



## A new *Ochterus* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Ochteridae) from northeastern Brazil, with a key to the species recorded from the country

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### Abstract

*Ochterus santosi* sp. nov., from the state of Piauí, northeastern Brazil, is described, illustrated, and compared with other species of the genus from the Americas. An identification key to the species recorded from the country is also presented.

**Key words:** Neotropical Region, Nepomorpha, taxonomy, velvety shore bugs

### Introduction

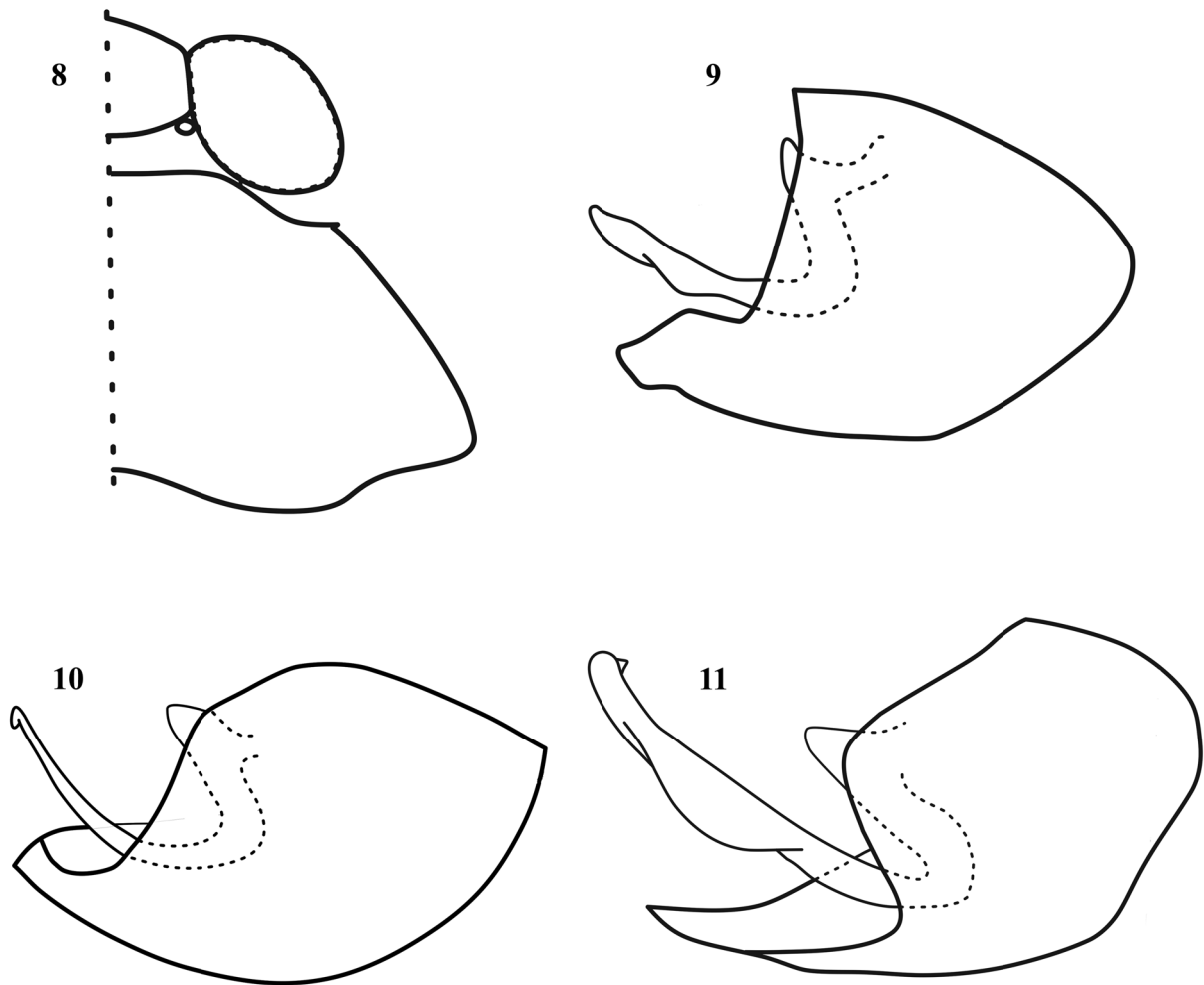
The genus *Ochterus* Latreille, 1807 occurs in the warmer parts of the world, and is represented in the Neotropical Region by 15 species, with only three recorded from Brazil (Nieser 1975; Polhemus and Polhemus 2008; Moreira *et al.* 2011). Ochterids have a nearly uniform appearance—brownish or black coloration and moderately large size—making examination of the male genitalia necessary for proper identification (Drake 1952). Important diagnostic features of the male genitalia include length, shape, and presence of projections on right paramere, and shape and size of the genital capsule in relation to the paramere.

Ochterids are predaceous and inhabitant wetlands and moist littoral habitats, preferring habitats with scarce vegetation and luminosity. They fly away when disturbed, which makes them very difficult to collect, and may explain why they are underrepresented in collections. Little additional information has been published about their biology (Nieser 1975; Mazzucconi *et al.* 2009).

To start filling the immense gap of knowledge about the *Ochterus* occurring in Brazil, a new species is herein described, illustrated, and compared with similar Neotropical species. An identification key to the species of *Ochterus* recorded from Brazil is also presented.

### Material and methods

Type-material has been deposited in the Coleção Zoológica do Maranhão (CZMA). Measurements are given in millimeters and abbreviated as follows: body length (BL), greatest width near midline of forewings (BW), head length (HL), head width through the eyes (HW), smallest interocular distance (INT), ocular index (OI), length of antennomeres I–IV (ANT I, ANT II, ANT III, ANT IV), maximum eye width (EYE), pronotum length on midline (PL), pronotum width (PW).



**PLATE 2.** Figures 8–9. *Ochterus perbosci*. 8. Head and thorax, dorsal view. 9. Male genital capsule, lateral view of right side. Figure 10. *Ochterus aeneifrons surinamensis*, male genital capsule, lateral view of right side. Figure 11. *Ochterus tenebrosus*, male genital capsule, lateral view of right side [all modified from Nieser (1975)].

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