

Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad

ISSN: 1870-3453 falvarez@ib.unam.mx

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México México

Jones, Robert W.; Niño-Maldonado, Santiago; Luna-Cozar, Jesús

Diversity and biogeographic affinities of Apionidae (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea) along an altitudinal gradient in El Cielo Biosphere Reserve of northeastern Mexico

Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad, vol. 83, núm. 1, 2012, pp. 100-109

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Distrito Federal, México

Available in: http://www.redalyc.org/articulo.oa?id=42523212011



Complete issue

More information about this article

Journal's homepage in redalyc.org





Diversity and biogeographic affinities of Apionidae (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea along an altitudinal gradient in El Cielo Biosphere Reserve of northeastern Mexic

Diversidad y afinidades biogeográficas de Apionidae (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea) a lo largo d un gradiente altitudinal en la Reserva de la Biosfera El Cielo en el noreste de México

Robert W. Jones^{1 ⋈}, Santiago Niño-Maldonado² y Jesús Luna-Cozar³

⊠ rjones@uaq.mx

Abstract. The altitudinal and temporal distributions of species in the family Apionidae (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea) were studied in El Cielo Biosphere Reserve (ECBR) in the state of Tamaulipas, northeastern Mexico. Species richness, diversity and abundance were recorded along an altitudinal gradient, from 100 to 1 900 m. A total of 571 individuals of 51 species were collected, representing 30% of the total species of Apionidae recorded for Mexico. Richness estimators (Chao 2) indicated that 75% of the species present were sampled. Species richness and diversity was greatest in tropical forests. Species geographic distributions were found to fall into 3 categories: mega-Mexico, tropical and temperate. The majority of the species (55.3%) were restricted to mega-Mexico (southern southwestern US to northern Nicaragua), with fewer species with tropical (27.7%) and temperate (17.0%) distributions. Species with tropical distributions had highest diversity and greater overall abundance in low elevations in tropical forests when compared to higher elevation forests (cloud and pine/oak). In contrast, diversity and abundance for species with temperate and mega-Mexican distributions were similar in all forest types. Greater richness and abundance occurred during the dry season (December through May) than the rainy season, suggesting populations of Apionidae were in immature stages during this latter period, with active adults predominating during the dry season, many of which were probably in a non-reproductive physiological state.

Key words: Coleoptera, biodiversity, biosphere reserve, Apionidae, neotropical.

Resumen. Se estudiaron las distribuciones altitudinales y temporales de especies de la familia Apionidae (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea) en la Reserva de la Biosfera El Cielo, en el norte de México. Riqueza, diversidad y abundancia fueron registrados a través de un gradiente altitudinal de 100 hasta 1 900 m. Se recolectó un total de 571 individuos de Apionidae de 51 especies. La diversidad de especies fue mayor en la selva tropical. La distribución geográfica de las especies corresponde a 3 categorías: mega-México, tropical y templada. La mayoría de las especies (55.3%) pertenecen a la categoría mega-México (sur del suroeste de los Estados Unidos hasta el norte de Nicaragua), seguido por especies con distribución tropical (27.7%) y templada (17.0%). Las especies con distribución tropical tuvieron mayor diversidad y abundancia en elevaciones bajas (selvas tropicales). En contraste, la diversidad y abundancia de las especies con distribución templada y mega-México fueron parecidas entre altitudes y tipos de vegetación. Se encontró mayor riqueza y abundancia durante la época de secas (diciembre a mayo) que en la época de lluvias, lo cual sugiere que las poblaciones de Apionidae estuvieron en etapa de inmaduros durante este último periodo, con una predominancia de adultos activos durante la época de secas, los cuales probablemente estuvieron en un estado fisiológico no-reproductivo.

Palabras claves: Coleoptera, biodiversidad, reserva biosfera, Apionidae, neotropical.

Introduction

Mexico has long been recognized as a "transition zone" between the Nearctic and Neotropical biogeographic realms (Wallace, 1876; Morrone, 2005). In generalized

biogeographic maps (Wallace, 1876; Udvardy, 197 Olson et al., 2001; Cox and Moore, 2005), the Neotropic region of Mexico is generally shown to occur south the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and extend north along bo western and eastern coastal areas approximately to the Tropic of Cancer. In contrast, the Nearctic region extend from the Rocky Mountains south through the centre Mexico plateau and along the 2 northern mountains range.

¹Facultad de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, Avenida de las Ciencias, s/n, 76230 Juriquilla, Querétaro, México.

²Unidad Académica Multidisciplinaria Agronomía y Ciencias, Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, Centro Universitario, 87149 Ciudad Victor, Tamaulipas México.

³El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, Carr. Panamericana y Periférico Sur s/n, 29290 San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, México.

(Sierra Madre Oriental and Occidental), terminating at the Transverse Neovolcanic Belt at approximately 18° latitude north. Although this generalized Nearctic-Neotropical pattern is useful for a rough depiction of the distribution within Mexico of species from these biogeographic regions, the actual distribution patterns of individual species and genera are complex and the result of dispersal and/or vicariant speciation processes associated with a wide range of possible geographical or environmental changes in geological time (Halfter, 1987; Noonan, 1988; Thomas, 1993; Rzedowski, 1993; Lobo and Halffter, 2000; Marshall and Lieberr, 2000; Morrone and Márquez, 2008).

