

Description of the preimaginal instars and redescription of the adult stage of *Belostoma elongatum* Montandon (Hemiptera: Belostomatidae)

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ABSTRACT

The five instars of *Belostoma elongatum* Montandon are described and figured. Immature specimens were obtained from eggs carried by an incubating male of this species captured at San Cosme, Corrientes Province, Argentina (27° 28' S, 58° 50' W). Thirty-five emerged individuals were reared in the laboratory from the first stadium.

Key words: *Belostoma elongatum*, adult redescription, larval instars description

Introduction

Immature instars of *Belostoma* species are poorly known. Since Torre Bueno's description of the five instars of the Nearctic species, *B. flumineum* Say (Torre Bueno, 1906), those of only six more congeneric species, all of them Neotropical or south-temperate, have been subsequently described. They are: *B. elegans* Mayr (De Carlo, 1939), *B. bifoveolatum* Spinola and *B. oxyurum* (Dufour) (Schnack, 1971), *B. dentatum* Montandon (Schnack & Estévez, 1978), *B. micantulum* Stål (Volpe, 1985) and *B. cummingsi* De Carlo (Valverde & Shang, 1994).

This work describes the five instars and redescribes the adult stage of *B. elongatum*. The descriptions are based on a combination of traditional characters so far used and those proposed by Estévez & Polhemus (2001).