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## New species and notes on Microveliinae from northern South America (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Veliidae)

HERNÁN ARISTIZÁBAL-GARCÍA<sup>1</sup>, CARLA FERNANDA BURGUEZ FLORIANO<sup>2,3,5</sup>,  
FELIPE FERRAZ FIGUEIREDO MOREIRA<sup>4</sup> & PITÁGORAS DA CONCEIÇÃO BISPO<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*e-Qual Consultoria y Servicios Ambientales, Bogotá, Colombia. E-mail: hernaris@equalambiental.com*

<sup>2</sup>*Departamento de Ciências Biológicas. Universidade Estadual Paulista, Assis, SP, Brasil.*

<sup>3</sup>*Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade de São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto, SP, Brasil.*

*E-mail: carlla.floriano@gmail.com*

<sup>4</sup>*Laboratório Nacional e Internacional de Referência em Taxonomia de Triatomíneos, Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil*

<sup>5</sup>*Corresponding author*

### Abstract

*Euvelia mazzucconiae* sp. nov., from northern Colombia is described, illustrated, and included in an updated identification key to the species of the genus. A map with the known geographical distribution of the species of *Euvelia* is presented. Additionally, two species from Colombia previously placed in the genus *Paravelia* are transferred to *Microvelia* and a species of the latter genus is synonymized, such that *Paravelia acantha* Padilla-Gil, 2013 = *Microvelia acantha* (Padilla-Gil, 2013) **comb. nov.**, *Paravelia fanera* Padilla-Gil, 2013 = *Microvelia fanera* (Padilla-Gil, 2013) **comb. nov.**, and *Microvelia amrishi* Makhan 2014 = *Microvelia mimula* White 1879 **syn. nov.**

**Key words:** Aquatic insects, Neotropical Region, taxonomy, water striders

### Introduction

Veliidae is a widely distributed group of semiaquatic bugs (Andersen 1982), with most of its diversity being recorded from the Neotropical Region (Polhemus & Polhemus 2008). The family comprises 58 genera with about 900 species, distributed in six subfamilies: Ocelloveliinae, Microveliinae, Halovelinae, Rhagavelinae, Perittopinae, and Veliinae. Four genera of Microveliinae have been recorded from South America: *Euvelia* Drake, 1957, *Husseyella* Herring, 1955, *Microvelia* Westwood, 1834, and *Xiphovelina* Lundblad, 1933 (Andersen 1982; Moreira *et al.* 2011).

*Euvelia* is characterized by four large blade-like pretarsal structures on the middle tarsus, short fusiform antennal segments, and the middle and hind acetabula approximate and far removed from the fore pair (Drake 1957; Polhemus & Polhemus 1984). The genus is very similar to *Husseyella*, but can be distinguished from it by the tarsomere II of the middle leg longer than I, widened and deeply cleft subapically. Besides that, specimens of *Husseyella* tend to occur on coastal waters such as estuaries, whereas *Euvelia* has been recorded from freshwater only. Representatives of *Microvelia*, on the other hand, lack leaf-like structures on the middle tarsus.

*Euvelia* was described to include *E. advena* Drake, 1957, which remained as its single species until Polhemus & Polhemus (1984) reviewed the genus and described three new species. A fifth species of *Euvelia* is herein described based on material from Colombia, which represents the first record of the genus from the country. Additionally, necessary taxonomic corrections are presented, with two species from Colombia previously held in the genus *Paravelia* Breddin, 1898 (Veliinae) being transferred to *Microvelia* (Microveliinae) and two species of the latter genus being synonymized.