

Taxonomic revision of *Coleopterodes Philippi* (Heteroptera: Tingidae)

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Abstract

The genus *Coleopterodes* Philippi (1864) contains two species, *C. liliputianum* (Signoret) (the type species) and *C. brunnea* Drake & Poor. Both are found in Argentina and the latter is also found in Chile. The original descriptions of the genus and its species are short and incomplete; and for *C. liliputianum* there is no type material designated. In the present paper a diagnosis of the genus is provided together with a redescription of the genus and its two species, and a neotype is designated for *C. liliputianum*.

Key words: Heteroptera, Tingidae, *Coleopterodes*, review, Argentina, Chile

Introduction

This study revisits the tingid genus *Coleopterodes* Philippi and redescribes its two species, *C. liliputianum* (Signoret) 1863 and *C. brunnea* Drake & Poor 1944, considering new characters. The Tingidae consist of approximately 270 genera and 2000 species (Pericart & Golub 1996) distributed worldwide. They are commonly known as “lacebugs” because of the lacelike texture of the hemelytra (Drake & Ruhoff 1965). Adults and nymphs are phytophagous and generally rather host specific. In South America there are many Tingidae, among which *Coleopterodes* differs considerably from the rest because its hemelytra appear to be coriaceous, resembling the elytra of a beetle. Both species of the genus are distributed in Argentina and are pests of *Baccharis pingraea*. The first one is also found in Chile and is also a pest of *Acacia cavenia* and *Berberis* sp. The type species of the genus is *C. liliputianum*, *C. brunnea* was first considered a variety of this species, but later Drake (1944) considered it a distinct species. In the present contribution a diagnosis of *Coleopterodes* together with the redescription of the genus and of its two species are provided and a neotype is designated for *C. liliputianum*.