



Review of *Acanthocephala* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Coreidae) of America north of Mexico with a key to species

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Abstract

A review of *Acanthocephala* of America north of Mexico is presented with an updated key to species. *A. confraterna* is considered a junior synonym of *A. terminalis*, thus reducing the number of known species in this region from five to four. New state and country records are presented.

Key words: Coreidae, Coreinae, Acanthocephalini, *Acanthocephala*, North America, review, synonymy, key, distribution

Introduction

The genus *Acanthocephala* Laporte currently is represented in America north of Mexico by five species: *Acanthocephala (Acanthocephala) declivis* (Say), *A. (Metapodiessa) confraterna* (Uhler), *A. (M.) femorata* (Fabricius), *A. (M.) terminalis* (Dallas), and *A. (M.) thomasi* (Uhler) (Froeschner 1988). *A. terminalis* has the widest distribution, including much of the Midwest. *A. confraterna* has been reported from the Carolinas south to Florida and west to Texas and *A. thomasi* from Texas to California. *A. declivis* and *A. femorata* are primarily southern but have been reported as far north as Missouri (*A. declivis*) and Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri (*A. femorata*) (Froeschner 1988).

Species of *Acanthocephala* are among the largest of the coreids in America north of Mexico, reaching lengths up to 34 mm (Torre-Bueno 1941). Little has been published on their life histories (*A. terminalis* being the exception), although they apparently are phytophagous. Most plant records are associations rather than feeding records (see discussions of these coreids below).

Published keys to species of *Acanthocephala* have limited geographic coverage (e.g., Blatchley 1926 [eastern North America], Froeschner 1942 [Missouri], Drew & Schaefer 1962 [Oklahoma], Hoffman 1975 [Virginia], and Baranowski & Slater 1986 [Florida]). The only key that covers America north of Mexico is that of Torre-Bueno (1941). He listed the five species, although he used the name *A. granulosa* (Dallas) for *A. thomasi* Uhler, having overlooked Barber's (1926) clarification of the status for these names. Barber (1926) resurrected *A. thomasi* Uhler from synonymy under *A. granulosa* (Dallas), which he stated was a mistake by Distant (1881) and mistakenly followed by Uhler (1886). Barber (1926) also synonymized *A. granulosa* (Dallas) under *A. femorata* (Fabricius).

We here reduce the number of species from five to four (*A. confraterna* is considered a junior synonym of *A. terminalis*) (see synonymic note under section on *A. terminalis*), provide an updated key to these four species, and