The northern extension of the Sierra Madre Oriental Biotic province (sensu Morrone et al., 2001), and in particular the region protected within the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve (ECBR), is one of the geographic areas of Mexico where the contrast and mixing between the nearctic and neotropical faunal and floral elements is most pronounced. This reserve is in the state of Tamaulipas, approximately 70 km south of Ciudad Victoria between 22°55' and 23°25' N and 99°05' and 99°26' W (Casas Gonzalez and Requena Lara, 2005). González-Medrano (2005) reports 10 distinct types of vegetation in ECBR including tropical deciduous forests, tropical semi-deciduous forest, cloud forest, pine forest, oak forest, pine-oak forest, and with 4 associations of xeric shrubs on the western portions of the reserve. These vegetation types are often found in close proximity and several associations can often be found within a distance of 10 km, especially where the terrain rises abruptly (Valiente-Banuet et al., 1995; Gonzalez-Medrano, 2005). These changes in vegetation provide an opportunity to examine how different floral and faunal groups are distributed and mix within the different habitats.

Our overall objective was to identify the species in the family Apionidae (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea, sensu Alonso-Zarazaga and Lyal, 1999) and to characterize their distributions and associations in ECBR. Apionidae is a family of relatively small weevils (< 7 mm) with non-geniculate antenna, elongated trochanter usually pear-like shape (Anderson and Kissinger, 2002). Apionidae are widely distributed with approximately 1 900 described species worldwide (Oberprieler et al., 2007) and reported from all the biogeographical regions of the world, except the Antarctica (Alonso-Zarazaga, 2004). They are phytophagous and relatively host plant specific (Alonso-Zarazaga, 2004) and immature stages develop in plant inflorescences, seeds, stems or roots (Anderson and Kissinger, 2002; Alonso-Zarazaga, 2004). The family Apionidae was selected for the following reasons: 1), identification to species was possible for most species; 2), distribution records were available for all identified species (Kissinger, 1968, 1989, 1992, 1998, 1999a, 1999b;

O'Brien and Wibmer, 1982); 3), although studies have examined the diversity of various tropical insect group along altitudinal gradients (Sánchez-Ramos et al., 199 Olson, 1994; Lobo and Halffter, 2000; Sandoval ar Fagua, 2006), none have presented detailed, site specific diversity data for a phytophagous taxa such as Apionidae

We determined the richness, abundance and diversi of Apionidae along an altitudinal gradient that include semi-deciduous tropical forest (100-700 m), cloud fore (800-1 400 m) and mixed pine-oak forests (1 500-1 90 m), with the limits of vegetation types based on Gonzale Medrano (2005). Using reported distribution data, veategorized distributions of species of Apionidae into categories and compared species richness and abundance the different biogeographic categories along the altituding gradient and temporally throughout a year of collection.

The principal questions addressed were the followin 1), what is the richness and diversity of Apionidae of the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve? 2), what are the bas biogeographic affinities the species of Apionidae with the reserve? 3), are the species of Apionidae of differe biogeographic affinities restricted to different altitude and, 4), what are the seasonal patterns in abundances are altitudinal distributions of Apionidae within the vegetation types of the reserve?

Materials and methods

An altitudinal transect was established approximately km north of the town of Gómez Farías, in the municipali of Gómez Farías, Tamaulipas, México, and oriented in east to west direction from 23°07'56" N, 99°08'50" V to 23°07'56" N, 99°08'50" W. RBEC is situated in the terrestrial subregion of the Sierra Madre Oriental (Cuana de la Cerda et al., 1989), and situated in the Sierra de la Cucharas, part of the ancient Sierra de Guatemala (Cáma Artigas and González Rodriguez, 2005). The region composed of tropical karst of medium tropical hills ar mountains reaching a maximum of 2 320 m a.s.l., wi karstic depressions in the valleys (Cámara-Artigas ar González-Rodriguez, 2005). Soils are primarily litiso for the length of the transect. Using the system classification of Garcia (1973), the climate of the low sections of the transect up to 700 m is classified as (A C(w₂) and C(w₂) from 700 to 1 900 m (Casa-Gonzalez ar Requena-Lara, 2005). Vegetation of the transect include deciduous and semi-deciduous tropical forest (selv mediana caducifolia y subcaducifolia) at 100-700 m; clou forest (bosque mesófilo de montaña) from 700 to 1 400 r and oak-pine forest (bosque de encino-pino) from 1 400 1 900 m (Cámara-Artigas and González-Rodriguez, 200 González-Medrano, 2005).

Samples were taken monthly at 19 sites, each at 100 m intervals (19 x 12 months= 228 samples total), along an altitudinal transect from 100 m to 1 900 m a.s.l. within ECBR from January to December of 1998. Samples were taken at successive sites along the transect corresponding to 100 m of altitude from 100 a 1 900 m; the distance between sample sites depending on the steepness of the terrain. Of these sites, 7 sample sites were located in tropical deciduous forest, 7 with cloud forest and 5 within oak/ pine forests. The classification and altitudinal extension of vegetation at sample locations were based on Gonzalez-Medrano (2005) and Puig (2005), with 7 sites categorized as tropical deciduous forest (100-700 m), 7 as cloud forest (800-1 400 m) and 5 as oak/pine forest (1 500-1 900 m). We found no standardized sampling procedure for Apionidae and considered standard sweep net samples appropriate given the small size of these weevils and their close association with plants (Alonso-Zarazaga, 2004). Samples at each site consisted of 200 sweeps of vegetation using a standard 38 cm diameter canvas sweep net. At each sample location, efforts were made to sweep all vegetation that was accessible within the area. All material from the 200 sweeps, including plant parts and assorted debris, was placed in 1 gallon Zip-Lock® plastic bags saturated with alcohol, labeled with date and collecting site, and brought to the laboratory. Adult weevils were separated from the samples by visual inspection using a 1.75x magnifying lamp, and then mounted and labeled. Individuals were sorted to morphospecies and then identified using the descriptions and keys in Kissinger (1968, 1989, 1992, 1998, 1999a, 1999b), or identified by David G. Kissinger of Loma Linda, California, as well as by comparison with identified material. All specimens were deposited in the entomological collection of the Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, Querétaro, México (UAQE), or that of David G. Kissinger, Loma Linda, CA (DGK).

