. (MZSP).

Paratypes: same data as holotype.

– 3 ♀ (1 in MZSP, 2 in JVCO)

– 4 ♂ (JVCO).

Description.

Holotype, ♂ (Fig. 1-6).

Coloration. – Head capsule black dorsally, dark brown ventrally; anterior region of ventral mouthparts reddish brown, except yellowish-brown apex of palpomeres; sides and anterior half of labrum dark reddish brown; antennae black basally, gradually brown toward apex (apex of scape and basal antennomeres dark brown). Pronotum and sides of prothorax black; ventral surface of thorax dark brown with some areas dark reddish brown. Elytra almost black basally, gradually dark brown toward apex. Legs dark brown, except tarsomeres III–V dark reddish brown. Abdominal ventrites dark brown, except dark reddish-brown apex of ventrites 1–2 (slightly lighter on 2), and orangish-brown apex of ventrites 3–4 (slightly lighter on 4).

Head. – Frons coarsely rugose-punctate, punctures less distinct close to clypeus; with dense yellow pubescent macula on each side of central area, with white setae interspersed, moderately sparse white pubescence on sides of yellow macula, moderately sparse yellowish-white pubescence on sides of central area close to clypeus, glabrous on central area close to clypeus, dense yellow pubescent band near eyes (this band follows along the entire inner margin of the eyes), and moderately sparse whitish pubescence

between eyes and the yellow pubescent band. Area between antennal tubercles and superior margin of upper eye lobes coarsely confluent punctate, except smooth central area (smooth area gradually widened, ending near prothoracic margin); with yellow pubescence laterally, and white setae interspersed, and both yellow and white pubescence not obscuring integument on remaining surface, except glabrous smooth central area. Area between and behind upper eye lobes with dense yellow pubescent band close to eye (this area wider behind eye), and both yellow and white pubescence not obscuring integument close to smooth central area; area behind eyes with a few long, erect yellowish setae interspersed. Remaining surface of vertex and area behind upper eye lobes moderately finely punctate, with a few minute brownish setae. Area behind lower eye lobes rugose; glabrous, except oblique, wide pubescent band starting on middle of area between eye and prothoracic margin, reaching inferior margin of eye, pubescence yellowish-white superiorly, gradually yellower, denser toward inferior margin of eye. Genae moderately coarsely, sparsely punctate; with whitish pubescence not obscuring integument, slightly more abundant close to eye. Wide central area of postclypeus with bristly, moderately sparse, both yellow and white setae close to frons, and fringe of both yellowish-brown and white setae close to anteclypeus; with one long, erect yellowish-brown seta on each side. Sides of postclypeus smooth, glabrous. Labrum coplanar with anteclypeus at posterior half, inclined, concave at anterior half; with sparse yellowish-white pubescence centrally on posterior half, and abundant, long yellowish-brown setae on anterior half (setae longer laterally). Gulamentum between eyes depressed, transversely rugose-punctate, with bristly yellowish-white pubescence not obscuring integument (appearing to be whiter depending on light intensity), and a few brownish setae interspersed; remaining area smooth and glabrous. Outer surface of mandibles coarsely rugose-punctate, except smooth apex; with moderately dense yellowish pubescence on inner basal region, yellowish-white, not obscuring integument on remaining surface, except glabrous smooth area; with a few long, erect yellowish-brown setae close to smooth area. Distance between upper eye lobes 0.30 times distance between outer margins of eyes; in frontal view, distance between lower eye lobes 0.52 times distance between outer margins of eyes. Antennae 1.3 times elytral length, almost reaching elytral apex. Scape coarsely, somewhat rugose-punctate, except smooth dorsal apex, longitudinally depressed dorsally on anterior 3/4 (depression gradually shallower toward apex); with yellowish-white pubescence not obscuring integument (appearing to be whiter depending on light intensity), with a few long, erect yellowish setae interspersed, except glabrous smooth area. Pedicel and antennomeres with yellowish-white pubescence not obscuring integument (appearing to be whiter depending on light intensity), gradually shorter and denser toward antennomere XI; pedicel and antennomeres III–VIII with long, erect yellowish-brown setae ventrally, setae gradually shorter and sparser toward VIII; antennomeres IX–XI with short, sparse, erect yellowish-brown setae ventrally; apex of antennomeres III–X with moderately long yellowish-brown setae dorsally; apex of antennomere III (Fig. 5) rounded on outer side, with spine on inner side; apex of antennomere IV (Fig. 5) orthogonal on outer side, with spine on inner side; apex of antennomeres V–VI with spine on outer and inner side, spine slightly shorter on outer side; antennomeres VII–VIII with short spine on outer and inner side; antennomeres IX–X angular on outer side, with short spine on inner side. Antennomere XI arcuate, narrowed from apical third.

