



## *Desertathrips chuquiraga* gen. et sp.n. (Thysanoptera, Thripidae) from Argentina

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### Abstract

A new genus and species of Thripidae, *Desertathrips chuquiraga*, is described from Mendoza, Argentina, from the flowers of the endemic plant *Chuquiraga erinacea* (Asteraceae). Similar to *Anaphothrips* species in lacking any long pronotal setae, this species is one of a small group of Neotropical Thripinae in which males have a glandular opening between the second and third abdominal sternites. A check-list is included of 120 Thysanoptera species in 69 genera recorded from Argentina.

**Key words:** Thripidae, Thripinae, *Desertathrips* new genus, *Chuquiraga erinacea*, South America

### Introduction

The biological diversity of the Thysanoptera fauna of Argentina is scarcely known, mainly because of the limited amount of specialist field studies and collecting efforts. A full review of the available information concerning the thrips fauna of this country was provided by Prof. Luis De Santis and his co-workers (De Santis *et al.*, 1980). That review made reference to about 108 Thysanoptera species in Argentina, and since then scarcely 10 additional species have been recorded or described from this country (De Santis, 1995; De Santis, 1998; de Borbón *et al.*, 1999; Mound & Zapater, 2003; Berzosa & Maroto, 2003; de Borbón 2004; La Rosa *et al.*, 2004; de Borbón, 2005; Berzosa, 2006; Zamar & Neder de Roman, 2006; Mound & Pereyra, 2008). In contrast, the recorded thrips fauna of Australia increased from 400 to 700 species in 30 years (Mound & Tree, 2007). Even allowing for the fact that the land area of Australia is rather more than twice that of Argentina, there seems a strong possibility that the real thrips fauna of Argentina will eventually prove to be considerably greater than the 120 species currently recorded (Table 1).

De Santis *et al.* (1980) refer to a total of 24 genera of Thripidae from Argentina, but to these de Borbón (2004, 2005) has added *Kurtomathrips* and *Hydatothrips*, and some species of *Chirothrips* are now placed in *Arorathrips*. The genera and species recorded from Argentina are listed in Table I, using the currently accepted classification (Mound, 2008). Further studies are necessary to clarify the real number of thrips species for Argentina. Those would need to include a full examination of the extensive Thysanoptera collection at the Museum of La Plata.

The purpose of this contribution is to describe a new genus and species of Thripidae-Thripinae that is presumably endemic to southern South America. This thrips has been found in good numbers at two localities of Mendoza province, but only on flowers of *Chuquiraga erinacea* Don (Figures 1–2). Larvae were found together with both sexes of the thrips, indicating that this species of Asteraceae is the true host. This bushy species is widespread from Jujuy to north of Patagonia in Argentina, and the genus includes about 40 xeromorphic species found only between the Andes and Patagonia (Correa, 1971). Mendoza is located in the cen-