

Prytanoides gen. nov., a new myodochine genus to include a new species from Argentina, and new records for *Prytanes* Distant, 1893 species (Hemiptera: Rhyparochromidae)

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Abstract

A new genus, *Prytanoides* gen. nov., is described to accommodate the new species *Prytanoides prorectus* gen. et sp. nov. from Argentina. Its relationship with the presumably closely related *Prytanes* Distant, 1893 is discussed. The distributional range of four *Prytanes* species is also extended: *Prytanes formosus* (Distant, 1882) and *Prytanes foedus* (Stål, 1860) are recorded for many provinces in Argentina; *Prytanes oblongus* (Stål, 1862) is recorded from Ecuador for the first time; and *Prytanes tumens* (Stål, 1874) from Mexico. For each species, we provide a colour habitus of the adult, together with photographs of the male genitalia of the new genus and species.

KEYWORDS

distribution, Ecuador, genitalia, Heteroptera, Mexico, Myodochini

INTRODUCTION

The Myodochini are one of the more diverse tribes of Rhyparochromidae in the Neotropics and are one of the largest within the family. Harrington (1980) studied the diversity of Myodochini of the world and proposed a phylogenetic tree for 56 genera, among the 60 recognised at that moment, excluding three genera based on female specimens described by Malipatil (1978) and overlooking one described by Scudder (1978). In this work, she established main clades based on the morphology of the male genitalia. These groupings included a large group of genera with plesiomorphic genital characters, referred to as phallic Type I. This type of phallus is characterised by a well-developed sperm reservoir with anterolaterally directed wings, long and slender ‘holding sclerites’ and unadorned conjunctiva and vesica. Among this group (phallic Type 1), the subclade composed of the genera *Caenopamera* Barber, 1918, *Carpilis*

Stål, 1874, *Ereminellus* Harrington, 1980, *Prytanes* Distant, 1893, *Ptochiomera* Say, 1832, *Sisamnes* Distant, 1893 and *Valonetus* Barber, 1918 is characterised by a grooved mid-ventral surface of head and a U-shaped buccular juncture close to the labial insertion. Recently, Dellapé & Melo (2023) described the new genus *Malleusocoris* Dellapé & Melo, 2023 from South America that seems to be related to this group of genera, as it shows the median groove along the gula, the U-shaped buccular juncture and the simple male genitalia. They also synonymized *Ptochiomera chilensis* (Spinola, 1852), from Chile, under *Bergidia polychroma* (Spinola, 1852) (Ozophorini), and transferred *Sisamnes annulicollis* Berg, 1894 from Argentina to the genus *Neopamera* Harrington, 1980. Therefore, all members of this subclade are Nearctic, except for *Sisamnes contractus* Distant, 1893, which extends south to Guatemala and the more diverse genus *Prytanes*, which also includes Neotropical species.

Distant (1893) erected the genus *Prytanes* to include two species, *Prytanes globosus* Distant, 1893 and *Prytanes ater* Distant, 1893. Barber (1928) in his revision of the genus *Ptochiomera*, Say (1832) erected the genus *Exptochiomera* Barber, 1928 to include the type species of the genus, *Exptochiomera minima* (Guérin-Méneville, 1857) and nine additional species: *E. albomaculata* (Distant, 1893), *E. caeca* (Distant, 1882), *E. fuscicornis* (Stål, 1874), *E. foeda* (Stål, 1860), *E. formosa* (Distant, 1882), *E. japonica* (Distant, 1883),

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<https://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:4694C206-C55A-495C-8089-8E0BDD1DDA02>

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E. oblonga (Stål, 1862), *E. quadristillata* (Stål, 1860) and *E. tumens* (Stål, 1874) but included a key for only four species: *E. fuscicornis*, *E. formosa*, *E. minima* and *E. oblonga*. Barber (1932) described three additional new species in *Exptochiomeria*: *E. arizonensis* Barber, 1932, *E. nana* Barber, 1932 and *E. intercisa* Barber, 1932; and keyed the seven species known from the United States. After this, in a second revision of the genus *Prochiomeria* (Barber, 1953), two new species were described: *E. dissimilis* Barber, 1953 and *E. confusa* Barber, 1953, and a key for ten species of the genus was included. Finally, Barber (1954) described one new species of *Prytanes*, *P. cubensis* Barber, 1954, and recorded *E. minima*, *E. confusa* and *E. dissimilis* from Cuba.

Some significant re-arrangements in the genus *Exptochiomeria* were done later. Scudder (1962) transferred *E. quadristillatus* to the antillocorine genus *Bathydema* Uhler, 1893 (later transferred to *Caeneusia*, Strand, 1928 by Slater et al. 1977), and *E. japonica* to the genus *Stigmatonotum* Lindberg, 1927. Sweet and Slater (1974) synonymized *E. nana* with *Suffenus fusconervosus* (Motschulsky, 1863), a species known from the Old World tropics, and argued that although it was not impossible that the only known specimen of *E. nana* was collected in Massachusetts (USA), it was probably a mislabelling.

