Full Length Research Paper

Mycobiota associated with *Platypus cylindrus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae, *Platypodidae*) in cork oak stands of North West Algeria, Africa

Latifa Belhoucine¹, Rachid T. Bouhraoua¹, Martin Meijer², Jos Houbraken², M. Jamal Harrak³, Robert A. Samson², Armando Equihua-Martinez⁴* and Juli Pujade-Villar⁵

¹Department of Forestry, Faculty of Sciences, University of Tlemcen, Tlemcen, Algeria.
²CBS-KNAW Fungal Biodiversity Centre, Uppsalalaan 8, 3584 CT Utrecht, The Netherlands.
³University of Amsterdam, Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
⁴Instituto de Fitosanidad, Colegio de Postgraduados, 56230 Montecillo, Texcoco, Estado de México (México).
⁵Departmet Biologia Animal, Facultat Biologia, Universitat de Barcelona, Avda Diagonal, 645. 08028-Barcelona, Spain.

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*Corresponding author. E-mail:equihuaua@colpos.mx.*

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**INTRODUCTION**

Some Scolytinae and most Platypodinae, including the genus *Platypus* Herbst, 1793, are known as ambrosia beetles (Chararas, 1979). They transport fungi that are cultivated on the walls of the clean galleries of laying held of dejections and dug deeply in the wood of the plant-hosts (Batra, 1967). The mycelia covering these galleries are very rich in nitrogenized matters, which are essential not only for the adults of *Platypus*, during the period of gallery digging, but also to the larvae unable to attack wood (Balachowsky, 1949; Dajoz, 1980). These xylomycetophagous (most Platypodinae, and some genera of scolytinae: *Xyleborus*, *Xylodendrus*, *Corthylus*, *Gnatotrichus*, *Premnobius*, *Sampsonius*, etc) beetles Gnathotrichus ectosymbiotic (Francke-Grosman, 1967) relationships of mutualism with the fungi (Beaver, 1989). This association finds its origin in the presence of specialized organs of storage and dissemination of fungi called “mycangia” (Batra, 1963; Krivosheina, 1991; Fraedrich et al., 2008; Moon et al., 2008a, b). These structures contain glands of secretion that maintain fungi spores under favorable conditions during flight and movement of adults (Levieux et al., 1991). The morphology of these structures, as well as their localization on the body, is different depending on

**Abbreviations:** PDA, Potato dextrose agar; MEA, malt extract agar; DNA, deoxyribonucleic acid; ITS, internal transcribed spacer; rDNA, ribosomal DNA.