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Two new species of Elmidae (Coleoptera) from Argentina

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Abstract

Two new species of riffle beetles, *Austrelmis patagonicus* sp. nov. and *Neoelmis argentinensis* sp. nov. are described and illustrated from adults of both sexes. The mature larva of *N. argentinensis* is described and illustrated, and compared to other known larvae of *Neoelmis*. The distribution of the known species of *Austrelmis* and *Neoelmis* are synopsisized and a checklist of the genera and species of Elmidae known from Argentina is given.

Key words: riffle beetle, Neotropics, taxonomy, Elminae, Patagonia, new species

Introduction

Members of the family Elmidae are found widely throughout the world; however, elmids taxa are more abundant and diverse in tropical regions (Spangler, 1982). Elmids, commonly called riffle beetles, are aquatic in all their larval stages; meanwhile adults can be aquatic (subfamily Elminae) or riparian (Subfamily Larinae).

The family Elmidae presently includes 62 genera with about 430 recognized species from America (Kodada & Jäch 2005, Maier & Spangler 2011).

Austrelmis is endemic to the Neotropical region and exhibits an Andean distribution. This genus includes 20 species and 2 subspecies, most of them described originally in the genus *Macrelmis* Motschulsky. All the species previously included in *Macrelmis* except the type species, were transferred to the new genus *Austrelmis* by Brown (1984). The known distribution of the genus includes Ecuador, Perú, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay (although this last site is doubtful).

The primarily Neotropical genus *Neoelmis* was established by Musgrave in 1935. This genus currently includes 48 species and 2 subspecies. The distribution of the genus extends from the southwestern United States (1 species) throughout Central and South America, plus on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago. Argentina is rich in biogeographical regions that range from subtropical to subantarctic areas, therefore it is expected that studies of the elmids fauna will result in description of many new species (Manzo & Archangelsky 2001). Twenty one species have been recorded from Argentina, five in the subfamily Larinae and 16 in the subfamily Elminae (Table 1). However an additional 18 undescribed species have been recognized from Argentina (Manzo 2006a) and will be included in future papers.

In this paper two new species of Elminae from Argentina are described, based on adults of both sexes. *Austrelmis patagonicus* sp. nov. and *Neoelmis argentinensis* sp. nov. are the first species of these genera described from Argentina. Additionally, the mature larva of *Neoelmis argentinensis* sp. nov. is also described. For *Neoelmis* this is the first larval description associated to adults.