

## SCIENTIFIC NOTE

### First Record of *Spintherophyta semiaurata* (Klug) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) Damaging Strawberry Flowers

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#### Abstract

*Spintherophyta semiaurata* (Klug) is reported for the first time damaging flowers of strawberry (*Fragaria x ananassa*) in the municipality of São José dos Pinhais, State of Parana, Brazil.

During monitoring of the entomofauna in commercial strawberry crops in the municipality of São José dos Pinhais, State of Paraná, a small species of beetle (3.0 to 3.8 mm in length) was observed from October to January, during the 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 growing seasons. This beetle species has a rounded body varying in color from green, blue or black, always with a metallic luster, and was found damaging strawberry flowers. The insects were initially observed feeding on petals, but in larger infestations they ended up destroying the entire flowers. The specimens collected were identified at the Departamento de Zoologia, of the Universidade Federal do Paraná, as *Spintherophyta semiaurata* (Klug) (Fig 1). Voucher specimens were deposited at the “Coleção Entomológica Pe. Jesus Santiago Moure” (DZUP).

*Spintherophyta* Dejean (= *Chrysodina* Baly, according to Monros & Bechyne 1956) is represented by 71 species widely distributed in Central and South America (Blackwelder 1946) and four species in North America (Schultz 1976). Information on host plants for most species is scarce (Staines Jr 1991). *Chrysodina* [sic] species have been recorded as defoliators of apple in Brazil

(Santos & Gonçalves 2009). *Spintherophyta semiaurata* was recorded in *Prosopis* sp. (Fabaceae) in Argentina and Brazil, without any comments on its feeding activity on this plant (Ward *et al* 1977). It has also been recorded



Fig 1 *Spintherophyta semiaurata* (Klug) adult, male. Dorsal view (25× magnification).

as a secondary pest of mate-tea (*Ilex paraguariensis*) in Southern Brazil (Iede & Machado 1989).

Although this is the first record of *S. semiaurata* damaging strawberry flowers, the larval feeding habits and larval host plants are still unknown. Studies on the life cycle, potential natural enemies, and a careful record of larval and adult damage caused by this species, as well as their period of occurrence in strawberry crops from other geographic regions, are important to determine whether future control measures are required or not.

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