



Catalogue of Blattaria (Insecta) from Argentina

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Abstract

An updated catalogue is given of the cockroach species recorded in Argentina. It includes a list of species, their distribution in the different provinces of the country, the institutions in which the type specimens are deposited, and an updated list of references. The results indicate 87 (plus 2 *incertae sedis*) species, included in 4 families, 12 subfamilies and 40 currently recognized genera. A few species are widely spread across the country, but 35% (29 + 2 *incertae sedis*) are only known to occur in Argentina. The biotic affinities of the biogeographic provinces were studied. The data analysis corresponds with the major areas of influence: the Neotropical and Andean regions. A parsimony analysis of endemism (PAE) was performed. The Parana Forest, Pampa and Chaco biogeographic provinces are supported by numerous endemic species. The families Blaberidae, Blattellidae and Phyllodromiidae include 90% of the species. The cockroach fauna from Argentina is still poorly known and the number of species undoubtedly is higher. The primary homonym of *Chorisoneura minuta* Rocha e Silva & Aguiar, 1977 was replaced with *Chorisoneura rochaesilvae* nom. n.

Key words: Dictyoptera, cockroaches, geographic distribution, type housing institutions, checklist

Introduction

The order Blattaria includes a very abundant and diverse number of species. Currently there are 4560 described species (Beccaloni 2007), but an estimated 15,000 are yet to be discovered (Pellens & Grandcolas 2008). Their wide distribution and species diversity are due to their capacity to occupy very different environments and their adaptability to various ways of life. The species present a great variability in their size, coloration and their habitats (Cornwell 1968). Nearly all the species are nocturnal, but some like *Pseudomops neglectus* and *Panchlora thalassina* are diurnal examples (unpubl. obs.); others are semi-aquatic (Rocha e Silva Albuquerque *et al.* 1976), such *Poeciloderrhis verticalis* and some *Epilampra* spp (Bell *et al.* 2007); still others are soil inhabitants or aerial species that live in the forest foliage, such as species in *Chorisoneura* and *Amazonina* (unpubl. obs.); many species live under bark e.g., *Schistopeltis lizeri* (unpubl. obs.) or in rotted logs feeding on wood. *Attaphila bergi* is an ant commensal (Bolívar 1901), and some cockroaches may inhabit termite or wasp nests, or rodent borrows.