



Article

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The Aradidae (Insecta, Hemiptera, Heteroptera) of Argentina

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Abstract

In Argentina, 14 genera and 41 species are recorded, belonging to 5 subfamilies: Aneurinae, Aradinae, Calisiinae, Isodermiinae and Mezirinae. *Aneurosoma dissimile* (Bergroth); *Aneururus bosqui* Kormilev; *Aphleboderrhis comata* Champion; *Aphleboderrhis pilosa* Stål; *Aradus angustellus* (Blanchard); *Aradus brasiliensis* Usinger; *Aradus mexicanus* Usinger; *Aradus penningtoni* Drake; *Calisius confusus* Kormilev; *Dysodius lunatus* (Fabricius); *Iralunelus bergi* (Kormilev); *Iralunelus monrosi* (Kormilev); *Iralunelus subdipterus* (Burmeister); *Isodermus gayi* (Spinola); *Kormilevia dureti* (Kormilev); *Lobocara oblonga* Bergroth; *Mezira americana* (Spinola); *Mezira argentinensis* (Kormilev); *Mezira birabeni* (Kormilev 1953); *Mezira bonaerensis* Kormilev; *Mezira bruchi* (Kormilev); *Mezira formosa* (Kormilev); *Mezira granuliger* (Stål); *Mezira neonigripennis* Kormilev; *Mezira neonigripennis misionensis* Kormilev; *Mezira nigripennis* Usinger; *Mezira paragruliger* Kormilev; *Mezira proseni* Kormilev; *Mezira regularis* (Champion); *Mezira reuteri* (Bergroth); *Mezira saltensis* Kormilev; *Mezira spissigrada* Kormilev; *Mezira tartagalensis* Kormilev; *Mezira vianai* Kormilev; *Neuroctenus centralis* (Berg); *Neuroctenus punctulatus* (Burmeister); *Neuroctenus subandinus* Kormilev; *Neuroctenus terginus* (Stål); *Notapictinus martinezi* (Kormilev); *Notapictinus sanmigueli* (Kormilev); and *Placogenys clarkei* Kormilev.

Key words: Aradidae, keys, Argentina, taxonomy, distribution

Introduction

The family Aradidae comprises insects of phytophagous and mycetophagous habits, commonly known as “bark bugs” or “flat bugs”. They are found on and under the bark and decaying trees or in leaf litter. They also live associated with termites, in bird and rodent nests and occasionally, in the galleries of woodboring beetles (Schuh and Slater, 1995). They are flat and elliptical, oval or rectangular in shape and they are dark coloured (black or brown). Often have a granular or rough dorsal surface which provides an excellent vehicle to transport fungi spores (Hubbard, 1892).

Usinger and Matsuda (1959) provided a systematic account of the family and Kormilev and Froeschner (1987) a catalog of the world species.

Despite their wide distribution and abundance, this is a little-known group from the biological, ecological and systematic point of view. The family includes 233 genera and 1931 species separated into eight subfamilies, distributed worldwide (Henry, 2009). They are distributed over all the biogeographical regions of the world. In the Neotropical region there are 80 genera and 509 species (Coscarón and Contreras, 2012), for Argentina 4 genera and 5 species (Pennington, 1921) were reported, Coscarón (submitted) this number increased to 14 genera and 41 species; records from Ecuador comprise 9 genera and 15 species (Froeschner, 1981); from Panama 30 genera and 60 species (Froeschner, 1999) and from Chile 6 genera and 6 species (Prado, 2008).

Regarding the biology of this family, there is very little information. Aradids are generally found in a quiescent state, either feeding, apparently resting, or in hibernation (Usinger and Matsuda, 1959). The only economically significant species belongs to the genus *Aradus* Blanchard with an Holarctic distribution. The pine bark bug *A. cinnamomeus* Panzer pushes its stylets into phloem, cambium, and xylem tissues of living saplings, disturbing their growth and causing serious damage (Heliovara, 2000).