

**NEW RECORDS OF SPECIES OF THE FAMILY RHOPALIDAE
(HETEROPTERA) IN THE PROVINCE OF LA PAMPA
(ARGENTINA)**

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ABSTRACT: At the global level are 18 genera that constitute Rhopalidae family in our country are only 5 genera, of which 3 are provided in this contribution to the province of La Pampa. The material comes from the entomological collection of the Museum of La Plata (Argentina) and campaigns conducted by the authors in the province of La Pampa.

KEY WORDS: Rhopalidae. Geographical distribution. La Pampa.

The Rhopalidae is a family of the order Heteroptera (Insecta), are called "scent-less plant bugs" because of their eating habits. They are part of a group of small insects 4-15 mm, varying in shape and color (Schuh & Slater, 1995).

Rhopalidae family comprising 18 genera and 209 species worldwide, and is divided into two subfamilies according (Henry, 2009), Serinethinae and Rhopalinae. In Argentina there are 5 genera and 35 species (Pall & Coscarón, 2012).

Most Rhopalidae are of little economic importance, according to Schaefer & Panizzi (2000) do not refer agricultural importance in our country. All individuals in this family are phytophagous species, members of the subfamily Rhopalinae feed on various plants, while members of the subfamily Serinethinae, this eat mostly plant family Sapindaceae (Schaefer & Chopra, 1982; Schaefer & Mitchell, 1983).

The knowledge of the fauna in this part of the world is poor, especially economically important taxa, not yet published keys that help complete identification of the species living in this region.

Argentina covers an area of 2,791,810 km² and is bordered by Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay. Approximately 75% of its territory comprises arid and semiarid regions, are also wetter areas as regions of the highly endangered and the Yungas, a lesser percentage. The province of La Pampa (Fig. 3), studied in this work, is located in the region of the neotropical fauna, comprising an area of 143,440 km², bordering the provinces of Buenos Aires, to the east, San Luis and Cordoba, north; Mendoza, west and Black River to the south. It is crossed by three phytogeographic regions: Monte, Espinal and Pampa, consecutively (Brown et al., 2005; Morrone, 2001).

The aim of this paper is to present new records of species of the genera *Niesthrea*, *Harmostes* and *Xenogenus* (Rhopalidae): *N. pictipes* (Stål), *H. prolixus* Stål and *X. gracilis* Berg and expand its geographic distribution in the province of La Pampa, Argentina.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

He was examined material belonging to the collections of the Museum of Natural Sciences of La Plata (MLP) (Fig. 1A), Buenos Aires, Argentina <http://www.fcnym.unlp.edu.ar/abamuse.html> and material from campaigns during the months of March and April 2010 in the province of La Pampa (Fig. 1B-D), conducted by the authors, with networks entomological, square canvas and G-Vac for catching insects.

For the geographical distribution program was used DIVA-GIS 7.1.7 (<http://www.diva-gis.org/>). The genera were photographed with a Kodak EasyShare M530 camera (12 megapixels) and used a magnifying glass M-Stereomicroscope Wild. The figures were created through Adobe Photoshop CS3 and numbering was performed using the program CorelDraw X3.

The genera were identified through the work of Pall & Coscarón (2012) (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00222933.2012.673643>) and species through the diagnosis of Chopra (1967) (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2311.1967.tb00503.x/pdf>).

The resulting material in the campaigns was deposited in the Museum of Natural Sciences of La Plata (MLP).

RESULTS

We obtained a total of 77 individuals belonging to the family Rhopalidae, of which 26 belonged to the species *N. pictipes*, 30 to the species *H. prolixus* and 21 to the species *X. gracilis* (Figure 2A-C).

Harmostes prolixus Stål, 1860: 37

Distribution: **Buenos Aires:** Lujan, Chacabuco, Baradero; **Catamarca;** **Córdoba:** Río San José; Carlos Paz; **Corrientes;** **Entre Ríos:** Gualeguay; **Jujuy;** **La Pampa:** Catrilo; **La Rioja;** **Mendoza;** **Misiones:** El dorado, Montecarlo, Belgrano; **Neuquén;** **Río Negro:** Río Colorado; **San Luis;** **San Juan;** **Santa Fe;** **Santiago del Estero;** **Tucumán.**

Studied material. (Fig. 1C) **ARGENTINA. LA PAMPA:** Metileo (35° 47' 40.27" S; 64° 05' 57.54" W); 15-IV-2010; J.L. Pall Col.; 3 ♂, 5 ♀ (MLP). Lihue Calel (38° 00' 19.85" S; 65° 35' 35.29" W); 03-III-2010; J.L. Pall, E. Quirán & M.C. Coscarón Col.; 5 ♂ (MLP). Parque Luro (36° 53' 49.30" S; 64° 16' 00.71" W); 15-IV-2010; J.L. Pall & E. Quirán Col.; 9 ♀ (MLP). ZTP 216 (50 Km southern of Metileo) (36° 18' 18.80" S; 65° 09' 14.52" W); 15-IV-2010; J.L. Pall Col.; 4 ♂, 4 ♀ (MLP). Gral Pico (35°39'57,86" S; 63°44'57,11" W); 1938; n/n Col.; 3 ♀ (MLP). Catrilo (36°25'00,10" S; 63°24'01,13" W); 1938; Biraben-Scott Col.; 2 ♂ (MLP).

