



# Article

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## ***Rhyparoclopius aokiae* sp. nov., a remarkable Stenopodainae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae) from Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, with taxonomical notes on other species of *Rhyparoclopius* Stål**

HÉLCIO R. GIL-SANTANA

Laboratório Nacional e Internacional de Referência em Taxonomia de Triatomíneos, Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.  
E-mail: helciogil@uol.com.br; helciogil@ioc.fiocruz.br

### Abstract

*Rhyparoclopius aokiae* sp. nov. from Mato Grosso do Sul State, Brazil, is described. *Rhyparoclopius desiccatus* Amyot & Serville is recorded for the first time in Brazil, and the male genitalia of both species are described. A revised description of *Rhyparoclopius* Stål and a key for their species are provided.

**Key words:** new species, taxonomy, Neotropical region, assassin bugs

### Introduction

Approximately 113 genera have been described in Stenopodainae, with the majority of them inhabiting the tropics (Schuh & Slater 1995). This subfamily is diverse in Africa and America (Giacchi 1987), particularly in the Amazon basin of South America (Bérenger 2001). Eighteen Stenopodainae genera are recognized as valid in the New World (Wygodzinsky & Giacchi 1994).

The taxonomy, general morphology and the scarcely available biological data for American Stenopodainae were reviewed by Giacchi (1987).

Many Stenopodainae appear to be closely associated with the soil, often being covered with soil or sand. Most species are known from collections made at lights, with males being collected much more commonly than females, and little is known regarding their biology (Giacchi 1987, Schuh & Slater 1995, Bérenger 2001).

The Stenopodainae are dull-colored and demonstrate uniformity in their coloration pattern among the many genera and species (Giacchi 1984, Schuh & Slater 1995).

Some Stenopodainae present wing polymorphism, including macropterous, brachypterous or micropterous forms. Males are macropterous, while females often have more reduced forewings (Schuh & Slater 1995). Although wing reduction is more common in females, at least in *Gnathobleda* (*Pnohirmus*) Stål, 1859 there are males strongly brachypterous and macropterous females (Giacchi 1987). *Oncocephalus* Klug, 1830 is one of the largest genera of Reduviidae with more than 190 species. Not always related to gender, the alary polymorphism of these species is a factor that encumbers their study (Moulet 2011). The sexual dimorphism in *Oncocephalus* resulted in males and females of the same species being described as different species, and thus, caused confusion in their taxonomy (Giacchi 1984). In *Gnathobleda* (*Pnohirmus*) *spinifer* (Stål, 1872), the brachypterous male and macropterous female differ so markedly in some characters, that if the two sexes were not at hand for comparison, they could be considered as distinct species (Barber 1930). Although Wygodzinsky & Giacchi (1986) mentioned the frequent occurrence of brachypterous forms in either sex as characteristic for the *spinifer*-group of *Gnathobleda* (*Pnohirmus*), no further records of this wing development have been recorded in the literature. Giacchi (1987) also mentioned other morphological features which may be sexual dimorphic, including: females being larger with a longer head and smaller eyes and males having longer antennae with differentiated hairs and more developed pronotum. The legs, particularly the femora, may be longer and stronger in males than in females of the same species. Males very