



## ***Kiskeya palassaina*, new genus and new species of Saicinae (Heteroptera: Reduviidae) from the Dominican Republic**

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### **Abstract**

A new genus and a species of Saicinae, *Kiskeya palassaina*, **n. gen., n. sp.**, are described from the Dominican Republic. The armature of the fore leg of the nine apterous female specimens are unique among genera of Saicinae in consisting of spines on the fore femur, but of stiff setae on the fore tibia. A key to the New World genera is given. Digital macrophotographs, scanning electron micrographs, and illustrations are provided.

**Key words:** Reduviidae, Saicinae, systematics, Dominican Republic, Caribbean.

### **Introduction**

The reduviid subfamily Saicinae comprises 23 genera and more than 140 species worldwide (Putshkov & Putshkov 1985; Blinn 1990; Maldonado 1990; Malipatil & Howarth 1990; Melo & Coscarón 2005; Gil-Santana & Marques 2005; Gil-Santana *et al.* 2006). The group has long been considered as closely related to Emesinae and Visayanocorinae, a relationship that is supported by characters such as the lack of ocelli in the adult (Usinger 1943), the absence of dorsal abdominal scent glands (Wygodzinsky 1966; Weirauch 2006), and the membranous hemelytron (Wygodzinsky 1966). The New World fauna has received considerable attention in recent years, which has resulted in the description of several new genera and species (Blinn 1990; Melo & Coscarón 2005; Gil-Santana *et al.* 2006).

Recent fieldwork of two colleagues in the Dominican Republic resulted in the discovery of two apterous female specimens belonging to the Saicinae that cannot be placed in any existing genus. Subsequently, we found seven clearly conspecific female specimens in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History. Compared to other groups of Reduviidae, generic concepts in Saicinae appear to be relatively clear-cut and rely heavily on easily accessible, external characters such as armature of head, labium, thorax, and fore legs. We therefore feel confident in our decision to describe these female specimens as a new genus and species.

Several Reduviidae were recently described from the Dominican Republic (Maldonado *et al.* 1993a, b; Poinar 1991, 2005; Popov 1987a, b, 1989, 1993), all of them from Dominican amber. Compared to the increasing interest in fossil Reduviidae, our understanding of the diversity of recent species on Hispaniola is very limited. In the distribution section of his catalog, Maldonado (1990) only cites two species of Reduviidae for the Dominican Republic, *Zelus longipes* (Linné) and *Ghilianella apiculata* McAtee and Malloch; and 7 species for Haiti [*Emesa tenerrima* (Dohrn), three additional species of *Ghilianella*, *Heza haitiana* Maldonado, *Stenolemus haitianus* Maldonado, *Oncocephalus ventralis* (Walker)]. These nine species are contrasted with more than 50 species of Reduviidae recorded from Cuba (Maldonado 1990), the 36 recorded from Jamaica (Maldonado & Farr 1977), 16 from Curaçao (Cobben & Wygodzinsky 1975), and 9 from Guadeloupe