distributional analysis. The geographic distributions of species of Apionidae were divided into 3 categories: 1) mega-Mexico, 2) tropical, and 3) temperate. The category mega-Mexico corresponded to "mega-Mexico 3" of Rzedowski (1993); a distribution that includes the extreme southwestern United States, Mexico and northern Central America (to northern Nicaragua). Tropical species were those that occur within mega-Mexico 3, sometimes found as far north as the southwestern United States, but extend south beyond northern Central America into southern Central America and, rarely, into South America. The species categorized as temperate species had distributions extending north of the southwestern United States (north of the limits of mega-Mexico 3), with distributions extending south into Mexico and, rarely, into northern Central America.

Diversity measures and statistical analysis. The numb of individuals per species was recorded for each samp and sample site. These data were used to estimate tot weevil richness and diversity, as well as for separa estimates for tropical deciduous forest, cloud forest, ar oak/pine vegetation types. The categories of vegetation were based on the classifications and geographic location given by González-Medrano (2005). Species accumulation curves and estimators of diversity were calculated using EstimateS 6.0 computer program (Colwell, 1997). Tl species richness estimators Chao 2 and first order jackkni (Jack 1) (Colwell and Coddington, 1994) were chosen for use because Chao 2 has shown good performance wi arthropod data, and Jackknife 1 is generally considered a conservative estimator (Magurran, 2004). The estimators were calculated for the entire transect and fe each vegetation type. Diversity indices, Shannon (eH) ar Simpson's (inverse) were also calculated using Estimate 6.0 for all samples and for each of the vegetation types ar tested for significant differences between habitats using methods given by Magurran (2004). After testing for norm distributions, differences in abundance of individuals (a combined species for biogeographic categories, month and seasonal (totals) were investigated using Kruskal Wallis and Mann-Whitney nonparametric procedure using the statistical software MiniTab®, Release 14.

Results

Species richness and diversity. A total of 571 individual representing 51 species within 9 genera of Apionida were collected (Table 1 and Appendix). The total specinichness estimate suggested that approximately 75% of the total number of species of Apionidae were sampled (75.1 and 74.0 % for estimators Chao 2 and first order Jackniff Table 1). Within the genera observed, Trichapion had species, Coelocephalapion 14, Kissingeria 6, Apionion Chrysapion, Alocentron, Neapion, and Sayapion each and Stenapion had 1 species. The most abundant species were Coelocephalapion decoloratum (Smith) with 8 individuals, Alocentron relictum (Sharp) with 60, an Kissingeria trichium (Kissinger) with 51.

Species richness and diversity of Apionidae varied among forest types. Species richness was highest in the tropical semi-deciduous forest followed by cloud forest and oak-pine forest (Table 1). Richness estimates (Chao and Jackknife1) also indicated that the tropical deciduous forest had the greatest richness followed by cloud forest and oak/pine forest although these differences we not significant (Table 1). Diversity measures and tot abundances were significantly different among vegetation types (Table 1). Species diversity of Apionidae, measures

Table 1. Estimated richness and diversity indices of species of Apionidae (Insecta: Coleoptera) calculated from differe vegetation types in the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve, Tamaulipas, Mexico

		Richness estimators ¹		Diversity index ²		
Vegetation type	Observed	Confidence interval, 95% (Mao Tao)	Chao 2	Jacknife 1	Shannon (Exponential: e ^{H'})	Simpson (inverse)
Tropical Semi-						
Deciduous Forest	31	22.91 - 39.09	44.04 + 8.79 a	42.86 + 4.01 a	17.5 a	12.88 a
Cloud Forest	28	20.37 - 35.63	35.76 + 5.71 a	38.87 + 3.92 a	11.7 b	9.50 b
Oak-Pine Forest	19	14.36 - 23.64	24.90 + 4.89 a	27.85 + 2.74 a	7.5 c	5.24 c
Total	51	43.55 - 58.55	67.93 + 9.27	68.92 + 4.30	24.8	17.29

^{1/} Estimators within columns for vegetation types with the same letter not significantly different (p > 0.05) based on log linear condence intervals calculated using EstimateS 6.0 software (Colwell 1997).

by both Shannon (e H) and Simpson (inverse) Indices, was greatest in the semi-deciduous tropical vegetation, followed in order by cloud forest and oak/pine forest vegetation (Table 1). Higher diversity in tropical vegetation was the result of both greater numbers of species and more uniform abundance patterns. In contrast, the uniformity of species abundance in oak/pine was low, reducing diversity measures, with 5 dominant species (C. auctum, C. decoloratum, K. trichium, T. godmani, T. proclive) accounting for 81% of the recorded individuals. In contrast to diversity values, overall abundance was not significantly different among forest types (H= 1.6, df= 2, p > 0.05). Biogeographic affinities. The distribution of species of Apionidae from ECBR fit well into the 3 biogeographic patterns (Fig. 1). The geographic distribution of the majority of the Apionidae species (56.5%; 26 spp.) in the reserve corresponded to mega-Mexico 3 of Rzedowski (1993). Of these species, 15 (57.7%) had distributions restricted to regions north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and 3 (6.5%) have only been collected from the Sierra Madre Oriental. Tropical species, those with distributions whose northern limits are within mega-Mexico 3 but extend south beyond northern Central America, accounted for 28.3% (13) of the species. Of these, only 3 had distributions beyond Panama into South America. The species categorized as temperate species, with distributions extending north of the limits of mega-Mexico into the United States or rarely into Canada, accounted for only 15.2% of the total. Of these, none have been found in South America, southern Central America or the Caribbean and only 2 had distributions that extended beyond the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Species from the 3 biogeographic categories were found in all vegetation types (Fig. 2), and the proportions of the categories among the habitat types were not significantly different (χ^2 = 3.26, df= 2, p > 0.05). However, of these categories, those with tropical distribution had greatest