New record: **La Pampa:** Gral. Pico, Metileo, Lihue Calel, Parque Luro.

Niesthrea (Corizus) pictipes (Stål, 1859: 239)

Distribution: **Buenos Aires:** La matanza, La Plata; **Corrientes:** Loreto, Pellegrini; **Córdoba:** Villa dolores; **Chaco;** **Entre Río:** La Paz; **Mendoza;** **Misiones;** **La Pampa:** Gral. Pico; **Santa Fe:** Arrufo; **Salta:** J.V. Gonzales.

Studied material. (Fig. 1B) **ARGENTINA. LA PAMPA:** Río Salado (Sta. Isabel) (36° 17' 12.53" S; 66° 50' 23.85" W); 15-IV-2010; J.L. Pall Col.; 7 ♂ (MLP). Lihue Calel (38° 00' 19.85" S; 65° 35' 35.29" W); 03-III-2010; J.L. Pall & E. Quirán Col.; 4 ♀ (MLP). Casa de Piedra (38° 09' 23.41" S; 67° 04' 56.79" W); 03-III-2010; J.L.

Pall & M.C. Coscarón Col.; 4 ♂, 3 ♀ (MLP). ZTLC-75 (50 Km northeast of Lihue Calel) (37° 27' 53.35" S; 65° 05' 54.25" W); 03-III-2010; J.L. Pall Col.; 8 ♂ (MLP). Gral Pico (35°39'57,86" S; 63°44'57,11" W); 1938; n/n Col.; 2 ♀ (MLP).
New record: **La Pampa**: Casa de piedra, Lihue Calel, Santa Isabel.

Xenogenus gracilis Reed, 1899: 44

Distribution: **Buenos Aires**: La Plata, Felipe Saja, José C. Paz; **Catamarca**: Miraflores, Belén; **Córdoba**: Villa allende, La Puerta, Cabaña; **Corrientes**: San Roque; San Juan: Villa aberostein; **Jujuy**: Pampa blanca; **La Pampa**: Gral. Pico; **La Rioja**: Nonogasta; **Neuquén**: Lago Curruhue; **Salta**: Guemes, Coronel moldes; **Santiago del Estero**: Quimilí; **Tucumán**: La cocha, Trancos.

Studied material. (Fig. 1D) **LA PAMPA**: Lihue Calel (38° 00' 19.85" S; 65° 35' 35.29" W); 03-III-2010; J.L. Pall & M.C. Coscarón Col.; 6 ♂ (MLP). ZTP 216 (50 Km southern of Metileo) (36° 18' 18.80" S; 65° 09' 14.52" W); 15-IV-2010; J.L. Pall Col.; 8 ♀ (MLP). ZTLC-75 (50 Km northeast of Lihue Calel) (37° 27' 53.35" S; 65° 05' 54.25" W); 03-III-2010; J.L. Pall & M.C. Coscarón Col.; 4 ♂, 3 ♀ (MLP). Gral Pico (35°39'57,86" S; 63°44'57,11" W); 1938; n/n Col.; 2 ♂ (MLP).
New record: **La Pampa**: Lihue Calel.

COMMENTS

In addition to providing new records of the genera of the family and its species Rhopalidae, vastly expanded the geographic distribution of the same and related family in this province.

While we agree with Schaefer & Panizzi (2000), we must clarify that the presence of these insects involves the study and monitoring them, because with current environmental changes and planting methodology that takes place in the province and in the country, coupled with the expansion of agriculture in different regions and the threats to their power sources, could lead the attack of these insects to crops.

