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Belminus ferroae n. sp. from the Colombian north-east, with a key to the species of the genus (Hemiptera: Reduviidae: Triatominae)

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Abstract

Belminus ferroae, a new triatomine species, is described on the basis of specimens collected in dwellings of the Andean oriental mountain range, municipality Toledo, Departament of North Santander, Colombia. It differs from other species of the genus in the color pattern of the body, corium light colored, cells of the membrane light brown, with secondary venation that gives a reticular aspect to the wing, in design of the connexivum, and phallic structures of the male. Illustrations of male genitalia of *Belminus herreri*, a related species, are included.

Key words: Belminus ferroae, Reduviidae, Triatominae, Colombia.

Introduction

The tribe Bolboderini Usinger, 1944 includes the genera *Bolbodera* Valdés, 1910; *Belminus* Stål, 1859; *Microtriatoma* Prosen & Martínez, 1952; and *Parabelminus* Lent, 1943. The genus *Belminus* currently contains seven species, which occur in Central America, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, and northern Brazil (Galvão et al. 2003). The species of the genus are: *B. rugulosus* Stål, 1859; *B. costaricensis* Herrer, Lent & Wygodzinsky, 1954; *B peruvianus* Herrer, Lent & Wygodzinsky, 1954; *B. herreri* Lent & Wygodzinsky, 1979; *B. pittieri* Osuna & Ayala, 1993; *B. laportei* Lent, Jurberg & Carcavallo, 1995; and *B. corredori* Galvão & Angulo, 2006. The scarce knowledge of *Belminus* species is restricted to a few morphological papers (Lent & Wygodzinsky 1979, Lent & Jurberg 1984, Rocha et al. 2005). The genus is characterized mainly by the rostrum being very slightly compressed dorsoventrally with its first and second segments elongate, subequal in length, third very short. The base of the scutellum laterally has 1+1 subtriangular processes, and the dorsal connexival segments have a longitudinal submarginal conspicuous pleat (Herrer et al. 1954, Lent & Wygodzinsky 1979).

The genus has been considered to be mainly sylvatic, living arboreally in association with didelphids, rodents, and epiphytic bromeliads, and very rarely domestic (Lent & Wygodzinsky, 1979). *Belminus peruvianus, B. herreri, B. corredori* were found colonizing human dwellings (Herrer et al. 1954, Sandoval et al. 2004, Galvão & Angulo 2006). In Colombia only three species have been found, *B. rugulosus, B. herreri,* and *B. corredori* (Moreno et al. 1995, Guhl 1998, Sandoval et al. 2000, 2004, Galvão & Angulo, 2006).

In recent years there has been a revitalization of the programs to control the domestic population of Chagas disease vectors in Latin America. The epidemiological importance of these vectors depends of course on the vectors' ability to spread and to adapt to domestic structures. Therefore, surveys of domiciliation pro-

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