



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4058.3.7>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:A12C5DAA-E8D0-4478-B364-90BEE0CA6F9F>

***Austrelmis* Brown (Coleoptera: Byrrhoidea: Elmidae) from Argentina: five new species**

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Abstract

Material belonging to the genus *Austrelmis* Brown, from different localities from northwestern Argentina, is studied and described. Five new species are described and illustrated from adults of both sexes: *Austrelmis argentinensis* sp. nov., *A. catamarcensis* sp. nov., *A. talampayensis* sp. nov., *A. tafi* sp. nov. and *A. robustus* sp. nov. The new species are compared to other known species of the genus. A comparative table summarizing the most important characters used to identify the Argentine species of *Austrelmis* and a distributional map for Argentina are included.

Key words: Elminae, riffle beetles, Neotropical Region, aquatic insects, taxonomy

Introduction

The genus *Austrelmis* Brown, 1984 belongs to the subfamily Elminae, and includes 21 species and 2 subspecies, most of them described originally in the genus *Macrelmis* Motschulsky, 1860. Brown (1984) transferred all the species previously included in *Macrelmis*, except the type species, to the new genus *Austrelmis*, and provided a list of all known species of the new genus. *Austrelmis* is endemic to the Neotropical Region and appears to be confined to the Andes and related foothills of western South America (Brown 1984; Manzo & Archangelsky 2012). Their distribution includes Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay (although this last site seems doubtful). Of the 21 known species, one species is recorded from Ecuador: *A. leleupi* (Delève 1968); seven species are recorded only from Peru: *A. condimentaria* (Philippi 1864), *A. confluenta* (Hinton 1940), *A. confusa* (Hinton 1940), *A. dorotae* Więźlak (1987), *A. glabra* (Hinton 1940), *A. lata* (Hinton 1940) and *A. steineri* (Spangler 1980); two subspecies and three species are recorded only from Bolivia: *A. consors mooni* (Hinton 1940), *A. gardineri* (Hinton 1940), *A. thermarum* (Hinton 1940), *A. tibialis* (Grouvelle 1896) and *A. woytkowskii bicolor* (Janssens 1957); three species are recorded from Peru and Bolivia: *A. consors* (Hinton 1940), *A. gilsoni* (Hinton 1940) and *A. peruana* (Hinton 1937); four species are recorded only from Chile: *A. anthracina* (Germain 1892), *A. chilensis* (Germain 1854), *A. costulata* (Janssens 1957) and *A. elegans* (Janssens, 1957); one species is recorded from Peru, Chile and Bolivia: *A. woytkowskii* (Hinton 1937, Janssens 1957) and one species is recorded from Argentina: *A. patagonicus* Manzo & Archangelsky (2012). Finally there is a doubtful record from Bolivia; when Więźlak (1987) transferred *Austrelmis flavitarsis*, described by Grouvelle (1987) within the genus *Elmis*, he mentions Bolivia as type locality for this species. However in the original description by Grouvelle, the type locality says Uruguay, and not Bolivia. The catalogues of Blackwelder (1944) and Junk (1910) also mention Uruguay as the type locality of *Elmis flavitarsis*. Considering that all known species of the genus have an Andean distribution, it is probable that this species could belong to another genus.

In this work, we describe and illustrate five new species of *Austrelmis* from northwestern Argentina; we include a comparative table summarizing the most important characters used to identify the species of *Austrelmis* from Argentina and a distributional map for this country.