

Synonymy of the reduviid (Hemiptera: Heteroptera) genus *Torrealbaia* (Triatominae) with *Amphibolus* (Harpactorinae), with notes on *Amphibolus venator* (Klug, 1830)

DIMITRI FORERO¹, CHRISTIANE WEIRAUCH² & MANUEL BAENA³

¹ Department of Entomology, Comstock Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853, USA. E-mail: idf2@cornell.edu

² American Museum of Natural History, Division of Invertebrate Zoology, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024, USA. E-mail: weirauch@amnh.org

³ Departamento de Biología y Geología, I.E.S. Trassierra, c/ San Hermenegildo s/n, 14011 Córdoba, ESPAÑA. E-mail: jsusin@chopo.pntic.mec.es

Abstract

The monotypic reduviid genus *Torrealbaia* Carcavallo, Jurberg & Lent, 1998 (Triatominae, Cavernicolini) from Venezuela is synonymized with *Amphibolus* Klug, 1830 (Harpactorinae) described from Northern Africa. Morphological evidence for the synonymy of *Torrealbaia martinezi* Carcavallo, Jurberg & Lent, 1998 with *Amphibolus venator* (Klug, 1830) is discussed. The currently known distribution of *A. venator* (Northern Africa and the Middle East, Jamaica, India, Japan) is supplemented by new locality data from Venezuela, Canada and India. It is hypothesized that the distributional records of *A. venator* from the Neotropical region are due to dispersal of this species by human means, possibly with stored products.

Key words: Neotropical region, Systematics, synonymy, Venezuela

Introduction

Carcavallo *et al.* (1998) described a new genus and species, *Torrealbaia martinezi*, within the tribe Cavernicolini of Triatominae. The description of this new taxon was based on a single female specimen from Chabasquén in Portuguesa State, Venezuela.

Carcavallo *et al.* (1998) pointed out that *T. martinezi* possesses several characteristics that could imply an affinity with Harpactorinae, and that it shows resemblance to *Amphibolus venator* (Klug, 1830) (Harpactorinae). Even so, the systematic placement of *T. martinezi* within the Triatominae has never been seriously questioned (Carcavallo *et al.* 1999, Carcavallo *et al.* 2000, Schofield 2000, Galvão *et al.* 2003). In addition, haematophagy, a