

**FIRST RECORD OF *PHITACNEMIA PICTA* (DRURY, 1770)
(HETEROPTERA: COREIDAE), IN THE PROVINCE
OF LA PAMPA, ARGENTINA**

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ABSTRACT: We report the first record of *Phitacnemia picta* (Drury, 1770) (Heteroptera: Coreidae) for the province of La Pampa. This species has economic importance attacking ornamental and fruit crops. This record brings the number of species of Heteroptera in the province.

KEY WORDS: Coreidae, Heteroptera, phytophagous, passionflower, *Phitacnemia picta*.

The Heteroptera, with over of 40,000 species, are part of the most successful group of hexapods. They are predominantly herbivorous.

The arthropods of the superfamily Coreoidea are generally of habits phytophagous and economic importance (Cobben, 1978), attacking crops Fabaceae, Cucurbitaceae, passifloraceae, Solanaceae, etc. (Maes, J. M. & J. Tellez Robleto, 1988). Within this superfamily, we highlight the family Coreidae as detrimental to ornamental plants and fruit, appearing within this family at the species *Phthiacnemia picta* (Drury, 1770), found on the vegetation (Maes, J. M & U. goellner-Scheidig 1993; Schaefer & Mitchell, 1893).

In Passiflora (Passifloraceae: Passiflora), located in Realicó, (La Pampa, Argentina) (35 ° 1 'S 64 ° 15' W) in the month of March 2011 were found individuals to the species *P. picta*, taxon unregistered for the province of La Pampa.

This species is widely distributed throughout the Neotropics (Osuna, 1981).

Knowing the distribution of *Phitacnemia picta* in a given area is of vital importance, because this heteroptera can cause economic loss, in crops of Passiflora. These insects damage the crop by suck the juices from the developing fruit. Mechanical damage of the seed caused by bugs allows infection and colonization by fungi, bacteria and viruses, in addition to reducing the yield and seed (Serra, 2009). The present contribution have from objective publicize the new record of the species *Phthiacnemia picta*, for the province of La Pampa.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The material was collected on a flower of the Passiflora sp. located in Realicó (La Pampa, Argentina) (35 ° 1 'S 64 ° 15' W) in the month of March 2011. Both the adult and stages immature of *Phthiacnemia picta* Dury, were obtained by direct capture with a deadly bottle, then were placed in 70% alcohol for preservation. The adults were identified to level species using a dichotomous key Brailovsky (2009) and the material was deposited in the Museum of Natural Sciences of La Plata.

RESULTS

Were collected (12) adults, on leaves and flowers of passionari and (10) of nymphs, on the fruits.

Genus *Phthiacnemia* Brailovsky

2009 *Phthiacnemia* Brailovsky, 60. Type species: *Cimex picta* Drury, 1770: 107

<http://coreoidea.speciesfile.org/Common/basic/Taxa.aspx?TaxonNameID=4496>

Diagnosis. (After Brailovsky, 2009) Head usually longer than wide; tylus in lateral view higher than juga; posttylar depression absent; antennal segment I thicker than following segments, cylindrical, weakly curved outward, thickened gradually from base to apex, longer than head; antennal segments II and III slender, cylindrical, segment IV fusiform; segment IV usually longest, segment I shortest, segment II longer than III; rostrum reaching posterior margin of abdominal sternite III or middle third of sternite IV; rostral segment I at most slightly extending beyond base of head; rostral segment III shortest, segment IV longest, segments I and II subequal. Thorax. Pronotum wider than long; anterolateral borders obliquely straight, dentate, teeth relatively stout and acute; humeral angles obtuse, truncate or gently subacute; posterolateral borders straight, smooth; posterior border straight to weakly concave, smooth; calli rounded, slightly raised, anteriorly with two small spines, each lateral to midline, and posteriorly with two deep pits, each lateral to midline; posterior lobe of pronotal disk with low longitudinal medial carinae; posterior margin with low transverse ridge; mesosternum with shallow sulcus; metathoracic peritreme bilobate, with two well separated lobes, anterior one longer, semicircular, posterior one shorter, subacute; opening obliquely directed. Scutellum longer than wide. Legs. Male: Fore and middle femora ventrally armed with two subapical spines and one row of obtuse spines, dorsally almost smooth; hind femur gradually incrassate, armed with two subapical spines and two rows of large and stout spines, dorsal surface densely tuberculate; fore and middle tibiae slender, unarmed, sulcate; hind tibiae robust, sulcate, ventral face armed with two rows of irregular and stout spines, dorsal face with one row of small tubercles or spines. Female: Fore femur ventrally armed with two short, subapical spines; middle femur ventrally armed with two short subapical spines, and one row of 2–3 short denticles; hind femur gradually incrassate (less than in males), ventrally with two subapical spines and one row of 3–4 narrow spines; tibiae. Dorsal view of *Phthiacnemia picta* (Drury, 1770). unarmed, sulcate. Abdomen. Abdominal sterna with medial furrow. Male genitalia. Posteroventral edge of genital capsule with deep median notch, entire posterior edge gradually produced over curvature of capsule, with lateral angles acutely projected. Female genitalia. Abdominal sternite VII with *fi* ssura short, covering one third of length of sternite; plica quadrate, apically traight; gonocoxae I subtriangular, inner margin open, upper and outer margins rounded and continuous, in lateral view slightly convex. Integument. Body surface rather dull, without metallic iridescence; dorsally and entrally clothed with short, erect, golden to silvery pubescence; pronotal disk, clavus, corium, scutellum, acetabulae, great portion of propleura, and posterior margin of mesopleura and metapleura dense and *fi* nely punctate; head, calli, anterior and middle margin of mesopleura and metapleura, pro-, meso- and metasternum, abdominal sterna, male genital capsule and female genital plates impunctate; antennal segments I–III densely covered with short, erect setae,

segment IV with dense adpressed setae; legs clothed with large, erect, bristle-like setae.

Distribution. Argentina: Buenos Aires; Catamarca; Chaco; Corrientes; Córdoba; Entre Ríos; Formosa; Jujuy; La Rioja; Mendoza; Misiones; Neuquén; Salta; San Juan; San Luis; Santa Fé; Santiago del Estero; Tucumán.

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