



On the identity of *Ashlockobius* Slater & Slater and *Villalobosothignus* Brailovsky (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Rhyparochromidae: Myodochini), with the description of a new arboreal species from Ecuador

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Abstract

The genus *Villalobosothignus* Brailovsky, 1984 is diagnosed, and *Ashlockobius* Slater & Slater, 1999 is synonymized with it. A new arboreal species of *Villalobosothignus* from Ecuador is described, and photographs of the adult and male genitalia are provided together with illustrations of certain diagnostic characters to facilitate identification.

Key words: checking generic status, new synonymy, new combinations, new taxon, diagnoses, habitat, distribution

Introduction

Brailovsky (1984) described the new genus and species *Villalobosothignus figueroai* (Myodochini), based on two males from Venezuela. Some years later, Slater and Slater (1999) described, on the basis of one male, also from Venezuela, the genus and species *Ashlockobius cursorius*. When describing *Ashlockobius*, Slater and Slater (1999) overlooked Brailovsky's paper (J. A. Slater, personal communication). In 2003, the first author (Dellapé 2003) described the second species of *Ashlockobius*, *A. bipuntatus*, mentioning that: "The species of *Ashlockobius* closely resemble *Villalobosothignus figueroai* ... It is very possible that these two genera will prove to be congeneric, in which case *Villalobosothignus* will have priority." Recently, we have been able to study photographs of the paratype of *V. figueroai* and specimens of *Ashlockobius* which has led to the conclusion that these species are, in fact, congeneric.

In this contribution, we synonymize the genus *Ashlockobius* Slater & Slater, 1999 with *Villalobosothignus* Brailovsky, 1984, diagnose the genus, describe a new arboreal species of *Villalobosothignus* from canopy-fogging samples taken in Ecuador, and, to facilitate its identification, provide photographs of adults and male genitalia, together with structural illustrations.

Material and methods

A color image of the adult of the new species was captured using the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA, care of USNM) EntoVision Imaging Suite that included a JVC KY-75 3CCD digital camera mounted on a Leica M16 zoom lens via a Leica z-step microscope stand. Multiple focal planes were merged using Cartograph 5.6.0 (Microvision Instruments, France) software.

Acronyms used for institutions cited in the paper are USNM (National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA) and MLP (Museo de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina).

Measurements (Table 1) of holotype male, five paratype males and five paratype females, were made using an ocular micrometer and are in millimetres, with "*" indicating that the measurement was repeated.