Antennal formula based on length of antennomere III (excluding apical spines):

– Scape = 1.02. – Pedicel = 0.20. – IV = 0.76. – V = 0.74. – VI = 0.73. – VII = 0.69. – VIII = 0.61. – IX = 0.57. – X = 0.46. – XI = 0.63.

Thorax. – Prothorax wider than long; sides uniformly rounded from anterolateral angles to near posterolateral angles. Pronotum with anterior margin convex and posterior margin sinuous; with longitudinal, slightly elevated, smooth central gibbosity, from anterior margin to posterior margin, semielliptical on posterior half, widened on anterior fifth, carina-shaped between these two areas; with large, slightly elevated, almost comma-shaped gibbosity on each side on central area, coarsely, confluent punctate on its wide anterior region, almost smooth on its posterior region; with small, irregular, slightly distinct gibbosity on each side near middle; remaining surface abundantly, somewhat coarsely rugose-punctate (punctures finer than on comma-shaped gibbosities); with yellow pubescence not obscuring integument and white setae interspersed surrounding anterior and inner margin of superior region of the almost

comma-shaped gibbosities, dense yellow pubescence on sides of anterior half, dense yellowish-white pubescence on sides of posterior half, except glabrous small gibbosities, with abundant, both yellow and white pubescence between posterior region of central gibbosity and the almost comma-shaped gibbosities, sparse yellowish-white pubescence on the almost comma-shaped gibbosities, abundant yellowish-white pubescence close to posterior margin, and sparse white pubescence close to anterior margin; central gibbosity glabrous. Sides of prothorax moderately coarse, abundantly punctate; with dense yellow pubescence close to pronotum, except anterior region with yellowish-white, sparser pubescence, and abundant yellowish-white pubescence not obscuring integument toward prosternum. Prosternum finely, densely punctate on sides of posterior 3/4, coarsely, sparsely punctate on central area of posterior 3/4, almost smooth on anterior quarter; with abundant yellowish-white pubescence not obscuring integument on sides of posterior 3/4, sparse whitish pubescence on central area of posterior 3/4, with long, erect yellowish setae interspersed, abundant yellowish pubescence on sides of anterior quarter, gradually sparser, whitish pubescence toward central area. Prosternal process longitudinally depressed centrally, depression distinctly widened on posterior third; apex truncate; with sparse yellowish-white pubescence; widest region 0.7 times width of procoxal cavity. Mesoventrite with sparse yellowish-white setae centrally, and abundant yellowish pubescence interspersed with white setae laterally. Mesanepisternum, mesepimeron, and metanepisternum with dense yellowish pubescence, and whitish pubescence interspersed. Mesoventral process longitudinally concave centrally; apex strongly emarginate centrally; with whitish pubescent band laterally, and a few decumbent setae of same color centrally. Metaventrite with dense yellowish pubescence and whitish pubescence interspersed, except large, subtriangular central region with sparse, longer whitish setae and yellowish setae interspersed, except glabrous area close to metathoracic discrimen. Scutellum with dense yellowish-white pubescence, except glabrous anterocentral area.