differences in species richness and abundance amore vegetation types (Fig. 2A, B). Greater species richness are significantly higher abundance of tropical species we found in tropical and cloud forests than in the oak/pin forests at higher elevations (Fig. 2B). Species richness for Apionidae with distributions within mega-Mexico we similar for all vegetation types (Fig. 2B). Species with temperate distributions had similar richness values for a

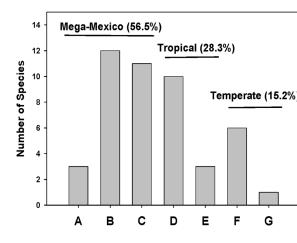


Figure 1. Geographic distributions of species of Apionidae the El Cielo Bisophere reserve. See text for definition of the geographic categories (mega-Mexico, tropical, and temperate Distributions within these categories included: A, only record from the Sierra Madre Oriental; B, reported from northern meg Mexico and not extending beyond the Isthmus of Tehuantepe C, distributed throughout mega-Mexico (southwestern US northern Central America); D, mega-Mexico to southern Ce tral America; E, mega-Mexico to South America; F, USA and/Canada to northern Mexico; G, USA and sometimes Canada northern Central America.

^{2/} All comparisons of diversity indices between vegetation types significantly different (p < 0.05); for all comparisons values of St dents t > 55.0, df > 350.

vegetation types, with slightly greater abundance in oakpine forests (Fig. 2B).

Seasonal abundance patterns. Species richness and abundance of Apionidae were greater during the dry season (December through May) than the rainy season (June through November). A total of 40 species were registered during the dry season compared with 28 collected from the rainy season. Likewise, overall abundance (individuals per sample) was significantly greater during dry season months than the wet season (H= 7.4, p < 0.05), as well as for each abundance within each biogeographic category; U= 5012, 6079, and 4957, (p < 0.05) respectively for tropical, temperate, and mega-Mexico affinities. However, despite differences in abundance, the proportions of species within the 3 biogeographic categories was not significantly different between seasons (χ^2 = 0.61, df= 4, p > 0.05).

Monthly richness and abundance values for Apionidae were notable for marked decreases at the start of the rainy season in June and July (Fig. 3). Subsequently, richness generally increased throughout the rainy season and into the dry season, peaking during February, March and April. In contrast, abundance values were bimodal. The first peak occurred from February to May with the second peak from September through December. All abundance values for these months, with the exception of October, were significantly greater than the lowest abundance values at the beginning of the rainy season in June and July (Fig. 3).

Discussion

The number of species of Apionidae (51) collected within ECBR was notable for such a small sample area and represented 30% of the total number of species reported for Mexico by Alonzo-Zarazaga (2004). This richness is due, in part, to the reserve having both tropical and temperate climate regimes, as well as being located at a node of 3 biogeographic provinces (Morrone and Márquez, 2008): Sierra Madre Oriental, Gulf Coast and Tamaulipan. Richness estimators (Chao 2 and Jacknife 1) indicated that approximately 75% of the species of Apionidae were collected in the habitats sampled. Further collection effort within the western portions of the reserve with vegetation characteristic of the more arid Tamaulipan biotic province will undoubtedly contribute more species of Apionidae representative of northern Mexico.

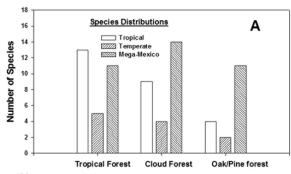
Diversity was greater in the tropical deciduous forest, than in cloud or pine/oak forests, due to greater numbers of species combined with more uniform abundances in the former, although abundance was similar among forests. Because Apionidae are relatively host specific (Alonso-Zarazaga, 2004) these results are probably a product of the greater diversity of hosts plants in the tropical forest;

an explanation that is supported by general comparison of diversities of insect herbivores between temperate ar tropical forests (Novotny et al., 2006).

The biogeographic distributions of the majority of the species of Apionidae from ECBR were restricted to meg Mexico 3, or from this region south into southern Centr America (85% of total). Thus, although the reserve is on 350 km from the US border, the biogeographic affinition of the species of Apionidae are distinctly to the sout This pattern is in contrast to other taxa of ECBR, such as trees (Puig, 2005) and macrofungi (García-Jiméne and Valenzuela-Garza, 2005) of the cloud forests ECBR that share many species with temperate region of the southeastern United States. Only 7 of the species of Apionidae collected have distributions that extended north beyond the extreme southwestern United State (Fig. 1), and of these, only 3 have been reported from the eastern US. The low number of shared species between ECBR and the eastern United States may be the resu of more rapid divergence and vicariant speciation populations of Apionidae between these regions who compared to other taxa; this given that these insects often have multiple generations per year and can reach high local abundance.

