

## Synonymizing *Microtomus sticheli* Costa Lima, 1935 under *M. tibialis* Stichel, 1926 and redescription of the species (Heteroptera: Reduviidae)

MARÍA DEL CARMEN COSCARON, MARÍA CECILIA MELO & NORA CUELLO

Departamento Científico de Entomología, Museo de Ciencias Naturales de La Plata. U.N.L.P. Paseo del Bosque s/n°. (1900) La Plata. Buenos Aires. Argentina. Phone: 54- 0221- 424618 coscaron@netverk.com.ar cecimelo@netverk.com.ar

### Abstract

At present, only hemelytra and connexival color patterns are diagnostic characters for differentiating *Microtomus tibialis* Stichel and *Microtomus sticheli* Costa Lima. After analysis of several specimens from Brazil (Minas Gerais, Goiás, Bahia) and Bolivia (Santa Cruz), we conclude that *M. sticheli* is a synonym of *M. tibialis*. The diagnostic characters are variable and of low discriminatory value. *Microtomus tibialis* is redescribed, including male and female genitalia.

**Key words:** Reduviidae, Hammacerinae, *Microtomus tibialis*, *Microtomus sticheli*, synonymy

### Introduction

Members of the reduviid subfamily Hammacerinae live under the loose bark of decaying trees, and are attracted by light (Miller 1956). Undiano (1963, 1968) cited them as predators of "kissing bugs" (Triatominae) and as natural carriers of *Trypanosoma cruzi* Chagas 1909. According to Maldonado Capriles (1990), the genus *Microtomus* consists of 13 species. *Microtomus lunifer* Berg, *M. purcis* Drury, *M. luctuosus* Stål, *M. cinctipes* Stål, *M. conspicillaris* Drury, *M. gayi* Spinola, and *M. pessoai* Lent & Suarez were treated in previous contributions (Coscarón & Giacchi 1985, 1987; Giacchi & Coscarón 1986, 1989), where adults, immature stages, and eggs were redescribed. Champion (1989) and Stichel (1926) considered that some of the described species in the subfamily could be chromatic variations, not true taxonomic identities. The characters which vary are: color pattern of legs (Stichel 1926, Costa Lima 1935, Giacchi & Coscarón 1986), hemelytra (Stichel 1926, Costa Lima 1935, Coscarón & Giacchi 1985, 1987), and connexivum (Stål 1862, Stichel 1926, Coscarón & Giacchi 1985, 1986). *Microtomus tibialis* was described by Stichel