Elytra. – Moderately coarsely abundantly punctate basally, punctures gradually finer toward apex; apex concave, with outer angle short and triangularly projected and sutural angle spiniform; base with dense pale yellow pubescent macula between scutellum and humerus; remaining surface with abundant, both pale yellow and yellowish-white pubescent spots, and whitish pubescence among them not obscuring integument; with a few long, erect yellowish-white setae interspersed, more distinct near apex.

Legs. – Inner and outer apex of meso- and metafemora with short projection with rounded apex (Fig. 6). Femora with abundant whitish pubescence not obscuring integument, except bristly yellowish pubescence on dorsal surface of metafemora; with a few long, erect whitish setae on dorsal apex, and entire ventral surface of meso- and metafemora. Tibiae with abundant whitish pubescence not obscuring integument, except posterior quarter of sides and ventral surface of protibiae, posterior quarter of ventral surface of mesotibiae, and posterior third of ventral surface of metatibiae with bristly, abundant yellowish-brown pubescence; with long, erect, sparse, both whitish and yellowish setae interspersed, gradually more abundant toward metatibiae. Metatarsomere I distinctly shorter than II–III together.

Abdomen. – Ventrites 1–4 with abundant grayish-white pubescence laterally, gradually sparser toward 4, except glabrous area at about basal half (gradually more irregular toward 4); central area of ventrites 1–4 with sparse grayish-white pubescence, and long, erect setae of the same color interspersed (erect setae more abundant laterally); ventrite 5 with grayish-white pubescence not obscuring integument, except light yellowish-brown pubescence near apex, and long, erect, both yellowish and whitish setae interspersed; apex of ventrite 5 widely concave and with fringe of golden setae.

Female (Fig. 10-16).

Similar to male, but differs as follows: antennae shorter, 1.15 times elytral length, reaching posterior quarter of elytra; outer apex of antennomere III with a distinct spine, shorter than spine on inner apex (Fig. 12). Antennomere XI subequal to X. Apex of abdominal ventrite 5 centrally emarginate.

Variation. – Outer elytral apex with short, rounded projection on outer angle. In males, outer apex of antennomere IV ranging from rounded to having a short spine.



Fig. 1-9. *Elaphidion robustum* sp. nov.

1-6) Holotype, ♂. 1) Dorsal habitus. 2) Ventral habitus. 3) Lateral habitus. 4) Head, frontal view. 5) Antennomeres III and IV. 6) Metafemur. 7-9) Paratype, ♂, dorsal habitus.

Dimensions (mm) (holotype ♂/paratypes ♂/paratypes ♀).

- Total length, 21.05/18.20–22.70/19.35–22.90;
- Prothoracic length, 3.80/3.60–4.30/3.55–3.80;
- Anterior prothoracic width, 3.50/3.15–4.30/3.20–4.00;
- Posterior prothoracic width, 4.00/3.80–5.00/3.70–4.80;
- Maximum prothoracic width, 4.65/4.45–5.70/4.40–5.40;
- Humeral width, 5.45/5.10–6.75/5.20–6.65;
- Elytral length, 14.45/12.20–14.85/13.00–15.95.

Etymology. – The name “robustum” (Latin, meaning evincing strength) refers to the stout form of the species.

Biology. – Adult beetles, pupae and larvae were found in various dead hardwoods, but also in dead agave stalks, suggesting that this species is rather indiscriminate in selecting the material for development.

