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A new species of *Rhagovelia* Mayr, 1865 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Veliidae) from Brazil

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Abstract

Rhagovelia kararao sp. nov., collected in sandstone caves from northern Brazil, is described and compared with similar and related species. *Rhagovelia pachymeri* Nieser & Melo, 1997 is synonymized with *Rhagovelia robusta* Gould, 1931. An updated key to the species of the *robusta* group occurring in Brazil is presented.

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

Introduction

The genus *Rhagovelia* Mayr, 1865 comprises a group of semiaquatic bugs that is common and diverse on tropical regions (Polhemus 1997). The fauna from the Americas has been divided in eighteen species groups, out of which fourteen have been recorded from South America (Padilla-Gil & Moreira 2013). Specimens from the *robusta* group differ from others by the pronotum completely (or almost) covering the mesonotum, ventrolateral margins of last abdominal sternite surrounding genital cavity without robust black denticles, abdomen of apterous females without longitudinal carina, and apical spur of hind tibia straight (Polhemus 1997; Moreira *et al.* 2012).

Twelve species of the group have been recorded from Brazil, however there is still a lack of knowledge concerning the genus in the country, with the exception of the southeastern region (Moreira & Ribeiro 2009; Moreira & Barbosa 2014). A new *Rhagovelia* of the *robusta* group is herein described, based on material collected on the northern portion of the country. Specimens of the genus are usually collected on open lotic environments with moderate to strong water current, but the new species has been found on sandstone caves, in slow flowing waters. A new synonym and an identification key to species of the group are also presented.

Material and Methods

Type-material has been deposited in the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil (MZSP). Descriptions and photographs were made using specimens preserved in alcohol. All measurements are given in millimetres. Step 3 of the key provided by Moreira & Barbosa (2014) was inadvertently inverted in relation to which species pairs had denticles on proepisternum, which is corrected in the key provided here.