



The *Rheumatobates* Bergroth, 1892 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Gerridae) of Colombia, including the description of *R. plumipes* n. sp. and a key to represented species

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Abstract

Nine species of *Rheumatobates* are recorded from Colombia. *Rheumatobates plumipes* n. sp. is described. New departmental records are presented for *R. imitator* (Córdoba) and *R. crassifemur crassifemur* (Caquetá), and the geographical range of *R. clanis* is expanded to Colombia. The general habitus of males and females is illustrated. A key for the species of the genus found in Colombia is also provided.

Key words: Heteroptera, Rhagadotarsinae, taxonomy, water bugs

Introduction

The genus *Rheumatobates* Bergroth, 1892 comprises a group of thirty-seven species and subspecies of small water bugs from the New World, and represents one of the most striking cases of elaboration of male morphology (Westlake *et al.* 2000). Males of several species present modifications on the antennae, legs, abdomen and genitalia, whereas some others, and all the females, are unmodified (Andersen 1982; Westlake 1998). Regarding the Colombian fauna, few studies concerning *Rheumatobates* have been published so far, and are restricted to ecological and faunistic articles, such as Padilla and Nieser (2003), Camacho and Molano (2005), Molano *et al.* (2005), Rojas *et al.* (2006), and Molano *et al.* (2008). The review of the Colombian Gerridae published by Aristizábal (2002) is an exception, including brief descriptions and identification keys, but there is still a large gap on the taxonomy and distribution of the genus in the country.

Material and methods

Specimens deposited in six entomological collections from Colombia have been examined: Universidad Nacional de Colombia (CIAB), Aristizábal's personal collection (HA), Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia (ICN), Laboratorio de Entomología, Universidad del Quindío (LEUQ), Laboratorio de Entomología, Museo de Historia Natural “Luis Gonzalo Andrade” Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia (UPTC), and Museo de Entomología, Universidad del Valle (MUSENUV). Original descriptions and the keys in Hungerford (1954) and Aristizábal (2002) have been used for the identification of specimens. According to Morales-Castaño and Molano-Rendón (2009), some of the original descriptions are very short and provide little information, thus redescriptions are presented in order to extend these data. Measurements are presented in millimeters. Abbreviations used: macropterous (macr.); apterous (apt.).

Deposition of specimens. Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia, Tunja, Colombia (UPTC-MHN); Colecciones Biológicas, Instituto Alexander von Humboldt, Claustro de San Agustín, Villa de Leyva,