



First record of *Praetorblissus* from Mexico (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Lygaeoidea: Blissidae), with the description of a new species associated with bamboo

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Abstract

Praetorblissus mexicanus is described as a new species of Blissidae. This species represents the first record of the genus for Mexico and expands its northern limit of distribution. The species was collected in a pine area in the state of Oaxaca associated with the bamboo *Chusquea repens*. A key is included to separate all the species in the genus.

Key words: Insecta, Oaxaca, Poaceae

Introduction

The genus *Praetorblissus* Slater had been recorded only from Central and South America. Five species are known in the genus. Slater (1966) described the genus as monotypic with, type species *Praetorblissus gigas* Slater from Peru; later Slater and Wilcox (1968) described *Praetorblissus gradus* from Peru and Bolivia; Slater and Ashlock (1976) did a phylogenetic study of the genus and described two more species, *Praetorblissus wilcoxae* also from Peru, and *Praetorblissus obrieni* from Costa Rica; in 1995, Slater described *Praetorblissus brailovskyi* from Costa Rica, in this last study the association of the genus with bamboos was recorded for first time.

In this study *Praetorblissus mexicanus* is described as new species, representing the first record of the genus for Mexico. Host plant species and notes about its association with bamboos are registered. A key to the known species is also included.

Material and methods

The following abbreviations indicate institutions where specimens are deposited: Colección Entomológica, Instituto de Ecología, A.C. Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico (IEXA); Colección Nacional de Insectos, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City (UNAM).

Measurements are given in millimeters s.e.

Praetorblissus mexicanus sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–4)

Diagnosis. Micropterous; general coloration shining black with distinctive yellowish conexiva; four or five spines on fore femora arranged in a single row.

Description (Figs. 1–2). Body flattened dorso-ventrally. General coloration dorsally and ventrally black, polished and shining with punctures restricted to a narrow strip mesally on pronotum and head; head with a few punctures near base of antenna and ventrally; pronotum with punctures along transverse impression and on scutellum and dorsal surface