Harrington (1980) transferred *Prytanes ater* Distant, 1893 to *Pseudopamera* Distant, 1882 and erected the genus *Eremineilus* Harrington, 1980 to include *E. arizonensis* Barber, 1932 and synonymized *Exptochiomeria* with *Prytanes*, pointing out that the genus lacks satisfactory synapomorphies. Baranowski & Slater (2005) in their Lygaeidae of West Indies described three new species of *Prytanes*, *P. bahamensis* Baranowski, 2005, *P. brunneus* Baranowski, 2005, and *P. micropterum* Slater, 2005 and gave a key to the ten species recorded from the West Indies. After all these works, the genus *Prytanes* includes 17 species distributed from the United States to Brazil.

In this paper, a new Myodochini genus presumably closely related to *Prytanes* is described to accommodate a new species from Argentina, and its relationships with this genus are discussed. Furthermore, new records for *Prytanes* species are given. For each species, we provide a colour habitus of the adult, together with photographs of the male genitalia of the new genus and species.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Label data from the type material of the new species are cited verbatim. Lines on labels are separated with ‘/’, and contents of different labels are separated with ‘//’. The acronyms used are MLP for the *Museo de la Plata*, La Plata, Argentina, and MACN for the *Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales* ‘Bernardino Rivadavia’, Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Argentina; and NMPC for the *National Museum*, Prague, Czech Republic. Colour images of new taxa were captured with a Canon EOS Rebel T7i with a Professional Grade Raynox DCR 150 DSLR Objective Tube Lens and an

Objective PLAN Achromatic LWD infinity 5X, mounted on a WeMacro’s automatic focus stacking rail. Multiple focal planes were taken with HELICON REMOTE software and merged using HELICON FOCUS software. Plates were created and numbered in COREL DRAW 2018.

Measurements were taken using a millimetric ocular in an Olympus SZX7 microscope, and are given in millimetres.

RESULTS

Prytanoides, gen. nov.

(<https://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:5E3BE8BB-416A-46CF-8973-4C31BE4142E2>)

Type species. *Prytanoides proreectus* Dellapé & Melo 2024, here designated.

Diagnosis

The correct head (Figure 1) without a ventral groove on the gula, the V-shaped buccular juncture, the posterior pronotal lobe weakly carinated laterally, and the heavy sclerotized spines on the gonoporal process (Figure 2d–e) of males support this new monotypic genus. The only included species, *P. proreectus*, shows a general habitus, with similar size, punctuation and colouration to *Prytanes* species, but these have a more declivent head with a grooved midventral surface, a U-shaped buccular juncture close to the labial insertion, and a rounded posterior pronotal margin.

Description

Head elongate, correct, as long as its width across eyes. Vertex rounded. Gula without a groove. Buccular juncture V-shaped, occurring close to labial insertion. Pronotal collar apparent but not demarcated posteriorly by a linelike groove, posterior pronotal lobe weakly carinated laterally. Hemelytra with claval punctuation in three regular rows. Mesepimeron enclosed. Evaporative area reduced. Procoxae with a single spine. Profemur with two rows of spines. Male protibiae curved proximal to a medial spine on inner surface. Aedeagus with thin and long sclerotizations dorsal to the sperm reservoir, vesica and conjunctiva unspined, gonoporal process with heavy sclerotized spines.

Etymology

The name refers to the similarity of the new genus to *Prytanes*; the Greek suffix ‘-oides’ means ‘similar to’.

Prytanoides proreectus, sp. nov.

(Figures 1–2)

(<https://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:F1CED5DA-F686-402C-B333-DE9138EE449A>)

