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## Synopsis of the genus *Eldarca* Signoret, 1864 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Coreidae)

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### Abstract

A synopsis of the Coreid genus *Eldarca* Signoret, 1864 is presented. Full species status is given to *Eldarca rufa* Reed, 1899 n. stat. New distributional data are provided for *Eldarca nigra* Signoret, 1864. *Eldarca haematoloma rufa* Reed, 1899 n. stat. is considered as subspecies of *E. haematomera*. *Eldarca nigroscutellata* **sp. nov.** is described from southern Patagonia; which becomes also the southernmost record of Coreidae in South America. Differential diagnoses and figures for all the species of the genus are included. The distribution of the species is commented and a distribution map is provided. A key to the four known species of *Eldarca* is added.

**Key words:** Hemiptera, Heteroptera, *Eldarca*, new species, Chile, Argentina

### Introduction

Coreidae is a large family of Heteroptera which contains nearly 2550 species classified in 436 genera (Livermore et al. 2015). Coreids are phytophagous (Schaefer & Mitchell 1983), and several species are considered of high economic importance (Schuh & Slater 1995; Schaefer & Panizzi 2000).

*Eldarca* Signoret, 1864 is a little known South American genus of Coreidae, currently classified in Coreinae: Hypselonotini (Livermore et al. 2015). The genus was erected by Signoret (1864) to include four species, but two of these have been transferred to other genera: *Arioge germainii* (Signoret, 1864) (Stål 1868) and *Encedonia sulcicornis* (Signoret, 1864) (Brailovsky 1993) so this genus actually contains two valid species, distributed in Argentina and Chile. Species of *Eldarca* are known just from a few faunistic references (see results). The purpose of this contribution is to provide a general view of the genus, solve several taxonomic problems and provide identification tools to the species of the group.

### Material and methods

The photographs were taken with a digital camera mounted on a stereoscopic microscope. The map was created with Panmap, Pangaea ®. The collections cited in the text are the following: EIFC (Eduardo I. Faúndez Collection), IPUM (Instituto de la Patagonia, Universidad de Magallanes, Chile), and USNM (United States National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.).

### Results

#### *Eldarca* Signoret, 1864

*Eldarca* Signoret, 1864: 557 (original description). Type species. *Merocoris haematomerus* Spinola, 1852.

## Key to the known species of *Eldarca* Signoret, 1864

- 1(2) Lateral margins of pronotum and connexiva black . . . . . *E. nigra* Signoret, 1864  
2(1) Lateral margins of pronotum and connexiva ivory . . . . . 3  
3(4) Scutellum unicolor . . . . . *E. nigroscutellata* sp. nov.  
4(3) Scutellum with ivory, unpunctated bands on lateral margins . . . . . 5  
5(6) Dorsal coloration reddish; female first paratergites rhomboid; male pygophore in ventral view pentagonal. . . . .  
. . . . . *E. rufa* Reed, 1899  
6(5) Dorsal coloration backish blue and reddish; female first paratergites subrectangular; male pygophore in ventral view quadrate.  
. . . . . *E. haematomera* (Spinola, 1852)...7  
7(8) Reddish coloration in the antennal segment I, posterior portion of pronotum, patches on hemelytra and ventral portion; legs  
unicolor (entirely reddish). . . . . *E. haematomera rufipes* Reed, 1899  
8(7) Without the above features . . . . . *E. haematomera haematomera* (Spinola, 1852)

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