



Description of a new *Corythucha* Stål from Argentina (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Tingidae), with a description of its life cycle

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Abstract

A new species of the genus *Corythucha*, *C. bonaerensis* n. sp., is described along with its egg and all immature stages. It was found in the province of Buenos Aires (Argentina) feeding on *Quercus robur*, its host plant. Comments on the life history of *C. bonaerensis* are provided together with photographs, and illustrations. The main differences with the other South American species, and other *Corythucha* species that feed on *Quercus* worldwide, are also discussed.

Key words: *Corythucha bonaerensis* n. sp., immature stages, Argentina, Buenos Aires, *Quercus robur*

Introduction

Corythucha Stål is a large genus of tingids with more than 75 species. This genus is widely distributed in the Americas and has also been accidentally introduced into Europe and Asia. The great majority of its species is from North America, and a few from Central and South America. Only five species have been recorded for Argentina: *C. acculta* Drake, *C. argentinensis* Monte, *C. fuscomaculata* (Stål), *C. rolstoni* Ajmat, and *C. tapiensis* Ajmat. Until now there were no records of the genus for the Buenos Aires province. Worldwide only four species of *Corythucha* feed on the plant genus *Quercus*. They are *C. arcuata* (Say), *C. cerasi* Drake, *C. cydonea* (Fitch), and *C. floridiana* Heidemann, all of them distributed in North America and, in the case of the first one, introduced into Asia (Mutun, 2003) and Europe (Bernardinelli & Zandigiacomo, 2000; Forster et al. 2005).

A new species is described from the province of Buenos Aires, feeding on *Quercus robur*. Its life cycle is described, and photographs and illustrations of the eggs, nymphs, and adult are provided. The main differences between *C. bonaerensis* and the other South American *Corythucha* and the species that feed on *Quercus* worldwide are discussed.

Material and methods

The present study is based on an examination of 10 specimens of each instar of *Corythucha bonaerensis* collected from November through March of the years 2006-2007-2008 in the city of La Plata, Buenos Aires. This species has been found feeding on *Quercus robur*. The description of the life history of *C. bonaerensis* is based on observations made in La Plata on specimens found on *Quercus robur* leaves. The type material (holotype and five paratypes) and other specimens studied are deposited in the Museo de La Plata (MLP). Morphological characters were observed with a Zenith MBS-10 stereomicroscope. Scanning electron micrographs were made from specimens mounted on stubs, sputtered-coated, and scanned with JEOL JSM T-100, Tokyo, Japan. Photographs were taken with a Sony-DSC-7 camera attached to the stereomicroscope. The