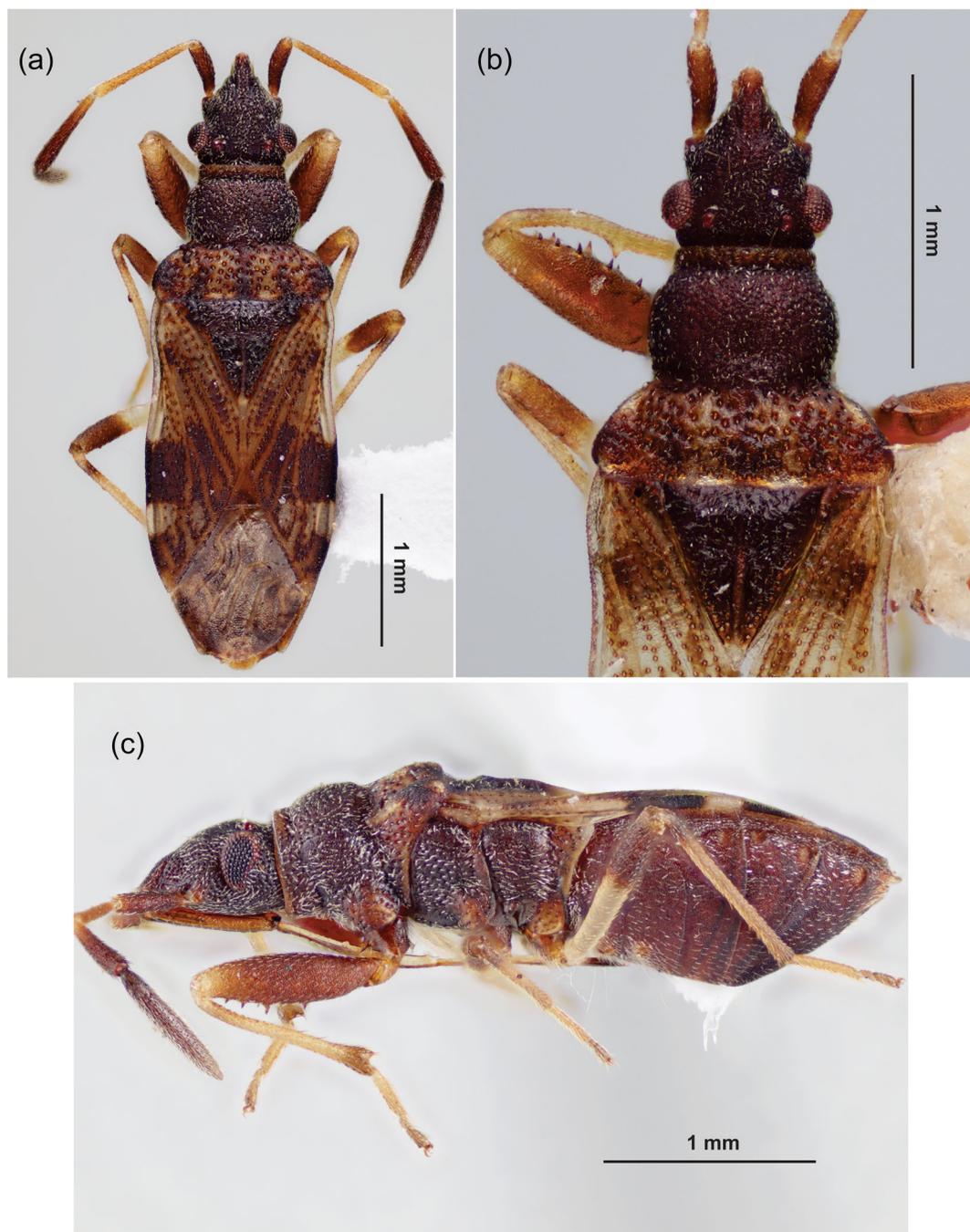


FIGURE 1 *Ptytanoides prorrectus* gen. et sp. nov. (a) Dorsal habitus, female holotype. (b) Detail of head, pronotum, and anterior leg, male paratype. (c) Lateral view, female holotype.

Material examined

Holotype (Figures 1a, c)

1♀, Argentina, Formosa / P. N. Río Pilcomayo, / Laguna Blanca 14/II/2022 / −25.173665–58.129756 / Melo, Olivera, Cheli & / Dellapé cols. T. de luz // he-10708 (MLP) (Figure 1a,c).

Paratypes

1♀, Argentina, Chaco / Roque Sáenz Peña / 26/III/1939 / P. Denier col. // he-10709 (MLP); 1♀, Argentina, Chaco // P.N. El Impenetrable / Estación de Campo El / Teuco −25.064561 / −60.9464903 T. de luz / 10/XII/2021 Melo, M.C. // he-10710 (MLP); 1♂, Argentina, Corrientes / Col. Pellegrini / XII/2001 / P.M. Dellapé col., TL // he-

