Acanthoscelides obvelatus Bridwell, 1942

Diagnosis: Black to dark brown beetles with lighter vestiture giving an overall brown appearance; with red forelegs, midlegs, and basal 4 antennomeres, and reddish suffusion often present in apex of metafemur and metatibia. Standard shape for the genus (length 1.5–1.6X width) with considerable variation in size (1.7–3.4 mm). **The antennae are sexually dimorphic, with that of males reaching to 1/3 the length of the elytra and of females only to the elytral humerus**. Hind legs somewhat slender compared to many similar species, 2.7–2.9X longer than wide. The pecten is usually composed of a large first spine followed two (but sometimes three) spines less than 1/2 as long. The metatibia is rather straight and somewhat slender with **a short mucro that is only slightly longer than lateral coronal denticle**. The armature of the internal sac of the somewhat elongate median lobe of the male genitalia lacks any large sclerites, being composed primarily of spines and spicules, with a paired spinescent structure apically. The lateral lobes are somewhat elongate, expanded at their apex, and cleft to about 4/5 their length.

Literature for identification: *A. obvelatus* has been reviewed and revised multiple times since its original publication (Johnson 1983[1]; Johnson 1990[2]; Kingsolver 1968[3]).

Similar species: *Acanthoscelides obvelatus* shares with other species in the genus the short mucro, variegated pubescence, and only modestly expanded metafemur. From many it can be distinguished by its subtle variegation, its large and somewhat square scutellum, and its primarily red forelegs and midlegs contrasting with primarily black hindlegs. It is most similar to members of the *obtectus* group, especially *A. argillaceus* and *A. obtectus* from which it can be distinguished by its **primarily black integument**. *A. argillaceus* is primarily red to reddish brown. *A. obtectus* has a red pygidium and abdomen contrasting with its black or dark brown elytra, thorax, and head; and it has a red terminal antennomere contrasting with its brown antennomeres 6-10. The genitalia of *A. obtectus* and *A. obvelatus* are quite similar, with subtle differences in the shape of the ventral valve and the relative distribution of the fine spicules and triangular denticles in the internal sac. But males can also be distinguished by the much longer antennae in *A. obvelatus*.

Distribution: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, St. Lucia. Distribution may be wider than native range because of commerce in *Phaseolus* seeds.

Host associations: Reared from seeds of legumes (Fabaceae): *Phaseolus coccineus* L. (Scarlet Runner Bean), *Phaseolus glabellus* Piper, *Phaseolus vulgaris* L. (Common Bean).

[1]Johnson CD (1983) Misc. Publ. Ent. Soc. Amer. 56: 1–370; [2]Johnson CD (1990) Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. 116: 297–618; [3]Kingsolver JM (1968) Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash. DC 70: 4–9.

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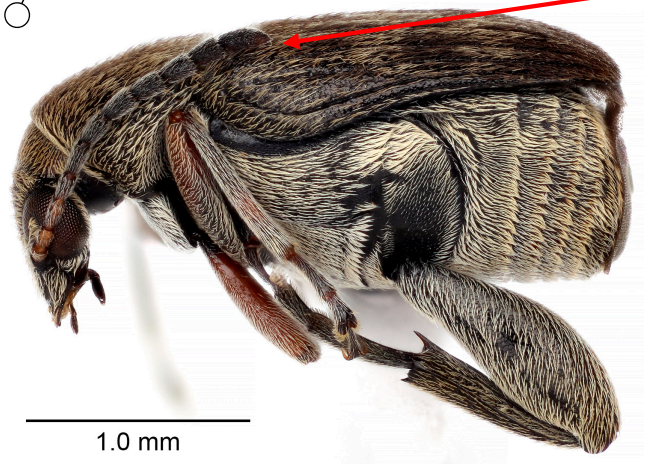
Note terminal antennomere and ground color of integument dark brown to black.

Male antennae longer and more slender than female antennae.



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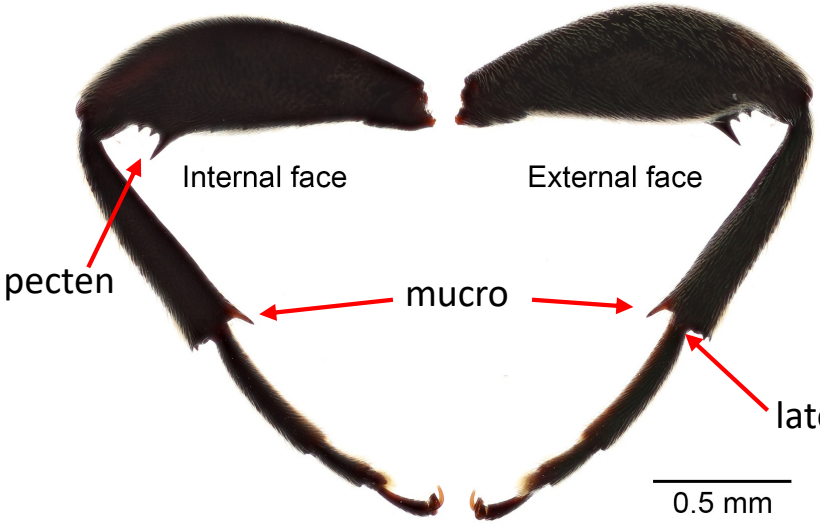

Pecten with three spines, the first one 2-3X as long as the next. Mucro (ventral apical tibial spine) only slightly longer than lateral coronal denticle.

Male genitalia.

Median lobe (left):

- ventral valve triangular to an acuminate point;
- internal sac armed basally with densely packed with fine spicules, medially with loosely packed triangular denticles, and apically with paired spinescent structures.

Tegmen (right):

- lateral lobes somewhat elongate and held close together, expanded at apex;
- cleft to 4/5 their length;
- fringe of setae on medial margins;
- internal angle narrowly U-shaped.