

# New records of two little known coleopteroid species of Rhyparochromidae Amyot & Serville, 1843 (Heteroptera: Lygaeoidea) in Patagonia

*Nuevos registros de dos especies con coleoptería poco conocidas de Rhyparochromidae Amyot & Serville, 1843 (Heteroptera: Lygaeoidea) en Patagonia*

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## Abstract

New records are provided for the Rhyparochromid bugs *Stictolethaeus inerme* (Berg, 1883) and *Astemmoplitus nitidus* (Blanchard, 1852). *S. inerme* is recorded for the first time in the Neuquén Province in Argentina; whereas *A. nitidus* is reported for the first time in Los Lagos Region in Chile. Futaleufú becomes the southernmost record known for this species. The relationship between *A. nitidus* and *A. gayi* (Spinola, 1852) is commented and clarified.

## Key words:

Hemiptera, Lethaeini, Udeocorini, Los Lagos, Neuquén, new records, synonymy.

## Resumen

Se entregan nuevos registros para los Riparocrómidos *Stictolethaeus inerme* (Berg, 1883) y *Astemmoplitus nitidus* (Blanchard, 1852). Se registra a *S. inerme* por primera vez para la provincia de Neuquén, Argentina; mientras que *A. nitidus* se registra por primera vez para la Región de Los Lagos, Chile. Futaleufú se convierte en la localidad más meridional conocida para ésta especie. En adición la relación entre *A. nitidus* y *A. gayi* (Spinola, 1852) es comentada y clarificada.

## Palabras clave:

Hemiptera, Lethaeini, Udeocorini, Los Lagos, Neuquén, nuevos registros, sinonimia.

## INTRODUCTION

Rhyparochromidae Amyot & Serville, 1843 is a family of small heteropterans, with white, black, brown and opaque coloration. This group is one of the most diversified within Lygaeoidea (Schuh & Slater, 1995); comprising 1850 species classified in 372 genera (Henry, 2009). This taxon was formerly treated as a subfamily of Lygaeidae, until Henry (1997), who gave it a family status. Actually the group remains classified as a family within the Lygaeoidea *sensu stricto* (Faúndez, 2014). Within the Rhyparochromidae, several species are known by having coleopteroid hemelytra (e.g. with reduced or absent membrane and corium fused with the clavus). The purpose of this contribution is to give new records of two coleopteroid Rhyparochromids in Patagonia.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

In classification we follow Slater (1964) and Henry (1997). Photos were taken with a high resolution digital camera adapted to a stereoscopic microscope. All examined material is deposited in the Heteroptera Reference Collection of the Centro de Estudios en Biodiversidad CEBCh.

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## RESULTS

Rhyparochromidae Amyot & Serville, 1843

Rhyparochrominae Amyot & Serville, 1843

Lethaeini Stål, 1872

*Stictolethaeus inerme* (Berg, 1883) (Fig. 1)  
= *Stictolethaeus slateri* O'Donnell, 1991 (syn. by  
Dellapé & Coscarón, 2004).



Fig. 1. *Stictolethaeus inerme*, habitus.

Material examined: ARGENTINA: Neuquén Province, 16km NE of San Martín de los Andes 40°07'S-71°06'W 700m s.n.m. 13-I-1988, Ashworth, Fuglseth & Maliske leg. 1♂ (micropterous), Patagonian steppe Umbelliferae/Compositae/Poaceae, pitfall trap.

Remarks. This species is known from Argentina and Uruguay. In Argentina it has been recorded from Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Córdoba, Chubut, Entre Ríos, Mendoza, Santa Fé (Dellapé *et al.* 2015). Here we provided the first record of this species in the Neuquén Province, extending its

distribution to the East in the southern edge of its distribution.

Udeocorini Sweet, 1967

*Astemmoplitus nitidus* (Blanchard, 1852) (Fig. 2)



Fig. 2. *Astemmoplitus nitidus*, habitus.

Material examined: CHILE: Los Lagos Region, 5km W of Ensenada, Llanquihue, 18-IX-1977, 1♀, Ashworth, Hoganson & Mooers leg. Los Lagos Region, Futaleufú, 26/29-I-2015, 1♂1♀ A. Luer leg.

Remarks. This species is known in Chile only from the type localities "Concepción y Araucanía" given by Blanchard (1852). Besides of that, it has only been cited in Río Negro, Argentina by Dellapé *et al.* (2010). The records here provided extend the presence of this species to Palena Province in Chile. Prado (2008) list this species as a junior synonym of *Astemmoplitus gayi* (Spinola, 1852) without justification. In the case of a synonymy, *A. nitidus* has precedence (*i.e.* page 150) over *A.*

*gayi* (i.e. page 157) in the same text (Spinola & Blanchard, 1852). However, *A. gayi* is distributed in the North-Central part of the country (with Coquimbo Region as type locality); whereas *A. nitidus* ranges from Bío Bío to Los Lagos regions. Furthermore, the type of *A. gayi* is lost and there is not enough material available to further study the synonymy of both species. Therefore, we prefer to treat them as different taxa until more material is available for study.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The scarce amount of records of these species seems to be related to lack of collecting. The case of *S. inerme* is interesting because it reach the Andes limit, however it has been never found in Chile. Therefore, further prospection may extend its presence to Chile; as it has been occurring recently with many heteropterans recorded for the first in the south of Chile or Argentina respectively (Faúndez & Rider, 2016). Moreover, the new locality data of *A. nitidus* fill the distributional gap between Southern Chile and Argentina; thus showing a classical Andean pattern. Futaleufú becomes the southernmost record known for this species.

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