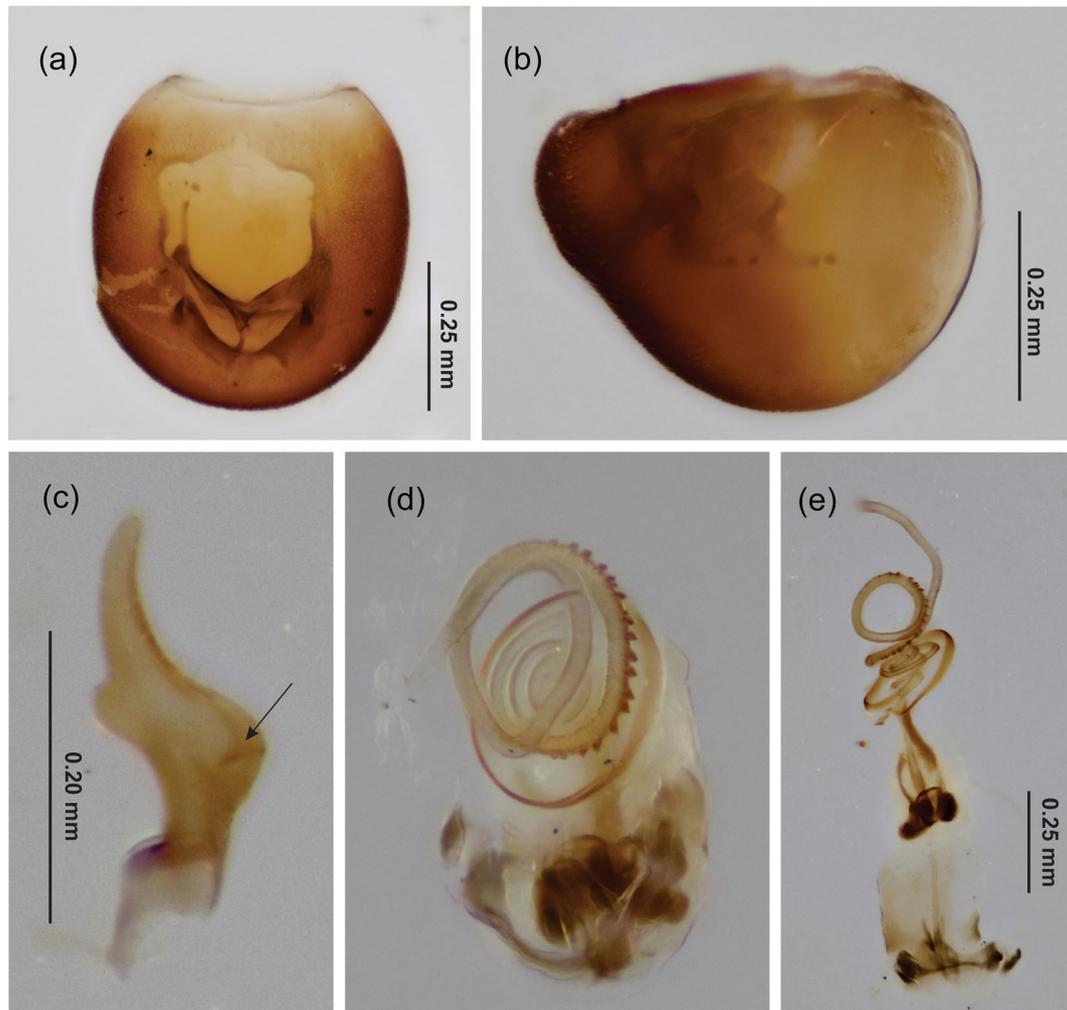


FIGURE 2 *Ptytanoides prorextus* gen. et sp. nov. male paratype from Corrientes, Argentina. Male genitalia: (a) pygophore, dorsal view. (b) Pygophore, lateral view. (c) Right paramere. (d,e) *Aedeagus*: (d) not everted, showing the spines on the gonoporal process. (e) Everted, showing ejaculatory reservoir, sclerotizations of the vesica ('holdings sclerites') and gonoporal process.

10711 (MLP); 1♀, [brachypterous] Argentina, Corrientes / Reserva Santa María / 31/X/2003 / M.C. Melo col. // he-10712 (MLP); 1♀, Argentina, Formosa, R. prov. 8 / INTA IPAF NEA, 16/II/2022 / 25°12'12.8"S 58°7'13.8"W / Melo, Olivera, Cheli & Dellapé / cols. T. de luz // he-10713 (MLP); 1♂, [brachypterous] Argentina, Misiones / P.N. Iguazú, CIES / 25°40'40.8"S 54°26'55.9"W / 8/XII/2013, P. Dellapé col. // he-10714 (MLP); 1♀, Argentina, Misiones / Iguazú, XI/1944 / M. Birabén col. // he-10715 (MLP); 1♂, Argentina, Salta / Dto. Iruya, 10 km W / Los Naranjos, VI-2007 / D. Carpintero & S. Montemayor / cols. // he-10716 (MLP); 1♀, Argentina, Salta, Camino a Isla / de Cañas, VI-2007 / D. Carpintero & S. Montemayor / cols. // he-10717 (MLP); 1♂, Argentina, Santiago del Estero / Añatuya, II-1999, TL / D.L. Carpintero col. (MACN).

Description

Macropterous male (Figure 1b)

Size

(Min–max; n = 2). Total length 3.32–4.10. Head length 0.64–0.76, head width 0.60–0.64, interocular width 0.40, interocellar width 0.26. Antennal segments length: scape 0.32–0.40, pedicel 0.56–0.60, basiflagellomere 0.56–0.64, distiflagellomere 0.76. Anterior pronotal lobe length 0.44–0.56, width 0.64–0.76; posterior pronotal lobe length, 0.36; width 0.92–1.16. Hemelytra length, 1.80 (Figure 1b).

Head

Brown, finely punctate, with short decumbent, silvery setae. Eyes reniform, separated from collar for a distance

similar to pedicellus width. Ocelli located at level of an imaginary line across posterior margin of eyes. Antennae brown, pedicel and base of basiflagellomere light brown; with short decumbent silvery setae, more abundant on distal articles, distiflagellomere also with sparse semierect setae. Labium light brown attaining half the length of abdominal segment III.

Thorax

Pronotum and scutellum punctate, with abundant short decumbent silvery setae. Pronotum brown with collar and longitudinal maculae on posterior pronotal lobe lighter. Lateral carina of posterior pronotal lobe extending dorsally over humeral angle. Posterior pronotal margin sinuate. Scutellum brown with paler apex, with a Y-shaped carina, conspicuously raised mid-distally. Hemelytra with a brown to light brown pattern as seen in Figure 1a, with short decumbent silvery setae, outer corial margin upturned and sinuate. Evaporative area reduced to the area surrounding the auricle, and extending dorsally in a thin fringe along suture between mesopleura and metapleura over three quarters of its length. Coxae, profemur except distally, pro-trochanters, protibiae distally, one-third distally of mesofemora and metafemora and a basal narrow band on tibia brown, rest of legs light brown; with short decumbent silvery setae. Procoxae with a relatively long spine. Outer row of spines on profemur restricted to distal half.

