



The bat bugs (Hemiptera: Cimicidae) from Argentina: geographic distributions, hosts, and new records

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Abstract

Three species of bat bugs (Hemiptera: Cimicidae) are known from Argentina: *Latrocimex spectans* (Lent, 1941) [Corrientes] in the subfamily Latrocimicinae Usinger, 1966; *Cimex lectularius* Linnaeus, 1758 [Jujuy; Salta; Tucumán; Catamarca; Chaco; Córdoba; Buenos Aires]; and *Propicimex tucmatiani* (Wygodzinsky, 1951) [Salta; Tucumán; Santiago del Estero], both in the subfamily Cimicinae Latreille, 1802. The finding of bat bugs in the province of Buenos Aires extends 867.5 km southeast in a straight line the previous southernmost locality given in Santiago del Estero province.

Key words: bat bugs, Cimicidae, Hemiptera, Argentina

Introduction

The Cimicidae are known to be blood ectoparasites primarily on bats, with man as a secondary host, and some lineages specialized on birds (Usinger 1966, Reinhardt & Siva-Jothy 2007). The shift to man may have occurred very early when man shared the same caves with bats (Usinger 1966). The genera of bat bugs are worldwide, and distributed as follows:

Subfamily Afrocimicinae Usinger, 1966

Afrocimex Schouteden, 1951 [Africa]

Subfamily Cacodminae Kirkaldy, 1899

Aphrania Jordan & Rothschild, 1912 [Africa; Asia]

Cacodmus Stål, 1873 [Africa; Asia]

Crassicimex Ferris & Usinger, 1957 [Africa; Madagascar]

Leptocimex Roubaud, 1913 [Africa; Asia]

Loxaspis Rothschild, 1912 [Africa; Asia]

Stricticimex Ferris & Usinger, 1957 [Africa; Asia]

Subfamily Cimicinae Latreille, 1802

Bertilia Reuter, 1913 [Chile; Argentina] (host unknown, prob. bats)

Cimex Linnaeus, 1758 [Holarctic, worldwide dispersed]

Propicimex Usinger, 1966 [Colombia; Brazil; Argentina]

Subfamily Latrocimicinae Usinger, 1966

Latrocimex Lent, 1941 [Trinidad; Brazil]

Subfamily Pricimicinae Ferris & Usinger, 1955

Bucimex Usinger, 1963 [Chile]

Primicimex Barber, 1941 [USA; Guatemala]

Bat bugs were not included in the catalog of the ectoparasitic insects of bats from Argentina (Autino & Claps 2000). The last records of bat ectoparasites (Diptera, Hemiptera, and Siphonaptera) from northern Argentina were given by Autino *et al.* (2009). The identification of some bat bugs from Argentina, using the keys and descriptions