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Review of the jumping tree bugs (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae: Isometopinae) of Argentina and nearby areas of Brazil and Paraguay, with descriptions of nine new species

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Abstract

Nine new species of jumping tree bugs, or Isometopinae, from Argentina, Paraguay, and southern Brazil are described. The genus *Aristotelesia* is revised and the two new species *A. fuscata* (from Brazil) and *A. medialis* (from Argentina) are described, and the Argentine and Paraguayan species of *Myiomma* are reviewed and the seven new species *M. apicalis* (from Paraguay), *M. argentinensis* (from Argentina and Paraguay), *M. binotata* (from Argentina), *M. pallidopleura* (from Argentina), *M. pallipes* (from Argentina), *M. scutellata* (from Paraguay), and *M. uniformis* (from Argentina) are described. Previously published records of isometopines from Argentina are clarified. Color photographs, illustrations of the parameres of *M. argentinensis*, and keys are provided to help distinguish species.

Key words: *Aristotelesia*; *Myiomma*; new taxa; diagnoses; keys to species; distribution; South America

Introduction

Members of the mirid subfamily Isometopinae, commonly referred to as jumping tree bugs, have saltatorial hind femora that allow them to hop or jump when disturbed. The feeding habits of this small group of predatory bugs remained largely unknown until Wheeler and Henry (1978), who in studying the biology and feeding habits of four species occurring in the eastern United States helped document that isometopines feed exclusively on scale insects. This work supported an earlier observation by Hesse (1947) of predation by *Letaba befordi* Hesse from South African on California red scale, *Aonidiella aurantii* (Maskell). Subsequent records, such as Ghauri and Ghauri's (1983) documentation of their *Totta zaherii* preying on tea scale, *Fiornia theae* Green, in northern India; several records documented in Akingbohungbe's (1996) summary of feeding habits; Wheeler's (2001) discussion of various species preying on scale insects, including *Lidopus heidemanni* Gibson on scale-infested branches of black oak, *Quercus velutina* Lam. [Fagaceae], in the United States; and the observation by one of us (Henry, pers. observ.) of *Myiomma mexicanum* Henry associated with scale-encrusted branches of *Dodonaea viscosa* (L.) Jacq. [Sapindaceae] in Oaxaca, Mexico, confirm the scale-feeding habits of the subfamily. An apparent exception to scale feeding is Ren's (1987) report of *Isometopus shaowuensis* Ren preying on spider mites in China.

Prior to our study, 11 genera and 31 species of Isometopinae were known from the Western Hemisphere (Schuh 1995). Henry (1980) provided a key to genera and Henry (1979, 1984) revised the Neotropical *Myiomma*. Carpintero (1996) published the first Argentine records for the subfamily, reporting *Aristotelesia carioca* Carvalho and *Myiomma schuhi* Henry from Misiones Province, and Carpintero et al. (2006) reported *M. rubrooculatum* Henry from Formosa and Santiago del Estero provinces. Through additional collecting, primarily by the second author, we have discovered nine new species, two of *Aristotelesia* from Argentina and Brazil and seven of

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