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Description of the immature stages of *Sigara (Tropocorixa) schadei* (Hungerford) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Corixidae)

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Abstract

The egg and the five instars of *Sigara (Tropocorixa) schadei* (Hungerford) are described and illustrated for the first time. The eggs of *Sigara* have a very short, basal stalk. The egg of *S. schadei* has protuberances delimiting small areas on the chorionic surface. The main characters separating the five instars of *S. schadei* are: the body length and body, head and eye widths; the number of transverse sulcations of the rostrum; the number of setae on the inner surface of the protibiotarsus; the number of long, slender setae on posterior and posterodorsal surfaces of the mesotibia and mesotarsus, respectively; the number of spines on posteroventral surface of the mesotibia; the number of campaniform sensilla on posterior surface of the metatrochanter; the number of spines and swimming hairs on anteroventral and posterodorsal surfaces of the metatarsus, respectively; and the grade of development of the wing pads. Some characters distinguish species or group of species in nymphs of the genus *Sigara*: the chaetotaxy of the urosternites (instar I); the body length, chaetotaxy of the mesonotum, and number of spines on posteroventral surface of the metafemur, and on posterior and posterodorsal surfaces of the metatibia (instar V).

Keywords: Nepomorpha, Corixoidea, Neotropical Region, immature stages, taxonomy

Introduction

The cosmopolitan genus *Sigara* Fabricius comprises approximately 70 American species, included in various subgenera, and is distributed from Canada to southern Argentina, in Santa Cruz Province and Malvinas Islands (Hungerford, 1948a; Bachmann, 1960, 1961b, 1962a, 1979; Hungerford & Matsuda, 1961; Contartese & Bachmann, 1986; Arnett, 1993; Morrone *et al.*, 2004). According to Bachmann (1981), eighteen species of *Sigara*, including two subgenera (*Aphelosigara* Hungerford: 1 species; *Tropocorixa* Hutchinson: 17 species), are present in Argentina, of which *S. (Tropocorixa) schadei* (Hungerford) is studied in here. *Sigara schadei* is distributed in Argentina (from Salta and Misiones to Buenos Aires Provinces), Paraguay, and Uruguay (Bachmann, 1981; Morrone *et al.*, 2004). This species is relatively common and characteristic of temporary and semi-permanent waterbodies, turbid and little vegetated water (Bachmann, 1981).

Although the systematics of the adults of *Sigara* are comparatively well known (Hutchinson, 1940; Hungerford, 1948a; Bachmann, 1960, 1961a, b, 1962a–d, 1963, 1966, 1979, 1981, 1987) very few studies on the egg and nymphs are available in the literature. Poisson (1933), figured and described the eggs of *S. (Sigara) striata* (Linnaeus) and *S. (S.) stagnalis* (Leach) from Europe. Hungerford (1948b) figured and described the eggs of six American species: *S. (Vermicorixa) alternata* (Say), *S. (Phaeosigara) paludata* Hungerford, *S. (Subsigara) distincta* (Fieber), *S. (Tropocorixa) meridionalis* (Wallengren), *S. (T.) irrorata* (Fieber), and *S. (Allosigara) decorata* (Abbott). Fernando (1965) figured the egg of the Asiatic species *S. (Tropocorixa) pruthiana* (Hutchinson). Bachmann (1981) figured the egg of *S. (Aphelosigara) tucma* Bachmann from Argentina. According to the nymphs, Cobben & Moller Pillot (1960) described the chaetotaxy of the urosternites of the first instar of eight species of Corixidae (4 belonging to the genus *Sigara*); described and figured the last