



Article

New records of *Rheumatobates* Bergroth (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Gerridae) from the Pacific coast of Colombia and Costa Rica, with a key to males of *Rheumatobates* in the Eastern Tropical Pacific

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Abstract

Three species of the genus *Rheumatobates*, *R. peculiaris*, *R. longisetosus*, and *R. probolicornis* are recorded from the Pacific coast of Colombia, municipality of Tumaco (department of Nariño); and *R. bergrothi* is recorded from the Pacific coast of Costa Rica; the macropterous morph of *R. longisetosus* is described, ecological data are provided and it is included together with other four species in a key to adult males from Eastern Tropical Pacific; the male habitus for six species is illustrated.

Key words: aquatic insects, small water strider, tropical Pacific, south-west Colombia

Introduction

The genus *Rheumatobates* Bergroth (Gerridae: Rhagadotarsinae) of the New World, is found associated with freshwater, mangrove estuaries or marine habitats. Westlake *et al.* (2000) reconstructed the first phylogeny of *Rheumatobates* and established the phylogenetic relationships among “subgroups” of this genus; her study included 37 species and used primarily morphological characters of male.

The municipality of Tumaco, is located in the Pacific plain of the department of Nariño and contains diverse aquatic ecosystems including fresh water, estuarine and marine. The water bug fauna is highly diverse, including numerous recently described species, including five species of *Buenoa* Kirkaldy, two species of *Martarega* White (Notonectidae), one species of *Tachygerris* Drake, one of *Potamobates* Champion (Gerridae), and two species of *Rhagovelia* Mayr (Veliidae) (see Padilla-Gil 2010 a, b, c; Padilla-Gil & Damgaard 2011)

For the Neotropical Pacific, Polhemus & Manzano (1992) recorded six species of *Rheumatobates*, three of these present in Colombia and two in Costa Rica: *R. ornatus* Polhemus & Chen, 1977 and *R. prostatus* Polhemus, 1975. *R. bergrothi* Meinert, 1895 is also recorded from Pacific coast from Costa Rica, but in Colombia this species is only distributed in the Caribbean.

Along the Pacific coast of Tumaco (Fig. 1) three species of this genus were collected: *R. peculiaris* Polhemus & Spangler, 1989, *R. longisetosus* Polhemus & Manzano, 1992, and *R. probolicornis* Polhemus & Manzano, 1992 and are included in a key to species of the Neotropical Pacific, modified from Polhemus & Manzano (1992). For all six species known from the region the male habitus is illustrated, and the macropterous female of *R. longisetosus* is also described.

Material and methods

All measurements are in mm. The following word abbreviations are used in the text: apterous (apt), macropterous (macr), male (M), female (F).