Although the region of mega-Mexico 3 was original conceived to describe distributions of plants (Rzedowsk 1993), the concept also characterizes well the majori of the distribution patterns of species of Apionidae fro ECBR. Surprisingly, it also delimits the majority of a species of Apionidae recorded for North America (52%) n= 246; Kissinger, 1968); a figure similar to that reporte here for the ECBR. It can be argued that the similari in distribution between Apionidae and Mexican plan is because the insects simply track their host plants, b as so little is known of the host plants of Apionida this conclusion presently cannot be properly evaluate Nonetheless, it is interesting to note that the one meg Mexican species from this study with reliable ho plant data (Neapion xanthoxyli), has a host plant wi a much greater geographic distribution. Its host plan Zanthoxylum fagara (L.) Sarg. is fairly common in Florid and in the Caribbean (Correll and Johnston, 1970), Th the distribution of N. xanthoxyli is more restricted that that of its host plant is not surprising given that herbivor generally cannot colonize all plant populations, as his been noted by Gaston (2003). Further study is needed determine if other species of Apionidae restricted to meg Mexico do not extend to the full northern range of the host plants.

More species and individuals of Apionidae we found during the dry season than the rainy season which apparently reflects the basic life history of Apionidae



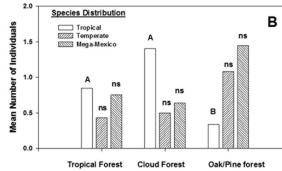


Figure 2. Comparison of species richness and total individual densities of Apionidae (Coleoptera) among vegetation types in the Cielo Biosphere Reserve. A, numbers of species of each geographic distribution category compared among vegetation types. B, mea abundance of total individuals per sample of each geographic distribution category compared among vegetation types. Mean number individuals of tropical distribution were significantly higher in tropical forest and cloud forests than oak/pine forests (Kruskall Wallis H= 10.59; DF= 3; p < 0.01, separation of ranks between each forest type using Mann-Whitney Test).

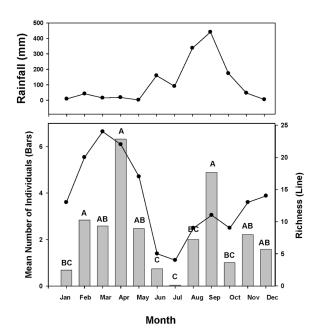


Figure 3. Monthly totals of rainfall (top) with species richness and mean abundance of Apionidae (bottom) in the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Bars with same letters not significantly different based on Kruskall-Wallis nonparametric test (H= 26.7; DF= 3; p < 0.01, separation of ranks between months using Mann-Whitney Test).

the reserve. As strictly herbivorous insects, Apionidae are limited to reproduction on a limited number of plant species with immature stages of Apionidae virtually immobile and restricted within reproductive and vegetative structures. Clearly adult females are obligated to be closely associated with the hosts at times of oviposition, but adults may be

on other plant species that are not larval hosts during mating flights or resting stages especially when hosts a unavailable (Alonso-Zarazaga, 2004). These host-fre periods may be extensive, at times lasting more than months, depending on climate and plant phenology. In the reserve, a significant drop in adult abundance during Jui and July at the initiation of the rainy season, suggested that populations were principally on primary hosts immature stages at this time. As these stages developed into adults, these apparently began appearing in all habita and reached peak richness and abundance in March ar April. Individuals collected during these peak periods abundance, were probably on non-reproductive hosts, is commonly reported for Apionidae (Alonso-Zarazag 2004). This conclusion is supported by the presence many individuals with distributions categorized as tropic or mega-Mexico in the higher elevation oak/pine forests these peak abundance periods. This further suggests th at least some of the species of Apionidae may seasonal disperse during periods of adult aestivation from lower cooler, higher elevations when host plants are not availab and temperatures at the lower altitudes are extreme.

Clearly, more study is needed of the basic biology species of Apionidae and their host plants in subtropic and tropical regions. In the present study, only 7 of the species have published reliable host records, of which 5 a for temperate species of Apionidae based on data records in the United States and Canada. More detailed host plant records would allow for interesting comparisons of the local and biogeographic distributions species of species of Apionidae with that of their host plants and give insignate into life history traits and distribution and colonization patterns at various spatial scales.

Acknowledgments

We are indebted to David Kissinger of Loma Linda, California for identification of many of the collected specimens. We wish to thank Plácido Ornelas Linares, Julián Maldonado Contreras, Jesús Hernández Martínez, Humberto Osorio, Joaquín Parra Niño, Juan Córdoba y Teresa de Jesus Ornelas Linares who helped in the field work and Texas Southmost College, in Brownsville, Texas and their personnel at El Cielo Biological Station for providing housing and research space. Mahinda Martínez, Carlos López and Karina Acevedo-Whitehouse of the Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro provided valuable editorial advice. Funding was provided in part by the Comisión para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO) and the Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro.

Literature cited

- Alonso-Zarazaga, M. A. 2004. Apionidae (Coleoptera). In Biodiversidad, taxonomía y biogeografía de artrópodos de México: hacia una síntesis de su conocimiento. Vol. IV, J. Llorente Bousquets, J. J. J. Morrone, O. Yañez and I. Vargas (eds.). Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México y Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, Mexico, D. F. p. 705-712.
- Alonso-Zarazaga, M. A. and C. H. C. Lyal. 1999. A World Catalogue of Families and Genera of Curculionoidea (Insecta: Coleoptera), (Excepting Scolytidae and Platypodidiae). Entomopraxis, Barcelona. 315 p.
- Anderson, R. and D. G. Kissinger. 2002. Chapter 129. Brentidae. Billberg 1820. *In* American Beetles: Polyphaga: Scarabaeoidea through Curculionoidea, R. H. Arnett and M. C. Thomas, (eds.). CRC Press, New Cork. p. 711-719.
- Casas-González, S. L. and G. N. Requena-Lara. 2005. Chapter 3. Generalidades geográficas. *In* Historia Natural de la Reserva de la Biosfera El Cielo, Tamaulipas, México, G. Sánchez-Ramos, P. Reyes-Castillo and R. Dirzo (eds.). México, Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas. p. 38-50.
- Cámara-Artigas, R. and L. González-Rodriguez. 2005. 5. Un karst tropical en la Sierra Madre Oriental. *In* Historia Natural de la Reserva de la Biosfera El Cielo, Tamaulipas, México, G. Sánchez-Ramos, P. Reyes-Castillo and R. Dirzo (eds.). México, Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas. p. 63-66.
- Colwell, R. K. and J. A. Coddington. 1994. Estimating terrestrial biodiversity through extrapolation. Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society 345:101-118.
- Colwell, R. K. 1997. EstimateS: Statistical estimation of species richness and shared species from samples. Version 5. User's guide and application: http:// viceroy.eeb.uconn. edu/ estimates; 28.VII.2011.
- Correll, D. S. and M. C. Johnston. 1979. Manual of the Vascular

