



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

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### 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 km<sup>2</sup> in the NE of Chubut Province (42°05'– 42°53'S; 63°35'– 65°04'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 avellanadae* 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 cm<sup>3</sup> of 30% propylene glycol; the traps were buried in the soil near *Ch. avellanadae* 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).