Remarks. – *Elaphidion robustum* sp. nov. is similar to *E. conspersum* Newman, 1841, but differs as follows: body stouter in both sexes (Fig. 1, 7–9, 10, 15–16); in males outer apex of the antennomere III rounded (Fig. 5); outer apex of the elytra at most with short triangular projection in both sexes (Fig. 1, 7–9, 10, 13, 15–16); and apex of meso- and metafemora without spine at outer and inner apices (Fig. 6, 14). In *E. conspersum*, the body is slender in both sexes (Fig. 17, 21–23; see also photograph of the neotype male on Bezark 2021a), outer and inner apex of antennomere III with distinct spine in both sexes (Fig. 19), outer apex of the elytra with long spine, usually longer than sutural spine (Fig. 17, 21–23; see also photograph of the neotype male on Bezark 2021a), and apex of mesofemora with long spine at inner apex, inner apex of metafemora with long spine, and outer apex with short spine in both sexes (Fig. 20). Newman (1841) described *E. conspersum* based on three specimens from the Caribbean: one from Haiti and two from Tortola (British Virgin Islands). Villiers (1979) designated a neotype of *E. conspersum* and reported (translated): “In fact, the three syntypes [of *E. conspersum*] have disappeared (Letter of February 15, 1979 from Mr. C. R. Smith, responsible for the Coleoptera C section of the British Museum).” We do not know if this information is accurate, especially because the two syntypes from Tortola belonged to Waterhouse (probably Charles Owen Waterhouse). Charles Owen Waterhouse collection is now deposited in the BMNH (Horn & Kahle 1936). Therefore, it is possible that the syntypes from this collection have survived, which would invalidate the designation of the neotype. However, even if none of the three syntypes still exist, the specimens from Tortola do not correspond to the new species described here because, according to Newman (1841), “the apices of the elytra are truncated, each of the angles being furnished with a distinct spine, of which the exterior is the larger,” and “the apices of the meso- and metafemora are furnished with a spine, which in the Hayti [*sic*] specimen is very distinct.”

Changes of species-group names in *Elaphidion*. – The Greek suffix “-ιον” (transliterated into Latin without changes – “-ion”) is used to form a diminutive. As “-ion” is neuter gender,

Elaphidion is also neuter gender. Therefore, three species-group names in *Elaphidion* need to be corrected: *E. androsensis* Fisher, 1942, corrected for *E. androsense*; *E. antiguensis* Vlasak, 2019, corrected for *E. antiguense*; and *E. cristalensis* Zayas, 1975, corrected for *E. cristalense*. The Latin suffix “-ensis” is masculine or feminine gender. Therefore, it is required to use the Latin suffix “-ense” in both adjectives, which is neuter gender.

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Résumé

Vlasak J. & Santos-Silva A., 2021. – Une nouvelle espèce du genre *Elaphidion* Audinet-Serville des Antilles (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Cerambycinae, Elaphidiini). *Faunitaxys*, 9(34): 1–6.

Elaphidion robustum, une nouvelle espèce de l'île antillaise d'Antigua est décrite et illustrée. Trois noms de groupes d'espèces du genre *Elaphidion* Audinet-Serville, 1834 sont modifiés.

Mots clés. – Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Elaphidiini, *Elaphidion*, *robustum*, taxonomie, nouvelle espèce, Antigua-et-Barbuda, région néotropicale, Antilles.

