



A new species of *Anomaloptera* Amyot & Serville from Patagonia (Hemiptera: Lygaeoidea: Oxycarenidae)

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Extra-Andean Patagonia is a large xeric biome that extends between the Argentinean Provinces of Mendoza and Tierra del Fuego. The Natural Protected Area “*Península Valdés*” (ANP-PV), the largest conservation unit for arid ecosystems in Argentina, is located in the northeastern zone of this biome. It is a wide plateau, extending 4,000 km² in the NE of Chubut Province (42°05′–42°53′S; 63°35′–65°04′W), and it has been included in the UNESCO’s World Heritage List since 1999. According to its vegetation and physiognomy, *Península Valdés* is included in the Patagonian Biogeographical Province, Chubut Subdistrict (Soriano, 1956), and also belongs to the Monte Biogeographical Province (Cabrera & Willink, 1973), whereas according to Morrone (2001a, 2001b) and based on its fauna, it is part of the Central Patagonic Province of the Andean Region. Annual rainfall in ANP-PV ranges from 175 to 225 mm, and annual mean temperature is higher than 13°C (Coronato, 1994), with widely ranging diurnal variations, from 10 to 51°C in summer.

The Oxycarenidae is a cosmopolitan group of usually small, flattened lygaeoid bugs. This family is poorly represented in the Western Hemisphere, where it contains five genera and 20 species. Two of these genera include introduced species, namely *Oxycarenus hyalinipennis* (Costa) now occurring in Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Brazil, and the West Indies (Slater & Baranowski 1994), and *Metopoplax ditomoides* (Costa), which has recently been recorded by Lattin (2002) from established populations in the United States of America. In addition to the exotic taxa, *Dycoderus* Uhler with *D. picturatus* Uhler, known from North America, and *Neoplax* Slater with *Neoplax mexicana* Slater from Mexico are both monotypic genera. The fifth genus, the most speciose, is *Anomaloptera* Amyot & Serville. Hoberlandt (1987) synonymized the Western Hemisphere *Crophius* Stål with the Palearctic *Anomaloptera* based mainly on characters of the coleopteroid forms; thus, the genus comprises 18 species of which 16 are distributed in the Western Hemisphere; two of these occur in Argentina. The American species of *Anomaloptera* were reviewed by Van Duzee (1909) and Barber (1938), although both authors omitted *A. leucocnemis* (Berg) from Buenos Aires Province (Argentina). Kormilev (1950) described *A. coleopteroides* from specimens collected near Buenos Aires city and compared it with the other Argentinean species, *A. leucocnemis*, which he redescribed in the same paper.

The junior author performed extensive collections using pitfall traps in *Península Valdés* (Chubut: Argentina) from 2003 to 2006. Traps were placed in a shrubby steppe environment with 40–60% vegetation cover; the shrubs *Chuquiraga avellanadae* Lorentz and *Condalia microphylla* Cav. and the grasses *Stipa tenuis* Phil., and *Piptochaetium napostaense* (Speg.) Hack were the most representative species (Bertiller *et al.*, 1980). The traps used were open plastic containers, 11 cm in diameter and 12 cm deep with 300cm³ of 30% propylene glycol; the traps were neatly buried in the soil near *Ch. avellanadae* bushes. Trap contents were collected after 15 days, fixed in 70% ethyl alcohol, and taken to the laboratory for specimen identification.

A new species of a coleopteroid Oxycarenidae was among the taxa collected, and is herein described and illustrated. A key to recognize the four Argentinean species of the family is given.

Illustrations were made using a Wild M-5 stereomicroscope with camera lucida. The scanning electron micrographs were taken with a scanning electron microscope Jeol 6360 LV. Measurements are given in millimetres.

***Anomaloptera patagonica* n. sp.**
(Figs. 1–6, table 1)

Holotype: 1 male, Ea. El Centro, 42°12′16.5″S 63°57′47.6″W, 47 m, *Península de Valdés*, Chubut, ARGENTINA, 19-II-