LARVA OF *NEALCIDION BICRISTATUM* (BATES, 1863)  
(CERAMBYCIDAE, LAMINAE, ACANTHOCINININI)

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ABSTRACT

The larva of Nealcidion bicristatum (Bates, 1863) is described and illustrated. Biological notes and a comparison with *N. bispinum* (Bates, 1863) are also presented.

Key-Words: Coleoptera; Gall; Immature; Solanaceae.

INTRODUCTION


The most important contribution on the immature of this tribe was carried out by Duffy (1960), who described the larvae and/or pupa of 25 species of this tribe, recorded from Hawaii (Honolulu), Guatemala, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Guyana, Brazil and Chile. He presented besides the descriptions, the distribution, host plants, biology and control for each species. According to him, the larvae of Acanthocinini are usually subcortical. In relation to *Nealcidion* (treated as *Alcidion*), he described the larva and pupa of *Nealcidium bispinum* Bates. 1865 from Brazil; recorded also from Argentina and the biology of *N. sexaturn* (Bates, 1880). He also presented a distribution and host plant of *N. privatum* (Pascoe, 1866) and *N. dele- tum* and for *N. bicristatum* also the description of the adult and its economical importance.

More recently, Francesco (2001) described the larvae of *Chaetanas fleutiauxi* Villiers, 1980 and *Leptostyloides assimilis* (Gahan, 1895), from Guadaloupe.

According to Duffy (1960), larvae of Acanthocinini are characterized especially by having (differences observed in *N. bicristatum* parenthesized): antennifer foramen open or closed posteriorly (closed); gula with two-six setae (four); six epistomal setae; one pair of stemmata; mentum distinct from submentum (indistinct); antennae with two antennomeres and bearing a conical hyaline process: maxillary palpi with two or three palpomeres three: posterior area of pronotum variable with transverse micro-spiculate band; abdomen with ampullae variable, from tuberculate and globular to non-tuberculate and micro-spiculate tuberculate ampullae: tergite IX sometimes bearing a spine or sclerotized process without

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