

Introduction

Microcentrini are inconspicuous, cryptically colored treehoppers occurring north as far as Isle Jesus (Quebec), Canada, through much of North America, and into Venezuela and Ecuador in South America (Figs. 1, 2). Most microcentrine species are restricted to the Northern Hemisphere. (One species of *Centruchoides* and two species of *Microcentrus* are known from Ecuador, probably occurring in the Southern Hemisphere.) Whereas many membracids exhibit some degree of presociality, members of Microcentrini are solitary as adults (Wood 1984a), at most demonstrating simple maternal egg guarding (Loye 1987a). Wood (1984a) noted that solitary treehopper species show a high degree of host specificity (more than 80% of solitary species appear to be specific to a single host genus in the tropics).

Host plant information, available for only six included species, indicates that Microcentrini may feed on members of seven plant families: Fagaceae (oaks and American beech), Juglandaceae (hickories, pecan, and walnut), Lauraceae (avocado), Pinaceae (yellow pine), Betulaceae (ironwood), Loranthaceae (mistletoe), and Rhamnaceae (New Jersey tea). Three of these six species (*Centruchoides oppugnans*, *Microcentrus lynx*, and *M. solussidus*, n.sp.) are known to occur only on a single host species, whereas the others (*M. caryae*, *M. nicholi*, and *M. perditus*) are reported from multiple host genera.

The primary goal of this work is to revise the tribe Microcentrini at the generic and specific levels, based on comparative morphology. Keys for identifying many taxa within Microcentrini were nonexistent or outdated, and the original descriptions of many species lacked illustrations. Additionally, we summarize known distribution and biological data for the included taxa and present the results of a morphology-based phylogenetic investigation.

Haupt (1929c) established the subfamily Stegaspidinae (as Stegaspinac) to include four new tribes: Platycentrini, Stegaspidini (as Stegaspini), Stylocentrini, and Ocdini (see Deitz 1983b). Many of the genera in these tribes had previously been placed in the membracid subfamily Centrotinae based on the exposed scutellum. Hamilton (1971b) moved seven stegaspidine genera (including *Centruchoides*, *Dontonodus* [= *Tumecauda*], *Microcentrus*, and *Smerdalea*) to the family Aetalionidae under the subfamily "Stylocentrinae."

Noting that Haupt's Platycentrini was based on a misidentified type genus,