- Plants of Texas. University of Texas, Austin, TX. 1881 p.
- Cox, B. C. and P. D. Moore. 2005. Biogeography: An ecologic and evolutionary approach. 7th ed., Blackwell Scientifi Oxford. 326 p.
- Cuanalo-de la Cerda, H., E. Ojeda-Trejo, A. Santos-Ocampand C. A. Ortiz-Solorio. 1989. Provincias, Regiones Subregiones de México. Colegio de Postgraduados, Cent de Edafología, Chapingo, México. 621 p.
- García, E. 1973. Modificaciones al sistema de clasificación climática de Köppen (para adaptarlo a las condicion de la República Mexicana). 2. ed. Instituto de Geografi Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México D. 220 p.
- García-Jiménez, J. and R. Valenzuela-Garza. 2005. Chapter 3 Hongos macromicetos. *In* Historia Natural de la Reserva de Biosfera El Cielo, Tamaulipas, México, G. Sánchez-Ramo P. Reyes-Castillo and R. Dirzo (eds.). México, Universida Autónoma de Tamaulipas. p. 321-337.
- Gaston, K. J. 2003. The structure and dynamics of geograph ranges. Oxford University Press, Oxford. 266 p.
- Gonzalez-Medrano, F. 2005. Chapter 7. La vegetación. *In* Histor Natural de la Reserva de la Biosfera El Cielo, Tamaulipa México, G. Sánchez-Ramos, P. Reyes-Castillo, and R. Dir. (eds.). Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas. Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas. México. p. 88-105.
- Green, R. H. 1966. Measurement of non-randomness in spati distributions. Researches Population Ecology 8:1-7.
- Halffter, G. 1987. Biogeography of the Montane Entomofauna Mexico and Central America. Annual Review of Entomolog 32:95-114.
- Hammer, Ø., D. A. T. Harper and P. D. Ryan. 2001. PAS Paleontological Statistics Software Package for Education and Data Analysis. Palaeontologia Electronica 4:9.
- Kissinger, D. G. 1968. Curculionidae subfamily Apionin of North and Central America, with reviews of the Wor genera of Apioninae and World subgenera of Apion Herb Coleoptara. Taxonomic Publications, South Lancaster. 559
- Kissinger, D. G. 1989. Apionidae from North and Central America. Part 1. Notes on the classification of the Apic subgenus *Trichapion* Wagner with description of new specifrom the United States of America. (Coleoptera). Insect Mundi 3:271-287.
- Kissinger, D. G. 1992. Apionidae from North and Central America. Part 4. Generic classification and introduction the genus Coelocephalapion Wagner, with new species from Mexico and Venezuela (Coleoptera). Insecta Mundi 6:65-7
- Kissinger, D. G. 1998. Apionidae from North and Central America. Part 5. Description of genus *Apionion* and 4 ne species (Coleoptera). Insecta Mundi 12:93-102.
- Kissinger, D. G. 1999a. Description of a new genus, Sayapio from from North and Central America. (Coleopter Apionidae). Insecta Mundi 13:72.

- Kissinger, D. G. 1999b. Apionidae from North and Central America. Part 6. Description of new species of Apionion Kissinger, Coelocephalapion Wagner and Trichapion Wagner (Coleoptera). Insecta Mundi 13:21-37.
- Lobo, J. M. and G. Halffter. 2000. Biogeographical and ecological factors affecting the altitudinal variation of mountainous communities of coprophagous beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea): A comparative study. Annals Entomological Society of America 93:115-126.
- Magurran, A. E. 2004. Measuring biological diversity. Blackwell Pub. New York. 256 p.
- Marshall, C. J. and J. K. Lieberr. 2000. Cladistic biogeography of the Mexican transition zone. Journal of Biogeography 27:203-216
- Morrone, J. J. 2005. Hacia una síntesis biogeográfica de México. Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad 76:207-252.
- Morrone, J. J., D. Espinosa and J. Llorente. 2002. Mexican biogeographic provinces: Preliminary scheme, general characterizations, and synonymies. Acta Zoológica Mexicana 85:83-108.
- Morrone, J. J. and J. Márquez. 2008. Biodiversity of Mexican terrestrial arthropods (Arachnida and Hexapoda): a biogeographical puzzle. Acta Zoológica Mexicana 24:15-41.
- Noonan, G. R. 1988. Biogeography of North American and Mexican insects, and a critique of vicariance biogeography. Systematic Zoology 37:366-384.
- Novotný, V. and Y. Basset. 2000. Rare species in communities of tropical insect herbivores: pondering the mystery of singletons. Oikos 89:564-572.
- Novotny, V., P. Drozd, S. Miller, M. Kulfan, M. Janda, Y. Basset and G. D. Weiblen. 2006 Why are there so many species of herbivorous insects in tropical rain forests? Science 313:1115-1118.
- Oberprieler, R. G., A. E. Marvaldi and R. S. Anderson. 2007. Weevils, weevils, everywhere. Zootaxa 1668:491-520.
- O'Brien, C. W. and G. J. Wibmer. 1982. Annotated checklist of the weevils (Curculionidae sensu lato) of North America, Central America and the West Indies (Coleoptera: Curculionidae).

