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Contribution to the knowledge of Patagonia, Argentina: redescription of the genus *Xenogenus* Berg 1883 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Rhopalidae) and description of immature stages of *Xenogenus gracilis* Reed, 1899

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Abstract

This is a review of *Xenogenus* Berg 1883 a Neotropical genus with two species: *X. gracilis* Reed (1899) and *X. picturatum* Berg 1883. Males of *X. picturatum*, males and females of *X. gracilis* are redescribed and illustrated; instars II–V of *X. gracilis* are described and illustrated. The host plant and new record data are also given for the latter.

Key words: Nymphs, Host plant, *Xenogenus gracilis*, *Xenogenus picturatum*.

Introduction

The Rhopalidae has often been considered to be a subfamily of an inclusive Coreidae, but Chopra (1967) treated it as a distinct family. Chopra (1967) also presented a revision of the Rhopalidae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera), including keys to subfamilies, tribes, and genera. Göllner-Scheiding (1983) published a world catalog of the family. The family is a monophyletic group (Xinzheng Li 1996) and consists of two subfamilies: Rhopalinae and Serinethinae (Chopra 1967; Göllner-Scheiding 1983). Schaefer (1993) wrote about the origins and biogeography of the Rhopalinae in the New World. Rhopalinae have six tribe, Corizomorphini Chopra, Chorosomatini Douglas & Scott, Harmostini Stål, Maccavethini Chopra, Niesthrini Chopra and Rhopalini Amyot & Serville. The genus *Xenogenus* is a Chorosomatini (Schaefer 1994) with two species: *X. gracilis* (Reed 1899) and *X. picturatum* Berg 1883. The former occurs only in South America, whereas the latter is widespread throughout the New World (Schaefer 1993). Both species are present in Argentina (Coscarón submitted). Berg (1883) described *X. picturatum*. Reed (1899) described *Harmostes gracilis*. Later, Harris (1942) transferred *Harmostes gracilis* to the genus *Xenogenus*. The two species are very similar to each another (Göllner-Scheiding 1980).

Until now, worldwide contributions on nymphs have included *Arhyssus hirtus* (Torre-Bueno) (Wheeler & Henry 1984), *A. lateralis* (Say) (Paskewitz & McPherson 1983), *Esperanza texana* Barber (Wheeler & Henry 1984), *Harmostes (Harmostes) reflexulus* (Say) (Yonke & Walker 1970), *Liorhyssus hyalinus* (Fabricius) (Cornelis *et al.* 2012), *Niesthrea louisianica* Sailer (Wheeler 1977), *Rhopalus (Brachycarenum) trigrinus* (Schilling) (Wheeler & Hoebeke 1988) and *R. (Rhopalus) parumpunctatus* Schill (Stroyan 1954).

In the present work, we give a diagnosis of *Xenogenus*, redescribe its species and describe the nymphs from instars II–V of *Xenogenus gracilis*. New distributional records are provided, and *Salsola* is recorded as a new host plant.

Material and methods

Specimens were collected with a garden vacuum model 56/86 Stihl and sweep-net with a diameter of 35 cm in

The color of antennae, pronotum and the distribution of red dots are not reliable characters to differentiate these two species. We expand the distributions of both species to southern Argentina. The southern limit of distributions of both species is between latitudes 42°S and 43°S in the province of Chubut.

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