Genitalia

Pygophore (Figure 2a,b) broadly rounded in dorsal view, dorsal aperture with inner projections short and sub-quadrangular; dorsal margin barely declivent posteriorly in lateral view. Parameres (Figure 2c) with a short and robust blade, outer projection rounded, inner projection with a small, sclerotized spine. Aedeagus (Figure 2d,e): Gonoporal process slightly widening toward apex, with a row of strongly sclerotized spines approximately in the middle of its length; vesica unspined, with anterior area between the ejaculatory reservoir and the helicoidal process strongly sclerotized; ejaculatory reservoir well developed with broad wings; conjunctiva unspined.

Measurements (male, female)

Total length 3.64, 3.40. Head length 0.72, 0.68, head width 0.68, 0.64, interocular width 0.40, 0.40, interocellar width 0.26, 0.24. Antennal segments length: scape 0.40, 0.36, pedicel 0.68, 0.60, basiflagellomere 0.56, 0.52, distiflagellomere 0.72, 0.68. Anterior pronotal lobe length 0.60, 0.48, width 0.72, 0.68; posterior pronotal lobe length, 0.28, 0.24; width 0.92, 0.92. Hemelytra length, 1.60, 1.60.

Macropterous females

Similar to male, labium usually attaining base of abdominal segment IV. Protibiae straight and unspined (Figure 1a,c).

Size

(Holotype, min–max, mean; $n = 5$). Total length 3.84, 3.96–4.20, 4.05. Head length 0.76, 0.72–0.76, 0.74, head width 0.69, 0.68–0.72, 0.69, interocular width 4.40, 0.40–0.44, 0.42, interocellar width 0.26, 0.26–0.29, 0.27. Antennal segments length: scape 0.36, 0.32–0.40, 0.36, pedicel 0.68, 0.64–0.76, 0.70, basiflagellomere 0.60, 0.52–0.64, 0.58, distiflagellomere 0.76, 0.72–0.80, 0.76. Anterior pronotal lobe length 0.64, 0.48–0.52, 0.53, width 0.72, 0.72–0.76, 0.74; posterior pronotal lobe length, 0.36, 0.36–0.40, 0.38; width 1.12, 1.12–1.24, 1.18. Hemelytra length, 2.32, 2.16–2.48, 2.34.

Brachypterous forms

In the brachypterous male and female from Misiones and Corrientes provinces, respectively, the hemelytra reach the base of the seventh tergite, with the outer corial margin rounded inward distally, and the membrane reduced. Hind wings reduced, not or only slightly surpassing the tip of scutellum.

Etymology

From the Latin ‘*pro*’ meaning forward, and the Latin ‘*rectus*’ meaning straight, referring to the anteriorly projected head of this new species.

Distribution

Known from northern Argentina, in the provinces of Chaco, Corrientes, Formosa, Misiones, Santiago del Estero, and Salta.

Prytanus Distant, 1893

The genus includes small short legged myodochines with a similar general appearance sharing a number of characters considered primitive according to our current understanding of the tribe: a strongly punctate dorsal surface, the presence of a groove on the gula, a U-shaped buccular juncture close to the labial insertion, an anterior pronotal collar not well demarcated, the claval punctation arranged in three regular rows, the mesepimeron enclosed, a reduced evaporative area, and an aedeagus with thin and long sclerotizations dorsal to the sperm reservoir (phallic type I of Harrington 1980).

***Prytanes foedus* (Stål, 1860)**

(Figure 3a)

Material examined

ARGENTINA: *Chaco*: 1♂ 2♀, PN Chaco, 26°48'25"S 56°26'36.5"W, 17/28-X-2009, trampa de luz, R. Pfoh col. (MLP); 1♂ 1♀, PN Chaco, entrada, 26°48'34.1"S 59°36'21.9"W, 27/IX/2009, Melo & Dellapé cols. (MLP); 1♀, PN El Impenetrable, 25.007961S, 60.947266W, 2/9-XI-2019, L. Damer, N. Bustos & A. Serrano cols. (MLP); 7♂ 8♀, Paraje La Gringa, II/2008, P. Marino col. (MLP); 1♀, Chaco, col. Ohnheiser (NMPC). *Corrientes*: 1♂, Ituzaingó, Reserva Santa María, 30/IV/2003, Chayle col. (MLP); 2♂ 2♀, Reserva Santa María, 27/IV/2003, trampa de luz, M. C. Melo col. (MLP); 2♀, same data, P. Dellapé col. (MLP). *Formosa*: 2♂, PN Rio Pilcomayo, Estero Poi, -25.060222-58.139167, 82 m, 10-II-2022, L. Olivera col. (MLP); 10♂ 4♀, ruta prov. 8, INTA IPAF NEA, 25°12'12.8"S 58°7'13.8"W 11/II/2022, t. de luz, Dellapé, P.M. col. (MLP); 15♂ 18♀, same locality. 16/II/2022, t. de luz, Dellapé, P.M. col. (MLP); 119♂ 181♀, P.N. Río Pilcomayo, Laguna Blanca, -25.173665-58.129756, 13/II/2022, t. de luz, Dellapé & Melo cols. (MLP); 61♂ 80♀, same locality, 14/II/2022, t. de luz, M.C. Melo, L. Olivera, G. Cheli & P.M. Dellapé cols. (MLP); 2♂ 4♀, 15/II/2022, t. de luz, Dellapé & Melo cols. (MLP). *Misiones*: 3♂, PN Iguazú, Sendero Macuco, 25°40'40.8"S 54°26'55.9"W, 29/X/[20]12, trampa de luz (MLP); 1♀, PN Iguazú, SIES, 25°40'40.8"S 54°26'55.9"W, 3/XI/[20]12 (MLP); 1♀, PN Iguazú, 25°40'40.8"S 54°26'55.9"W, 1/XI/[20]12 M.C. Melo col. (MLP); 1♂, PN Iguazú, 10/1980, luz, D.J. Carpintero (MLP); 7♂ 15♀, PN Iguazú, 25°40'40.8"S 54°26'55.9"W, trampa de luz, 2/XI/[20]12 (MLP); 3♀, Camino Gendarmería, 27°11'7.4"S 54°00'13.2"W, 365 m, 2/IV/2012, trampa de luz (MLP); 1♀, Parque Prov. Moconá, 27°09.185'S 53°54.080'W, 342 m, 20/III/2011, S. Montemayor col. (MLP). *Santiago del Estero*: 1♂, Añatuya, III-1999, D.L. Carpintero col. (MLP).

