

AN UNDESCRIBED METROBATES UHLER
FROM BRASIL

(Hemiptera: Gerridae)

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The genus *Metrobates* Uhler (1871) is indigenous to and widely distributed in the Americas. Of the 10 recognized species, only two of them are known to occur in South America — *M. pau-manni* Hungerford from Brasil and *M. fugientis* Drake and Harris from Peru. Hungerford (1951) has recently recorded the latter also from Bolivia.

The new species described below adds a second species of *Metrobates* to the fauna of Brasil and gives a total of three for South America. I am indebted to Dr. Jose C. M. Carvalho, Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, for the privilege of studying some Brazilian water-striders.

***Metrobates laetus*, sp. new**

Apterous form: Broadly ovate, general color black and bluish gray with markings as described in structural parts. Head black with a crescent-shaped mark at the base. Antennæ blackish fuscous, the basal part of first segment testaceous; segment I curved at the base; II and III with the usual apical modifications, measurements — I, 105; II, 32; III, 32; IV, 32. Antennæ slender in female than male, but with the length of segments nearly the same. Rostrum black-fuscous, with apex blackish, extending a little beyond prosternum. Legs long, slender, dark fuscous; anterior femora with basal part testaceous, armed beneath in male with a long brown spine (fig. 1, *b*) at basal third, unarmed in female. Mesosternum grooved on median longitudinal line in male, without groove in female; acetabula unarmed in both sexes. Body beneath gray with a bluish lustre.

In order to facilitate further studies in the genus, a list of species, subspecies and distributional notes are given below. The subspecies are primarily color forms of three different species.

Pronotum short, with posterior margin feebly excavated (nearly straight), with impressed median area bluish flavous, three times as wide as long; mesonotum very large, broadly bluish gray along the impressed median longitudinal line, more than twice as wide as median length (160:60), with a short, slightly oblique band on each side in front of the middle, the posterior margin somewhat excavated; metanotum short, bluish gray. Dorsal surface of abdomen bluish gray. Male parameres as in fig. 1, *a*. Macropterous form unknown.

Length, 3.20-3.50 mm.; width, 1.75-2.20 mm.

Type (male) and *allotype* (female), Ribeiras do Engano, Vale do Itauna, Santo Trav. & Santos, Oct. 9, 1942, in Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro. Paratypes; 12 specimens, same data as type.

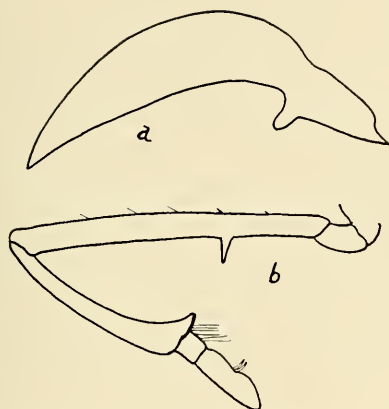


PLATE 11

Metrobates laetus, n sp: a, left paramere; b, left front leg.

Three species have long spines on the underside of male femora. These are *M. denticornis* (Champion), *M. fugientis* Drake and Harris and *laetus*, n. sp. *M. fugientis* differs from the other two species in having the acetabula on the mesosternum armed with prominent spines. In *laetus* the femoral spine is placed at the apical third, whereas it is near the middle in *denticornis*. *M. plaumanni* Hungerford has the anterior femora unarmed, also the mesoternum.

Genus *Metrobates* Uhler, 1871

Trepobatopsis Champion, 1898

Type, *Metrobates hesperius* Uhler, 1871

1. **anomalus** Hussey and Herring, 1949.....Florida
subsp. comatipes Hussey and Herring, 1949.....Florida
2. **artus** Anderson, 1932.....Texas; Mexico
3. **denticornis** (Champion), 1898.....Mex.; Centr. Amer.;
Tex.; N. Mex.; Ariz.
4. **fugientis** Drake and Harris, 1945.....Peru; Bolivia
5. **hesperius** Uhler, 1871.....U. S. (East of Rocky Mts.)
syn. beginni Ashmead, 1894.
subsp. depilatus Hussey and Herring, 1949.....Florida
subsp. ocalensis Hussey and Herring, 1949.....Florida
6. **laetus** Drake, 1954.....Brasil
7. **laudatus** Drake and Harris, 1932.....Mex.; Honduras
8. **plaumanni** Hungerford, 1951.....Brasil
9. **porcus** Anderson, 1932.....Honduras
syn. spissus Drake and Harris, 1932.
10. **tumidus** Anderson, 1932.....Cuba; Haiti
syn. cubanus Drake and Harris, 1932.
11. **trux** Bueno, 1921.....Colo.; Wyo.; Ida.; Ore.;
subsp. infuscata Usinger, 1952.....Cal.; Ariz.; N. Mex.