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202

A checklist of the current valid species of the subfamily Triatominae Jeannel, 1919 (Hemiptera, Reduviidae) and their geographical distribution, with nomenclatural and taxonomic notes[1]

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Table of Contents

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Abstract

A checklist of the 137 current valid species placed in the subfamily Triatominae and their geographical distribution is presented. Confirmed and doubtful synonyms are given, as are nomenclatural and taxonomic comments.

Key words: Taxonomy, nomenclature, synonym, Triatominae, Reduviidae, Chagas disease vectors

Introduction

The Triatominae (Hemiptera, Reduviidae) are vectors of *Trypanosoma cruzi* (Chagas, 1909), the causative agent of Chagas disease or American trypanosomiasis. Current classification of this subfamily is based mainly on the revision by Lent & Wygodzinsky (1979). Since that revision there has been considerable systematic work on this subfamily, including the descriptions of several new taxa. The present paper lists all taxa in the subfamily and their geographical distributions.

Molecular studies are now fundamental in current systematic research, and particularly important for deciding systematic questions at the specific and infraspecific levels. The discovery of cryptospecies is very important and often best clarified with molecular technques. The concept of species is continually being redefined, and currently many investigators prefer the concept of populations rather than species. Nevertheless, for all concepts we must have a name for the material in order to make comparisons with other organisms and with the research of others on the same organism. Some conclusions are controversial merely because different approaches and concepts are used.

The aim of present study is clarify the current status of valid species names in the reduviid subfamily Triatominae. A nomenclatorial analysis of some names is presented, as is the availability or unavailability of each given name.

Material and methods

The checklist was compiled from the literature. The following criteria were used to consider a species as valid - Only a species recognized by morphological features or morphological and molecular characteristcs was accepted. Proposed taxonomic changes based only on molecular data and not supported by any morphological characters are not considered here, although comments are made, because they are not covered by the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN).