Distribution

Argentina (Melo et al. 2024); Brazil (Slater 1964).

***Prytanes formosus* (Distant, 1882)**

(Figure 3b)

Material examined

ARGENTINA: *Buenos Aires*: 1♂, La Plata, Los Hornos, IV/1996, D.L. Carpintero col. (MLP). *Chaco*: 1♂, 25.007961 S 60.947266 W, 2/9-XI-2019, L. Damer, N. Bustos & A. Serrano cols., Melo & Dellapé det. (MLP);

4♂ 5♀, Paraje La Armonía, -25.151553-61.097375, t. de luz, 11/XII/2021, M.C. Melo col., P.M. Dellapé det. (MLP); 3♀, Estación de Campo El Teuco, -25.064561-60.9464903, t. de luz, 10/XII/2021, M.C. Melo col., P.M. Dellapé det. (MLP); 1♀, Pastizal de Simbol, 25.076460 S 61.056435 W, 4/XI/2021, A. Serrano col., Melo & Dellapé det. (MLP); 1♂, P.N. Chaco, 26°48'25"S 56°26'36.5"W, 17-28/X/2009, R. Phoh col. (MLP); 2♀, P. N. Chaco, 26°48'25"S, 59°36'26.5"W, 26/IX/2009, t. de luz, Dellapé & Melo cols. (MLP); 1♂ 1♀, P.N. Chaco, entrada, 26°48'34.1"S 59°36'21.9"W, 25/IX/2009, Dellapé col. (MLP); 1♂ 1♀, 40 km Tres Estacas, 27°4'58.8"S 61°31'38.4"W, 28-30/XI/2008, Marti & Pelliza cols. (MLP). *Córdoba*: 1♂, Dto. Tulumba, Cerro Colorado, XI/1998, Cicchino col. (MLP). *Corrientes*: 1♀, 28°57'17"S 58°34'4"W, t. de luz, 8/XI/2000, Coscarón col. (MLP); 2♀, Reserva Santa María, 27/IV/2003, t. de luz, Melo col. (MLP); 1♂, same data, Chayle col. (MLP); 1♂ 2♀, same data, 29/IV/2003, Dellapé col. (MLP); 1♀, Pellegrini, 7/XII/2001, Dellapé col. (MLP); 1♀, San Cayetano, Estación Biol. Corrientes (EBCO), 27°33'05.6"S 58°40'37.8"W, 25-29/XI-2010, P. Marino col. (MLP). *Entre Ríos*: 2♀, Colón, 2005, P. Dellapé col. (MLP); 3♂ 1♀, Ruinas del Viejo Molino, same locality, 6/II/2003, t. de luz, Grandinetti & Cicchino cols. (MLP); 1♂, Liebig, I/2003, L. Caire col. (MLP); 5♂ 6♀, same locality, verano 2003, luz, L. Caire col. (MLP). *Formosa*: 1♂, ruta prov. 8, INTA IPAF NEA, 25°12'12.8"S 58°7'13.8"W, 11/II/2022, t. de luz, Dellapé, P.M. col. (MLP); 1♀, same locality, 16/II/2022, t. de luz, Dellapé, P.M. col. (MLP); 5♂ 2♀, P.N. Río Pilcomayo, Laguna Blanca, -25.173665-58.129756, 13/II/2022, t. de luz, Dellapé & Melo cols. (MLP); 14♂ 2♀, same locality, 14/II/2022, t. de luz, Melo, L. Olivera, G. Cheli & Dellapé cols. (MLP); 2♂, same locality, 15/II/2022, t. de luz, Dellapé & Melo cols. (MLP). *Misiones*: 1♀, PN Iguazú, 25°40'40.8"S 54°26'55.9 W, trampa de luz, 2/XI/[20]12 (MLP); 1♂, El Eldorado, XI/2004, t. de luz (MLP); 1♂, Parque Prov. Moconá, 27°9'18.5 S 53°54.080 W, 342 m, 1/IV/2012, M. C. Melo col. (MLP); 5♂ 4♀, P.N. Iguazú, 25°40'40.8"S 54°26'55.9"W, 2/XI/2012, t. de luz (MLP); 2♀, same locality, CIES, 29/X/2012, t. de luz (MLP); 1♀, same locality, 3/XI/2012, en *Phylodendron* sp. (MLP); 1♂, P.N. Iguazú, Pto. Canoas, X/1989, CDC, D.J. Carpintero col. (MLP); 1♂ 2♀, Puerto Iguazú, X/1980, luz, D.J. Carpintero col. (MLP). *Santiago del Estero*: 12♂ 15♀, Añatuya, XII/1998, t. luz, D.L. Carpintero col. (MLP); 6♂ 13♀, same locality, II/1999, luz, D.L. Carpintero col. (MLP). BRASIL: 1♀, SP, Jundiá, RBM, Serra do Japí, 23 15.017"S 46 56.515"W, 3/III/2014, R. Carrenho col. (MLP); 1♀, Mato Grosso State, Pantanal, 25 km S Poconé, Pousado Form, São Cristovao, 29/VIII/2000, LGT J. Růžička (NMPC).

