Valdesiana curiosa: a remarkable new genus and species of Clivinematini (Hemiptera: Miridae: Deraeocorinae) from Argentina, and a key to Argentinean genera and species

DIEGO LEONARDO CARPINTERO1, PABLO MATÍAS DELLAPÉ2, & GERMAN CHELI3

División Entomología, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Paseo del Bosque s/n 1900 La Plata, Argentina. E-mail: 1dcarpint@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar, 2pdellape@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar
3Centro Nacional Patagónico (CENPAT) – CONICET, Bvd. Brown 3600, Puerto Madryn, 9120, Pcia. Chubut, Argentina. E-mail: cheli@cenpat.edu.ar

Abstract

A remarkable new genus and species of Clivinematini is described. The holotype was collected in Península Valdés, Chubut Province, Argentina. Phylogenetic affinities and some biogeographical notes are discussed. Photographs and a key to known Argentinean genera and species of Clivinematini are provided.

Key words: Valdesiana curiosa, new genus, new species, taxonomy, Heteroptera, Miridae, Clivinematini, Argentina, key

Introduction

The natural protected area “Península Valdés” is the largest conservation unit for an arid ecosystem in Argentina. It is a wide plateau, with a series of central salt flats (Salinas Grandes) that descend as low as 35 meters below sea level and extend over 4,000 km² in the NE of Chubut Province (42º05’– 42º53’S; 63º35’– 65º04’W). It has been included in the UNESCO’s World Heritage List since 1999 (Dellapé & Cheli, 2007).

The third author made extensive collections using pitfall traps from 2003 to 2006 in Península Valdés. Traps were placed in a shrubby steppe environment with 40–60% vegetation cover; the shrubs Chuquiraga avellanedae Lorentz and Condalia microphylla Cav., and the grasses Stipa tenuis Phil. and Piptochaetium napostaense (Speg.) Hack, were representative species (Bertiller et al., 1980). Traps consisted of open plastic containers, 11 cm in diameter and 12 cm deep, with 300 cm³ of 30% propylene glycol; the traps were buried in the soil near Ch. avellanedae bushes. Trap contents were collected after 15 days, fixed in 70% ethyl alcohol, and taken to the laboratory for specimen identification.

A new micropterous Clivinematini genus and species, Valdesiana curiosa, was among the taxa collected and is herein described and illustrated.

Clivinematini is a mostly New World tribe, with 17 genera (Ferreira, 1998; 2000) and only two Palaearctic species (of the genus Bothynotus Fieber, 1864) (Kerzhner & Josifov, 1999). In Argentina, the tribe is represented by five genera and eight species (Carpintero & Carvalho, 1993; Carpintero & Allii, 2006).

The phylogenetic affinities of this new genus are discussed along with some biogeographical considerations. In addition, photographs and a key for Argentinean clivinematine genera and species are included. Measurements are given in millimeters.

The following codes for specimen collections are used: MLP: Museo de La Plata (Argentina); CC: Colección Carpintero (Argentina).