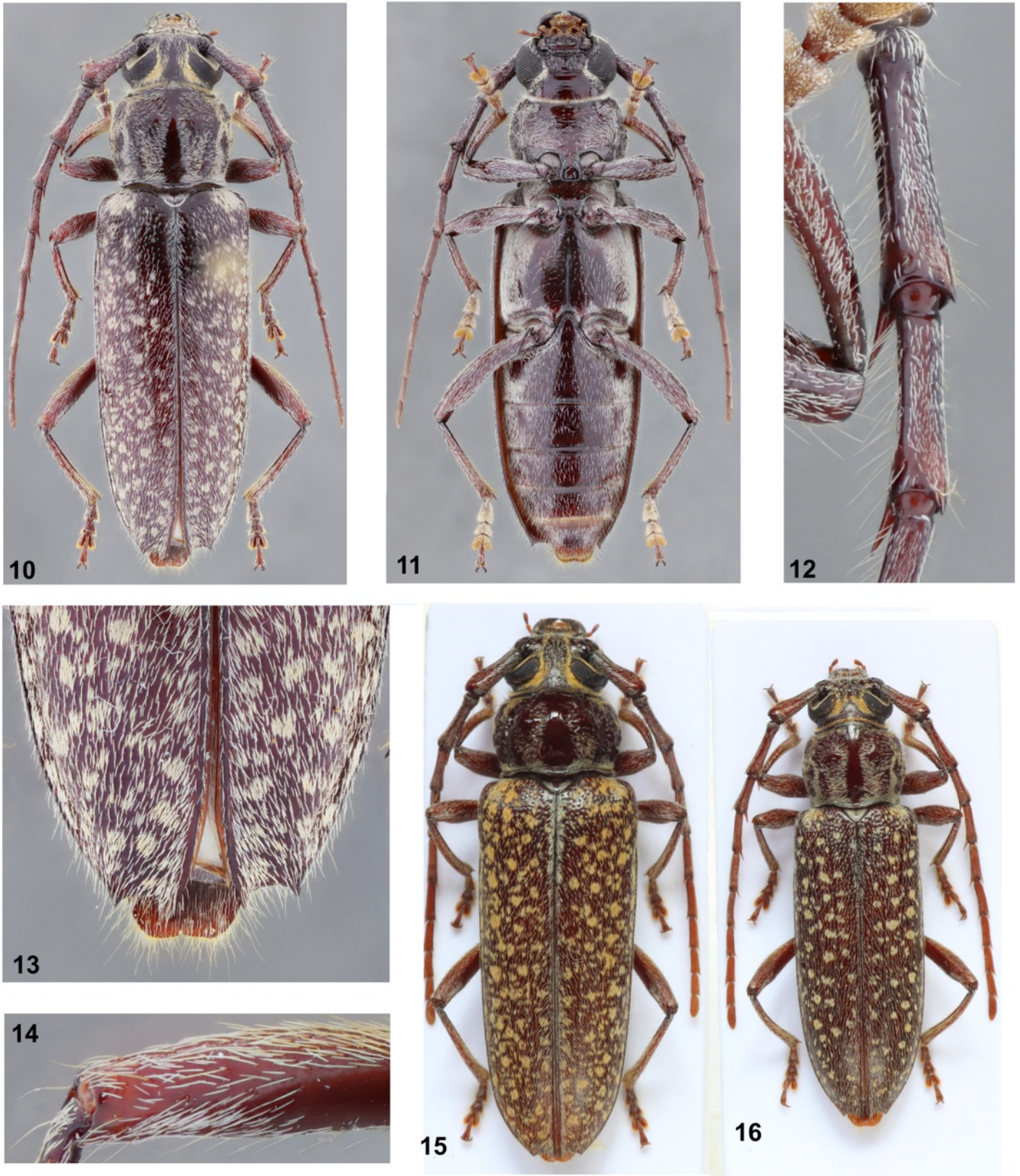


Fig. 10-16. *Elaphidion robustum* sp. nov., paratypes, ♀.

10-14) Specimen 1. **10)** Dorsal habitus. **11)** Ventral habitus. **12)** Antennomeres III and IV. **13)** Elytral apex. **14)** Metafemur. **15-16)** Dorsal habitus, specimens 2 and 3.