- Memoirs American Entomological Institute. 34:1-382.
- Olson, D. M., E. Dinerstein, E. D. Wikramanayake, N. J. Burgess, G. V. N. Powell, E. C. Underwood, J. A. D'amico, Itoua, H. E. Strand, J. C. Morrison, C. J. Loucks, T. F. Allnu T. H. Ricketts, Y. Kura, J. F. Lamoreux, W. W. Wettengel, Hedao and K. R. Kassem. 2001. Terrestrial Ecoregions of the World: A New Map of Life on Earth. BioScience 51:933-93
- Olson, D. M. 1994. The distribution of leaf litter invertebrat along a Neotropical altitudinal gradient. Journal of Tropic Ecology 10:129-150.
- Puig, H. 2005. La biogeografía de las plantas del bosquesófilo. *In* Historia Natural de la Reserva de la Biosfera Cielo, Tamaulipas, México. Chapter 6, G. Sánchez-Ramos, Reyes-Castillo, and R. Dirzo (eds.). Universidad Autónom de Tamaulipas. México. p. 67-87.
- Rzedowski, J. 1993. Diversity and origins of the Phanerogam flora of Mexico. *In* Biological diversity of Mexico. Origi and distributions, T. P. Ramamoorthy, R. Bye, A. Lot and Fa (eds.). Oxford Univiversity Press, New York. p. 129-14
- Sánchez-Ramos, G., J. Lobo. M. Lara-Villalón and P. Reye Castillo. 1993. Distribución altitudinal y estacional la entomofauna necrófila en la Reserva de la Biosfera " Cielo", Tamaulipas, México. Biotam:13-22.
- Sandoval-Mojica, A. and G. Fagua. 2006. Estructura de l comunidades de Orthoptera (Insecta) en un gradien altitudinal de un bosque andino. Revista Colombiana Entomología 32:200-213.
- Thomas, D. B. 1993. Scarabaeidae (Coleoptera) of the Chiapanecan forests: a faunal survey and chorograph analysis. Coleoperist Bulletin 47:363-408.
- Udvardy, M. D. F. 1975. A classification of the biogeographic provinces of the world. IUCN Occasional Paper no. 1 Morges, Switzerland: IUCN.
- Valiente-Banuet, A., M. F. González and D. Piñero. 199 La vegetación selvática de la región de Gómez Faría Tamaulipas, México. Acta Botanica Mexicana 33:1-36.
- Wallace, A. R. 1876. The geographical distribution of anima MacMillian, London. 1110 p.

Appendix. Species list and number of individuals of Apionidae (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea) collected in various fore types in the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Tribal and subtribal arrangements based on Alonso-Zar zaga and Lyal (1999) and species names used as in Alonso-Zarazaga (2004).

Species	Sum	1	Cloud forest	Oak/ Pine		Geographic distribution
APIONINAE						
Aspidapiini Alocentron chiriquense (Sharp)	14	14	0	0	Tropical	USA: (IL); MEXICO (Gro., Mor. Tamps., Ver.); Guat.; Nic. Pan.

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS

GUAT.

Appendix. Continues.

a .		BER OF				Caagraphia
Species	Sum	Trop. Forest	Cloud forest	Oak/ Pine		Geographic distribution
A. relictum (Sharp)	60	20	39	1	Tropical	MEXICO (Chis., Dgo., Gro., Mor., Nay., Pue., S.L.P., Sin., Tab., Ver.); GUAT.; EL SALV.; HOND.; C. RIC
Ixapiini Neapion xanthoxyli (Fall)	1	0	0	1	Mega-Mexico	USA (TX); MEXICO (Tamps., Oax. Ver)
N. cretaceicolle (Sharp)	6	5	0	1	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (Tamps.); GUAT.
Piezotrachelini Chrysapion auctum (Sharp)	21	1	4	16	Tropical	USA (AZ, BJ, CA, TX); MEXICO (Col., DF, Gro., Mich., Hgo., S.L.P. Ver., Mex.); GUAT.; EL SALV.; C.RICA
C. chrysocomun (Gerstaecker)	16	10	6	0	Tropical	MEXICO (Chis., Mich., S.L.P., Tab Ver.); Guat.; Hond.; El Salv.; Pan.
Oxystomatini Oxystomatina						
Coelocephalapion ablulum (Kissinger)	2	0	0	2	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (N.L., Dgo.)
C. absonum (Kissinger)	1	1	0	0	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (Ver.), El Salv.
C. aduncirostre (Gerstaecker)	6	1	5	0	Tropical	MEXICO (Chis., Gro., Hgo., Jal., Pue., Mex., Mich., Nay., S.L.P., Tab., Ver.); EL. SALV.; GUAT.; HOND.; PAN.; SOUTH AMERICA
C. carinatum (Smith)	25	17	8	0	Temperate	USA (East, Central, West); MEXICO (S.L.P.)
C. decoloratum (Smith)	81	31	6	44	Temperate	USA (East y Centro); MEXICO (Chis., D.F., Dgo., Jal., Mich., S.L.P., Ver.)
Coelocephalapion emaciipes (Fall)	1	1	0	0	Temperate	CANADA; USA (East, Centro, Sur, TX); MEXICO (Chis., S.L.P., Ver.)
C. epicum (Sharp)	1	1	0	0	Tropical	MEXICO (Tamps.); PAN.
C. germanum (Sharp)	1	1	0	0	Tropical	MEXICO (Mich, Nor., S.L.P., Sin., Tab., Ver.); EL SALV.; PAN.
C. luteirostre (Gerst.)	1	1	0	0	Tropical	MEXICO (S.L.P, Ver.); SOUTH AMERICA
C. pallitarse (Sharp)	2	2	0	0	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (Tab.); EL SALV.
C. prosolitare (Kissinger)	20	20	0	0	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (S.L.P., Pue., Mor.)
C. solitare (Sharp) C. subornatum (Fall)	1 7	1 1	0 6	0	Mega-Mexico Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (Gro., Tab. Ver.) USA (TX); MEXICO (Dgo., N.L.,
					WICZU WICKIOU	Hgo., Sin., Son., Ver.),
Coelocephalapion sp. 1	7	0	0	7	-	-
Coelocephalapion sp. 2 Oxystomatini Trichapiina	4	0	0	4	-	-
Apionion fenyesi (Kissinger)	24	11	11	2	Tropical	MEXICO (Chis., Mor., N.L., Q.Roo., Tamps.); PAN.
A. howdeni (Kissinger)	1	0	1	0	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (N.L., S.L.P., Chis.)
A. subauratum (Sharp)	1	0	1	0	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (S.L.P., Ver., Tamps.);