Distribution

USA; Guatemala; Mexico; Panama; Venezuela (Slater 1964); Antigua; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Grand

Cayman; Grenada; Guadeloupe; Jamaica; Martinique; Montserrat; Puerto Rico; St. Lucia; St. Vincent; Trinidad 'widely in South America at least to Paraguay and Brazil' (Baranowski & Slater 1998, 2005); Argentina (Carpintero et al. 2023).

Prytanes oblongus (Stål, 1862)

(Figure 4a)

Material examined

ECUADOR, 1♂, Baños de Tungurahua, 24/X/1973, J. Haagar lgt., 1973 (NMPC).

Distribution

Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, St. Vincent, Tobago, Trinidad, USA, and Venezuela (Baranowski & Slater 2005; Slater 1964). Ecuador is a NEW RECORD.

Prytanes tumens (Stål, 1874)

(Figure 4b)

Material examined

MEXICO: 1♂, Morelos, Tepoztlan, La Buena Vibra, 30/VI/2017, P.M. Dellapé col. (MLP).

Distribution

Colombia, Guatemala, Panama, and Venezuela (Slater 1964). Mexico is a NEW RECORD.

DISCUSSION

It is worthy to highlight that *P. prorectus* seems to be widely distributed in northern Argentina, as it was collected in six Argentinean provinces from a single specimen in 11 localities. Nine specimens are macropterous and only two are brachypterous, with reduced hind wings. According to Slater (1977), the majority of species that have developed flightlessness retained a less abundant flying morph. In this new species, this presumably less abundant flying morph was more frequently collected (probably due to the collecting methods used) and allows us to better understand its distributional range. The new distributional records here presented for four *Prytanes* species denotes the incomplete knowledge we

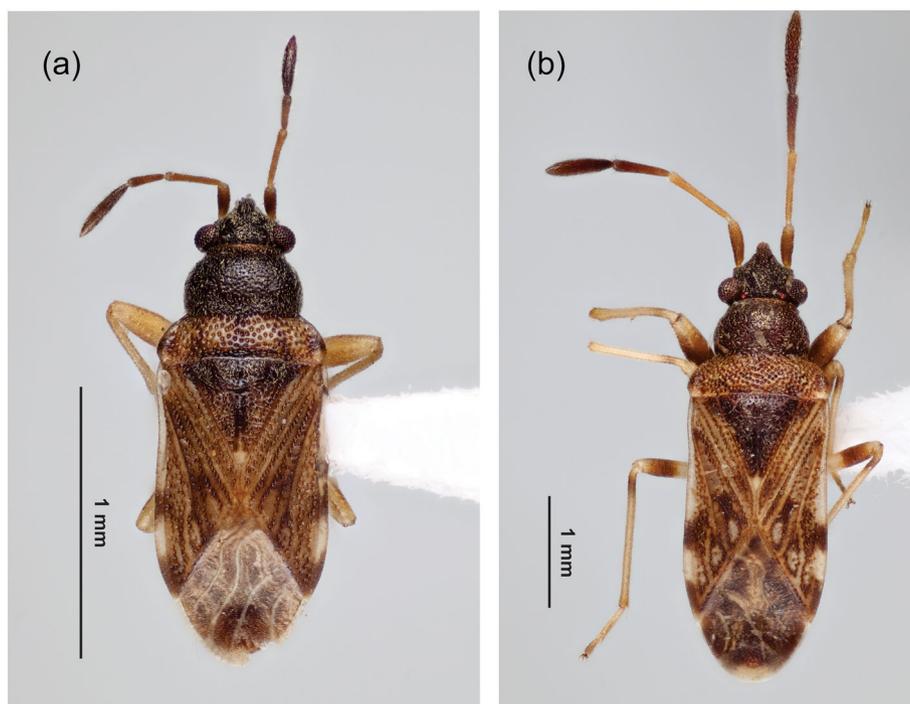


FIGURE 3 *Prytanes* species. (a) *Prytanes foedus* from Argentina. (b) *Prytanes formosus* from Argentina.