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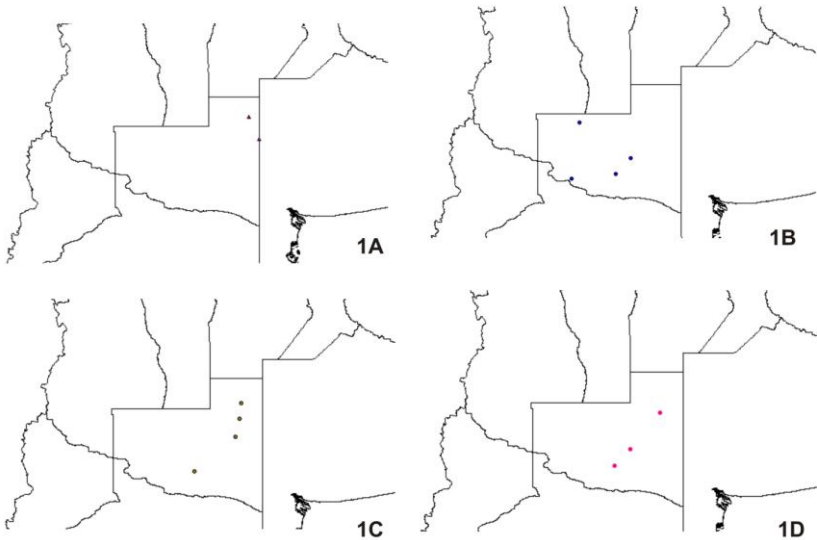
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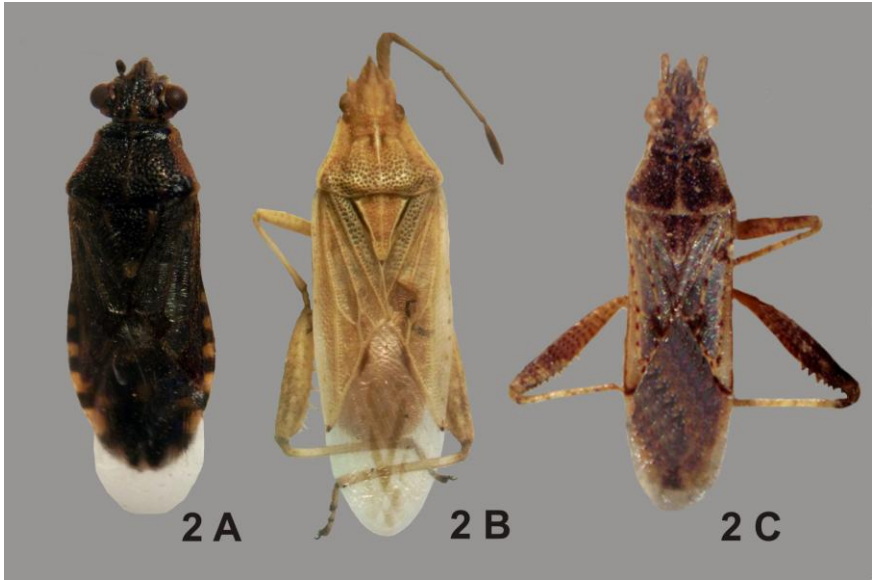
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Figures 1A-C: 1A: Geographical distribution of the genera *Niesthrea*, *Xenogeus* and *Harmosts* in the province of La Pampa material obtained from MLP. 1B: New contribution of geographic distribution for the species *N. pictipes* 1C: New contribution of geographic distribution for the species *H. prolixus* 1D: New contribution of geographic distribution for the species *X. gracilis*, in prov. La Pampa, Argentina.



Figures 2A-C: 2A. *Niesthrea pictipes*, 2B. *Harmosts prolixus* and 2C. *Xenogenus gracilis*.

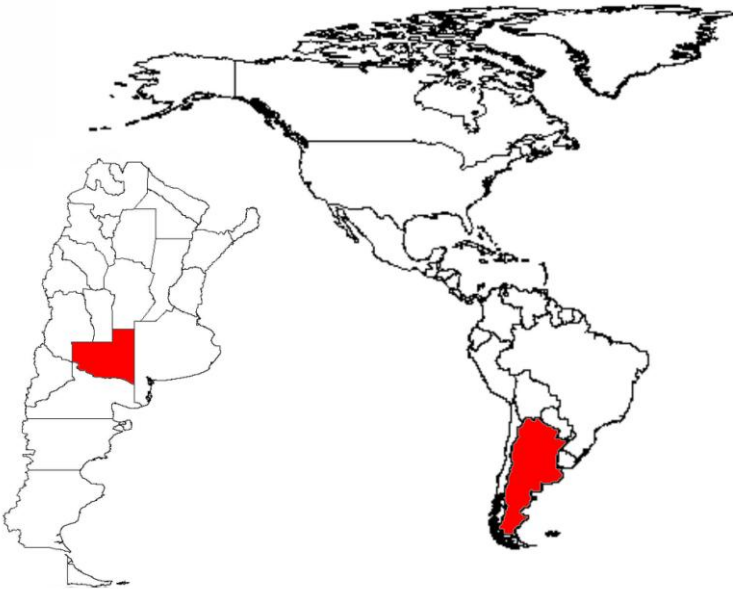


Figure 3. Geographical location of Argentina and the Province of La Pampa.