

# *Promecops claviger* Hustache, 1929 (Coleoptera: Curculionidae): First register in Brazil and first host plant register

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**ABSTRACT:** For the first time in Brazil and in soybean plants (*Glycine max* (L.) Merr.), the weevil *Promecops claviger* Hustache has been identified. The incidence occurred in the city of Sinop, Mato Grosso (11°48'14,64" S, 55°34'55,93" W), in October 2010.

In October 2010, it was found that soybean plants had been damaged in the early development stage by one species of Curculionidae, at a farm in Sinop, MT (11°48'14.64" S, 55°34'55.93" W). Specimens of that weevil were collected, manually, and taken to the entomology laboratory at the Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso, Sinop campus, where they were set and appropriately tagged for identification.

Those insects feed mainly on new leaves (first fully developed trifoliolate leaf), significantly reducing foliar area, which harmed photosynthesis activity and plant development. Some areas suffered severe attacks, which determined plant death in approximately eight hectares, corresponding to 7% of the harvested area. The highest damage incidence occurred between October and November, but the pests were present during the whole period that the crop was on the field, as its presence was confirmed in the post-harvest period, in March 2011. According to the local farmers, those insects were already present in the region, but there were no registers because the damage they caused was not considered relevant.

The weevil was identified as *Promecops claviger* Hustache (Curculionidae; Curculioninae, Eudiagogini) (Figure 1). Lázaro *et al.* (1997) detected this weevil in the region of Tucumán - Argentina (26°48' S, 65°31' W), and reported that it is considered to be an occasional soybean pest, but appear in great numbers because of the adverse conditions that favor its development, causing economic damage. In 1998, Lázaro *et al.* reported that some environmental conditions, such as drought and the lack of preferred host plants for feeding, favor the attack on the cultivated crops and, once emerged in the seedling, the adult insects begin to damage the cotyledons and the leaf rims leaving characteristic "U" shaped indentations. This characteristic was confirmed in the damaged soy in the Sinop region.

Adult specimens of this species were included in the Pe. J. S. Moure Entomological Collection, Department of Zoology, Universidade Federal do Paraná in Curitiba, and in the Entomological Collection of the Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso in Sinop, under register number ABAM-E 32.



**FIGURE 1.** Specimen of *Promecops claviger* Hustache, 1929. Scale: 1.2 mm.

Insects cause both direct and indirect damage to the crops, according to their population, time of occurrence, and the affected part of plant, among other factors. In soybean, most pest-insects cause indirect damage, such reducing foliar area and boring of stems and stalks (Gazzoni 1994; Gazzoni and Moscardi 1998; Silva 2000). Hoffmann-Campo *et al.* (2000) reported that the soybean is subject to being attacked by insects from germination to harvesting. Soon after germination, from the beginning of the vegetative state, several insects damage the culture, including the soybean stalk weevil, lesser cornstalk borer larvae and white grubs.

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