



Review of the genus *Leptocysta* Stål with descriptions of two new species (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Tingidae) from Argentina

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Abstract

Two new species of *Leptocysta* are described from Argentina, *L. dellapei* n. sp. and *L. delrioae* n. sp. An updated key to species is provided together with illustrations of the diagnostic characters, habitus photographs and new distributional records for Argentina.

Key words: *Leptocysta dellapei* n. sp., *Leptocysta delrioae* n. sp., key to species, new records

Introduction

Leptocysta Stål can be recognized by the following combination of characters: five cephalic spines; hood long, slender and compressed completely covering head and surpassing first antennal segment; paranota large and projected anteriorly, surpassing the anterior margin of the eyes; pronotum tricarinated, median carina foliaceous, high, higher than the hood; hemelytra large with a costal area wide and discoidal area reaching at least half the length of the hemelytra.

Previously the genus comprised only four species, all of them distributed in South America. These species are *Leptocysta notialis* Drake (1948) and *L. tertia* Monte (1946) from Argentina; *L. novatis* Drake (1928) from Argentina and Paraguay, and *L. sexnebulosa* (Stål) (1860) from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela. *Leptocysta sexnebulosa*, the only species whose host plants are known, has been recorded from *Antennaria* sp., *Ipomoea batatas*, *Mikania* sp. and *Vernonia* sp.

Stål (1873) erected the genus to accommodate *L. sexnebulosa*, first described in the genus *Tingis*. Drake (1928) described *L. novatis*; Monte (1946) described *L. tertia* and re-described the genus and the two previously known species providing dorsal habitus illustrations and a key to the species; and Drake (1948) added *L. notialis*.

In the present contribution two new species from Argentina are described, an updated key to species is provided together with habitus photographs and illustrations of the main characters. New distributional information and a map are provided for Argentina.

Material and methods

Type material of the two new species is deposited in the Museo de La Plata (MLP). Photographs were taken with a Sony W320 camera adapted to a stereoscopic microscope. Measurements were taken with an ocular micrometer, and are given in millimeters (“*” is used to indicate the measurement was repeated). When at least five specimens were measured, minimum, maximum and mean values are provided; when four or fewer specimens were measured, values for each individual are provided. New distributional records are marked as symbols filled in black in the map.