



***Belostoma martini* (Montandon): description of the instars and redescription of the adult (Hemiptera: Belostomatidae)**

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Abstract

The five instars, and the adult of *Belostoma martini* (Montandon) are described and redescribed, respectively. All stages of development were captured at “Arroyo La Tapera”, Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina (30° 00'S, 57° 33' W). In addition, the instars of the eight *Belostoma* species from Argentina whose immatures are known, including *B. martini*, are compared.

Key words: *Belostoma martini*, adult redescription, instars description, interspecific differences

Introduction

Since the description of the instars of the Nearctic, *B. flumineum* Say (Torre Bueno, 1906), the nymphs of eight more species of *Belostoma* Latreille have been 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), *B. cummingsi* De Carlo (Valverde & Shang, 1994) and *B. elongatum* Montandon (Armúa de Reyes et al., 2006). All the above species, except *B. flumineum*, occur in Argentina.

Here we describe the five instars, and redescribe the adult of *B. martini* Montandon, based on specimens captured in a small creek, “Arroyo La Tapera,” located in Mar del Plata, within the Atlantic Slope of Buenos Aires Province (30° 00'S, 57° 33' W). We also compare this species with seven other *Belostoma* species from Argentina, whose immatures have been described.

Material and methods

Adults and instars of *B. martini* (N=56) were collected by the junior author (JAS) with a strainer from a still water location densely covered by water pennywort, *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* (Umbelliferae,) at the “Arroyo La Tapera,” on January 3 and February 12, 2006. All specimens were killed and preserved in 70 % alcohol before final examination. Of thirteen fifth instars, two were reared to the adult stage, and their exuviae were also described. A newly emerged adult and the corresponding exuviae are shown in Figure 1. Material examined and collection dates are summarized in Table 1