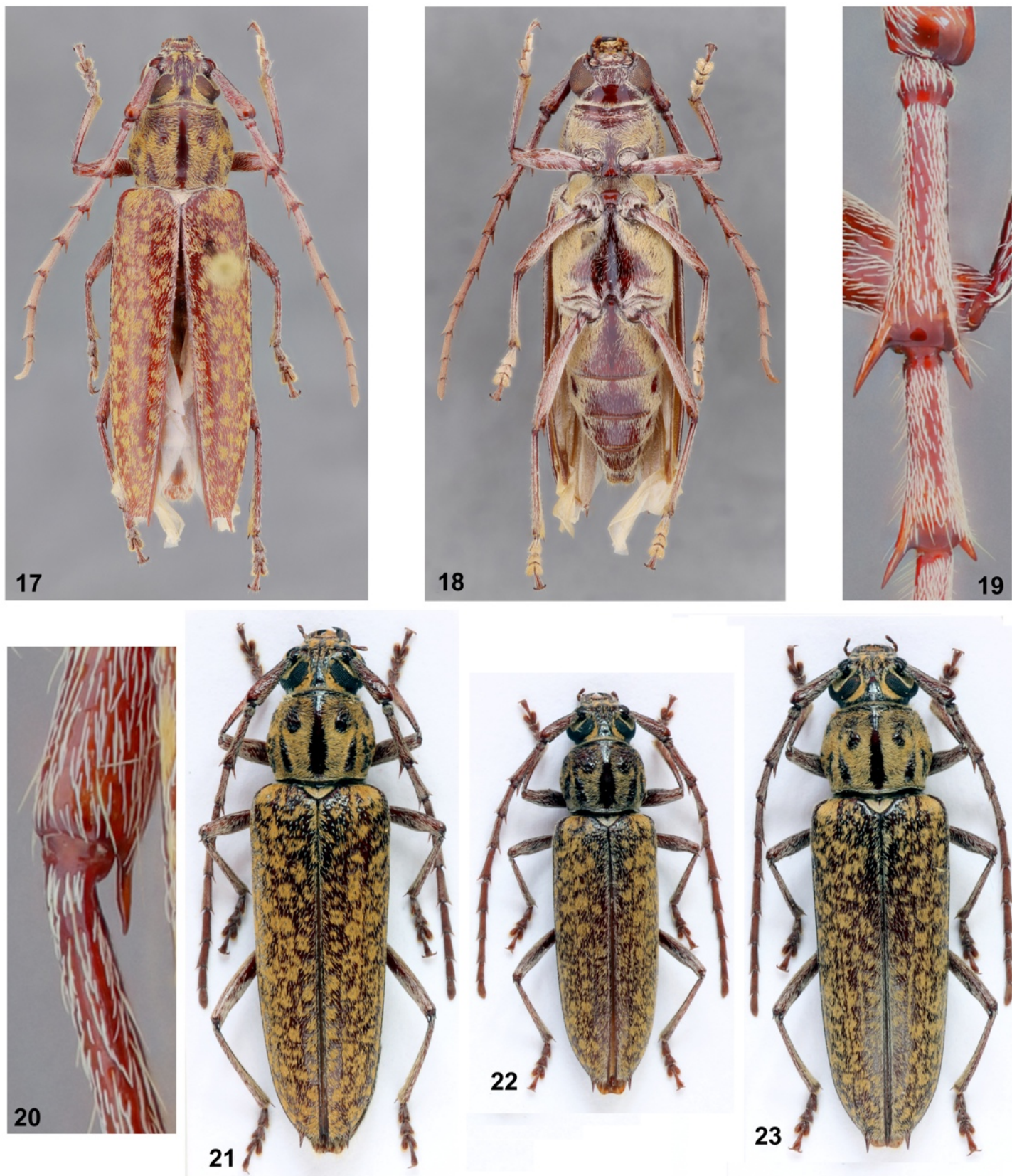


Fig. 17-23. *Elaphidion conspersum* Newman, 1841, ♀.

17-20) Specimen 1, from Dominican Republic. 17) Dorsal habitus. 18) Ventral habitus. 19) Antennomeres III and IV. 20) Metafemur. 21-23) Dorsal habitus, specimens 2, 3, and 4 from Puerto Rico.

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Illustration de la couverture : A view at English Harbour, Antigua.

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