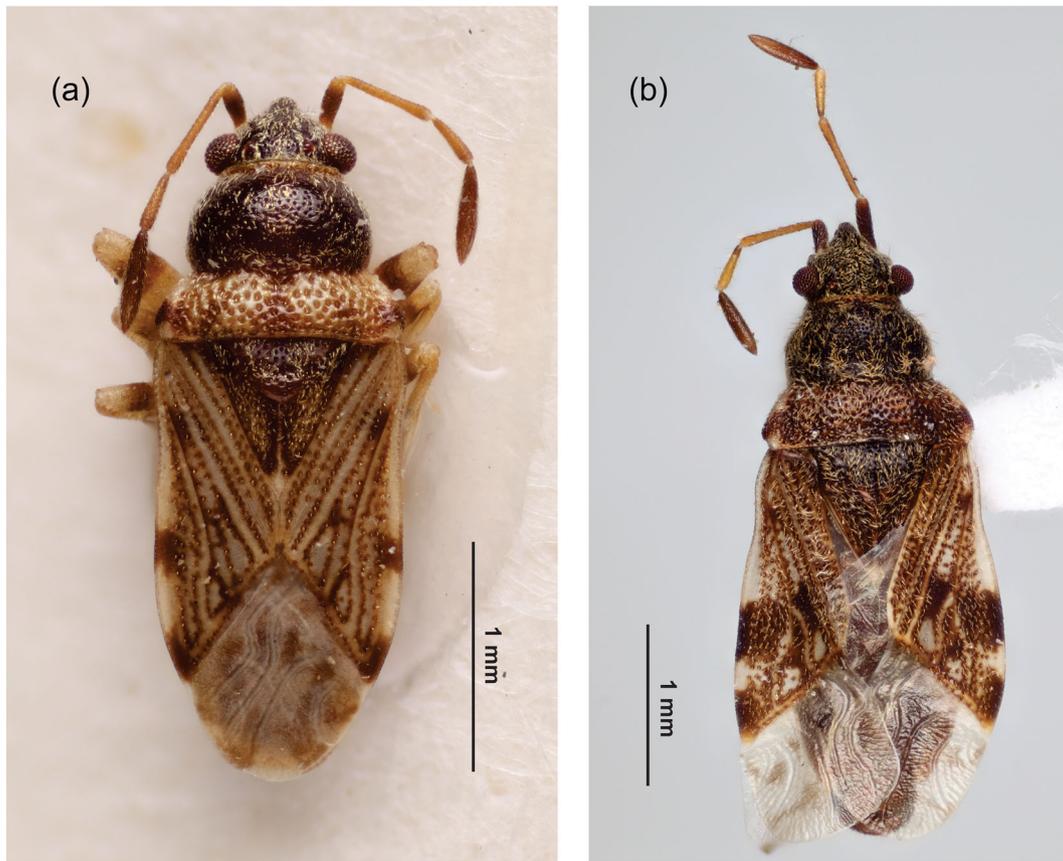


FIGURE 4 *Prytanes* species. (a) *Prytanes oblongus* from Ecuador. (b) *Prytanes tumens* from Mexico.

have about their real distribution. *Prytanes foedus* and *P. formosus* (Figure 3a-b) were recently recorded from Argentina (Carpintero et al. 2023; Melo et al. 2024), herein we extend their known distribution to several Argentinean provinces, showing their wide distribution in the country. *Prytanes oblongus* (Figure 4a) is known from USA to Venezuela including Caribbean islands; with the first record from Ecuador we extend its distribution in South America. Conversely, for *P. tumens* (Figure 4b), known from northern South America to Guatemala, we extend its distribution to the north in Mexico.

Harrington (1980) was unable to find synapomorphies for *Prytanes*, and although in the generic description, she stated that the male protibia shows a spine on distal half, males from several species included in the genus show unarmed protibia. This character is usually considered distinctive at the generic level within the tribe, but in some well-supported genera based on a set of characters from external morphology and male genitalia, such as *Villalobosothignus* Brailovsky and *Paisana* Dellapé, there is intrageneric variation (Dellapé 2003, 2008a; Dellapé & Montemayor 2011). Among the studied species, males of *P. foedus* and *P. oblongus* show unarmed protibia, and males of *P. tumens* and *P. formosus* exhibit a spine near the middle on the inner surface of the protibia; these examples demonstrate the

variability in the genus *Prytanes*. We also examined the aedeagus of these species and whereas in *P. foedus*, *P. oblongus* and *P. tumens* it is completely unspined, *P. formosus* shows minute spines on the distal third of the gonoporal process. Although different, this spined condition of the gonoporal process is shared with *P. prorectus* n. sp. and has not been previously mentioned in the literature for any other myodochine. Since Harrington's 1980 work, several new genera and some generic rearrangements were done; hence, 81 valid myodochine genera, including the newly described in this paper, are recognised (Dellapé & Henry 2023). The study of the male genitalia in several of the recently described genera shows a wide variety in the characters related to the aedeagus, with different kinds and configurations of spines that are unlikely to be homologous, making it difficult to assign to any of the four general phallic types established by Harrington (e.g. Dellapé 2008b, 2012; Dellapé & Melo 2008, 2020; Dellapé & Montemayor 2008).

The absence of synapomorphic characters in *Prytanes*, plus the variability observed in the male foretibiae and genitalia, highlights the need for a careful revisionary study of this and related genera, in order to establish clear generic limits and to develop a well-supported phylogenetic hypothesis of relationships among them.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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