



## Description of the female of *Procryphocricos perplexus* Polhemus (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Naucoridae)

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The predominantly Neotropical tribe Cryphocricini (Naucoridae: Cryphocricinae) comprises two described genera. Of these, the nominate genus, *Cryphocricos* (Signoret 1850), is widely distributed from Argentina north to Texas, and is represented by 14 described species (La Rivers 1971, 1974, 1976). This genus uses plastral ventilation (Parsons & Hewson 1974) and, thus, has drawn interest and been the subject of several associated studies of morphology and biology (Parsons 1974, Sites 1990, Sites & Nichols 1993, Lopez-Ruf *et al.* 2000).

The second genus is monotypic, represented by *Procryphocricos perplexus* Polhemus. Nothing has been published concerning this genus since the original description, which was based on only two male specimens collected from rootmats in a river in Colombia (Polhemus 1991). Nothing is known of its biology or ecology, and the female was unknown. Presented here is the description of the female of this species.

### *Procryphocricos perplexus* Polhemus

(Figs. 1–3)

*Procryphocricos perplexus* Polhemus, 1991: Pan-Pac Entomol. 119.

**Description:** Only differences from the description of the male are given here. Brachypterous female (n=1): Length 5.28 mm, maximum width 2.84 mm. Abdominal terga III–VI fused with only weak indication of segmentation becoming more pronounced laterally (Fig. 1). Tergum VI broadly rounded posteriorly, extending over terminal segments. Left margin of abdominal tergum IV shallowly concave, almost straight. Metaxyphus (unreported in original description) broad; posterolateral margins concave, deflected ventrad; produced to rounded apex medially (Fig. 2). Posterior margin of mediosternite III nearly straight, IV–V shallowly concave, VI distinctly concave. Mediosternite VI asymmetrical, with right anterolateral corner expanded laterad (Figs. 2, 3). Subgenital plate 0.8 x as long as greatest width, lateral margins convergent posteriorly, lateral carina delimiting dorsal reflexion, apex broad with shallow medial concavity, posterolateral corners rounded, dense pad of golden setae on each side of concavity near posterior margin, line of elongate golden setae along posterior third of lateral carina (Fig. 3).

**Material examined:** COLOMBIA: Puerto Triunfo - Antioquia, Río Claro, 24 July 2006 (1 male, 1 female).

**Discussion.** In addition to the female specimen, we examined one male specimen which measured 5.12 x 2.80 mm and is close to the measurements given for the male holotype of *Procryphocricos perplexus*. Our specimens are from the Río Claro and, thus, are topotypes of *P. perplexus*; however, we were unable to compare them with either the type or paratype specimens, both of which are housed in the private collection of J. T. Polhemus. Nevertheless, there appears to be no question of the conspecificity of our specimens with *P. perplexus*. We noted only a few minor differences with the original description. Specifically, although the original description indicates that the head is "produced anteriorly 0.5 x eye length," our specimens are at most 0.3 x eye length when measured carefully in strict dorsal view. Further, the original description indicates that the head is "produced behind eyes 0.75 x eye length"; however, in our specimens, these lengths are subequal. Deviation from a strict perpendicular angle for measurement could account for these differences. The left margin of tergum IV is very shallowly concave in our specimen and not in continuation with the curvature of III and V, unlike that of the right side. Because we have only a single female, it is unknown whether this concavity is a consistent attribute of this taxon or an abnormality unique to this specimen. We suspect the latter is true. In addition, abdominal mediosternite VI is distinctly expanded to the right, an attribute not previously noted in the tribe. We examined females of eight species of *Cryphocricos* and noted subtle asymmetry only in *C. obscuratus* Usinger, but did not detect it in *C. barozzii* Signoret, *C. breddini* Montandon, *C. hungerfordi* Usinger, *C. latus* Usinger, *C. mexicanus* Usinger, *C. peruvianus* De Carlo, or *C. vianai* De Carlo.