



Heteroptera (Hemiptera) from the Chaco National Park (Argentina)

MARIA CECILIA MELO^{1,4}, PABLO MATIAS DELLAPE^{2,4}, DIEGO LEONARDO CARPINTERO^{3,4}
& SARA ITZEL MONTEMAYOR^{2,4}

¹Departamento Sistemática, Instituto de Limnología “R. A. Ringuelet” (ILPLA), CCT-La Plata, CONICET, UNLP. Av. Calchaquí Km 23,5 (ex lab. YPF), (1888) Florencio Varela, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Tel/Fax: 54 011-4275-7799 / 8564.

E-mail: cecimelo@ilpla.edu.ar

²División Entomología, Museo de Ciencias Naturales de La Plata, U.N.L.P. Paseo del Bosque s/n°, B1900FWA, La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Tel/ Fax: 54-221-425-7744/9161. E-mail: pdellape@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar; smontemay@yahoo.com.ar

³División Entomología, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia”, Av. Ángel Gallardo 470, C1405DJR, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina. Tel/ Fax: 011 4982-8370 int 170. E-mail: dcarpint@macn.gov.ar

⁴Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET)

Abstract

An inventory of aquatic and terrestrial Heteroptera (excluding Aradidae, Coreidae and Pentatomoidea), comprising 101 species in 23 families, collected in the Chaco National Park (NE Argentina) is presented. Fifty species are new records to the Argentinean Chaco province, and six species represent new records to Argentina: *Cryphula affinis* (Distant), *Valtissius distinctus* (Distant) (Rhyparochromidae), *Stenopoda subinermis* Stål, *Diaditus pilosicornis* Bergroth (Reduviidae), *Buenoa uhleri* Truxal (Notonectidae), and *Paravelia splendoris* (Drake & Harris) (Veliidae).

Key words: Heteroptera, Chaco National Park, Argentina, inventory, distribution

Introduction

Argentina is the second largest country in South America; it consists of 2.780.400 km², and extends 3.694 km from north to south, and 1.423 km from east to west (IGN). This wide territory consists of a range of different landscapes including plains, plateaus, mountains, forests, grasslands, savannas, etc.

In Argentina there are 29 national parks destined to preserve the biodiversity of the different geographic areas of the country. Although a large amount of the specific diversity corresponds to insects, the knowledge about this diversity is scarce. In the case of Heteroptera (Hemiptera), there are scattered records from some national parks (Carpintero 1980; Viana and Carpintero 1977; Carvalho and Carpintero 1985; Bachmann 1999; Melo 2009; Guilbert and Montemayor 2010), but there exist only a few true inventories, most of them on aquatic taxa and one on Miridae: Mburucuyá National Park (Lopez Ruf *et al.* 2003); El Palmar N.P. (Torres *et al.* 2007); Calilegua N.P. (Torres *et al.* 2008); Lanín N.P., Nahuel Huapi N.P., Los Alerces N.P. (Bachmann 1962; Carpintero 1999); Lago Puelo N.P., Laguna Blanca N.P., Lapataia N.P., Los Glaciares N.P. (Carpintero 1999).

The Chaco National Park is a protected area of 15.000 ha located southeast of Chaco province; it was created in 1954 to protect the biodiversity of the eastern region of the Chaco biogeographic province (Fig. 1). According to Morrone (2001) this biogeographic area extends from southern Bolivia, western Paraguay and southern Brazil to northern Argentina. The characteristic vegetation is xeric deciduous forest, with grasses, cacti and terrestrial bromeliads, also savannas and halophytic steppes are common (Cabrera and Willink 1973; Cabrera 1976; Dinerstein *et al.* 1995).

The Park protects the Red Quebracho forests (*Schinopsis balansae* Engl.), this tree has a hard wood and is rich in tannins, and in the past it was more widely distributed in the region but the decontrolled exploitation has reduced its range (APN) considerably. Within this protected area there are forests of palms, savannas, watersheds, and lagoons; this heterogeneity allows the diversity of fauna, particularly a high diversity of insects.