

A new species of *Ashlockobius* (Heteroptera: Rhyparochromidae: Myodochini) from Venezuela

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Abstract

A new species of *Ashlockobius* Slater & Slater 1999 (Heteroptera: Rhyparochromidae: Myodochini) is described from Venezuela, the male genitalia are illustrated, and the presence of a stridulatory mechanism is discussed.

Key words: Heteroptera, Lygaeoidea, Rhyparochromidae, Myodochini, *Ashlockobius bipuntatus*, Venezuela

Introduction

The Myodochini, with 68 genera and more than 300 species in the world, constitute one of the dominant elements in the lygaeoid fauna of the neotropics, and are specialized as seed-predators. The genus *Ashlockobius* was erected by Slater & Slater (1999) for *Ashlockobius cursorius*, a long-legged myodochine, apparently myrmecomorphic, from Venezuela. The genus is characterized by a V-shaped buccular juncture, anterior pronotal lobe in males at least 1.5 times as long as the posterior lobe, mesepimeron enclosed, evaporative area extensive, aperture of posterior margin of pygophore broadly rounded, claspers with a distinct thumb-like exterior projection, the absence of conjunctival or vesical spines, conjunctiva bearing low lateral subapical lobes, and a robustly winged ejaculatory reservoir with short holding sclerites.

Ashlockobius bipuntatus n. sp.

(Figs. 1–10)

Description.—Body elongate, slender, nearly parallel-sided, pruinose. Total length 7.85mm. Legs and antennae both extremely elongate.