TOTAL

	NUM	BER OF	INDIVIL	OUALS		
Species	Sum	Trop.	Cloud	Oak/		Geographic
-		Forest	forest	Pine		distribution
Kissingeria amaura (Kissinger)	4	0	4	0	Temperate	CANADA; USA (AZ, CA, NM, OI TX, ID, OR, UT, WA, AB, CO, IA, KS, MB, MT, ND); MEXICO (B.C
Kissingeria trichium (Kissinger)	51	0	0	51	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (D.F., Hgo., Pue)
Sayapion terale (Kissinger)	1	1	0	0	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (S.L.P., Tamps.)
Trichapion consanguineum (Wagner)	20	10	8	2	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (Gro., Hgo., Mor., S.L.P. Sin.); NIC.
T. godmani (Wagner)	15	0	0	15	Mega-Mexico	USA (TX, AZ); MEXICO (Coah.; D.F., Gro., Hgo., Pue., Mex., Mich.
T. gracilirostre (Sharp)	2	0	2	0	Mega-Mexico	Son. Ver.): GUAT. HOND. MEXICO (Gro., Hgo., Pue., Mich.) GUAT.; HOND.
T. hadromerum (Wagner)	1	0	0	1	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (D.F., Dgo., Mich., Mor., Hgo.,Sin.); GUAT.
T. innocens (Kissinger)	9	7	2	0	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (Hgo., S.L.P.)
T. lassum (Sharp)	23	5	17	1	Tropical	MEXICO (Pue., S.L.P., Ver.); GUA PAN.
T. macropus (Wagner)	1	1	0	0	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (Chis., Gro., S.L.P.); GUAT.; EL SALV.
T. modicum (Kissinger)	7	7	0	0	Temperate	USA (IL, AZ, CO, MB, NE, WI)
T. murinum (Gerstaecker)	17	0	17	0	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (Gro., Hgo., Mor., Pue.)
T. occiduum (Kissinger)	4	0	0	4	Mega-Mexico	USA (AZ); MEXICO (Tamps.)
T. oscillator (Sharp)	25	25	0	0	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (Tab.); Guat.
T. plectrocolum (Kissinger)	1	0	1	0	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (D.F.)
T. proclive (LeConte)	20	0	0	20	Temperate	CANADA; USA (AZ, BJ, CA, NM, BC, ID, NV,OR, UT, WA, CO MT,WY); MEXICO (B.C., Dgo., Mex., Pue.)
T. quicorne (Kissinger)	1	0	0	1	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (D.F., Pue., Mich.)
T. rufipenne (Gyllenhal)	34	33	1	0	Tropical	MEXICO (Gro., S.L.P., Tab., Ver.); GUAT.; BEL.; COLOM.; VEN.
T. submetallicum (Boheman)	7	0	1	6	Mega-Mexico	USA (TX, AZ); MEXICO.(D.F., Dgo., Gro., Hgo., Pue, Mex., Mor.)
Trichapion sp. 1	1	1	0	0	-	-
Trichapion sp. 2	3	3	0	0	-	-
Trichapion sp. 3 Incertae sedis	4	4	0	0	-	-
'Apion' disparipes Fall	1	0	0	1	Mega-Mexico	USA (AZ,NM, TX); MEXICO (D.F., Dgo., Gro., Jal., Mex., Mor., Pue., Son.)
'Apion' disparatum Sharp	4	4	0	0	Temperate	CANADA (AB, MB,); USA: (AZ, CA, NM, TX, ND); MEXICO (Dgo Jal., Mor., Nay., Pue., Son.); GUAT
'Apion' pauper Sharp	2	2	0	0	Tropical	MEXICO (Mich., Mor., Nay., Pue., Ver.); GUAT.; EL SALV.; PAN.
'Apion' seminudum Wagner	5	5	0	0	Tropical	MEXICO (S.L.P., Tamps., Ver.); GUAT.; EL SALV.; HOND.; PAN.
Stenapion colle (Kissinger)	4	2	2	0	Mega-Mexico	MEXICO (Tamps.)

571 249 142 180