



## Revision of the genus *Rhabdotalebra* Young (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Typhlocybinae: Alebrini) and description of two new species from Argentina

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### Abstract

The genus *Rhabdotalebra* Young is revised, including two new species *R. litoralensis* **sp.nov.** and *R. flava* **sp.nov.**, from Argentina. A detailed morphological description and illustrations of two new species are provided. A key to facilitate the comparison of the new species with those previously known—based on pattern coloration and male genitalia—is given.

**Key words:** Auchenorrhyncha, morphology, taxonomy, distribution

### Introduction

The tribe Alebrini McAtee, 1926, is distributed in the Afrotropical, Indomalayan, Nearctic, Neotropical, and Palearctic regions (Balme 2007). This tribe is distinguished by the following characters: presence of an appendix in the forewing, two vannal veins in the hindwing, presence of ocelli, and the dorsal preanal excision of the pygofer deeper than that usually found in the subfamily (Young 1957). This tribe is represented in Argentina by six genera: *Relaba* Young, 1957, *Hadrablebra* Young, 1952, *Rhabdotalebra* Young, 1952, *Protalebra* Baker, 1899, *Omegalebra* Young, 1957, and *Protalebrella* Young, 1952 (Dworakowska 1994).

The Neotropical genus *Rhabdotalebra* established by Young (1952) with *Protalebra octolineata* Baker, 1903, as type, also includes the following eight species: *R. brunnea* (Oman, 1937); *R. hambletoni* Young, 1957; *R. signata* (McAtte, 1926); *R. jamaicensis* Young, 1957; *R. monrosi* Young, 1957; *R. ornata* Young, 1957; *R. plummeri* (Ruppel & DeLong, 1953); *R. pikna* Dworakowska 1994. The last species has characteristics not very typical of the genus (Dworakowska 1994).

Here we describe and illustrate two new species, *R. litoralensis* **sp. nov.** and *R. flava* **sp.nov.**, from Argentina. In addition, a key to identify *Rhabdotalebra* species is given.

### Material and methods

The adults of the new species were collected on plants of *Tabebuia impetiginosa* (Mart.) Standl (‘‘lapacho rosado’’) in fields located in Entre Ríos province (Concordia) and on plants of *Tabebuia pulcherrima* Sandw. (Bignoniaceae) (‘‘lapacho amarillo’’) and *Tabebuia ipe* (Mart.) Standley (Bignoniaceae) (‘‘lapachillo’’) in Tucumán province. The samples were collected with net and aspirators during summer and autumn of 2007–2008. Type material of *Rhabdotalebra signata*, *R. jamaicensis*, *R. plummeri*, *R. hambletoni*, *R. ornata* and *R. brunnea* from the United States National Museum of Natural History (USNM) was examined. The type series