

A new records of *Belostoma elegans* (Mayr, 1871) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Belostomatidae) from Chile

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Abstract: A new Chilean record is provided for the water bug *Belostoma elegans*. The new specimens are from the Los Ríos region and represent the southernmost record of this species from the country.

Key words: Heteroptera, Belostomatidae, new record, Chile.

Nuevo registro para *Belostoma elegans* (Mayr, 1871) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Belostomatidae) en Chile

Resumen: Se entrega un nuevo registro chileno para la chinche acuática *Belostoma elegans*. Los nuevos ejemplares provienen de la región de Los Ríos, y constituyen el registro más meridional de esta especie en el país.

Palabras clave: Heteroptera, Belostomatidae, nuevo registro, Chile.

Belostomatidae, commonly comprising insects known as giant water bugs, is the family that includes the largest members of Heteroptera, in a range from 9 to 110 mm (Schuh & Slater, 1995). Belostomatidae currently contains nearly 150 species classified in 11 genera (Estévez & Ribeiro, 2011; Moreira *et al.*, 2011). All the species on this family are flattened dorsoventrally and ovoid to elongate ovoid (Schuh & Slater, 1995). All the giant water bugs are predacious and some exhibit parental care.

In Chile, this family is represented by two species. Originally, only *Belostoma bifoveolatum* (Spinola, 1852) was known to the country. Lately, Schnack (1973a) reported for the first time *Belostoma elegans* (Mayr, 1871) (Fig. 1) from Chile (from the Metropolitan Region to the limit between Maule and Bio Bio Regions, squares on Fig. 2). Since Schnack's (1973a) paper, no additional references have been published for *B. elegans* in the country. Here we provide the first records for this species from Los Rios Region (Fig. 2.).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: CHILE, Los Rios Region: Panguipulli, Puyumen, 39° 40' 01" S-72° 17' 54" W, 130 m s. n. m. 17-22-I-2013, 1 ♂, leg. J. F. Campodonico; Idem, 27-I-2014, 2 ♂♂, J. F. Campodonico, under a boat; P. N. Los Paraguas, 25-I-2011, 1 ♀, leg. R. Pérez de Arce; [All material is deposited in the Heteroptera reference collection of the Centro de Estudios en Biodiversidad CEBCh, Punta Arenas, Chile].

Chilean specimens of *B. elegans* are very constant with the characters provided in the keys by Schnack (1973b) and Lauck (1964). These include, having always the anteocular portion of the head shorter than the interocular, a slender body, and a male clasper remarkably wider in lateral view. This combination of characters helps to quickly tell it apart from *B. bifoveolatum*.

This new record fills the distributional gap between Argentina and Chile for this species. Schnack (1973a) corroborated the hypothesis provided by Bachmann (1962) about the colonization of *B. bifoveolatum* in Chile from Argentina, through the transverse valleys. On the other hand, Schnack (1973a) wrote that little can be estimated about the colonization of *B. elegans* in Chile, because of the scarce amount of records. With the distributional gap filled up to the Valdivian forest, we believe possible that the same way of settlement (i.e. the proposed for *B. bifoveolatum*), can also works for *B. elegans*. This idea is reinforced because usually both species are collected together. Finally, this species has not been recorded in the Araucanía and most of Bío Bío Regions, and this is probably due to the lack of collecting.

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Fig.1. *Belostoma elegans*, male specimen from Los Rios Region, habitus. // *Belostoma elegans*, macho de la Región de los Ríos, habitus.

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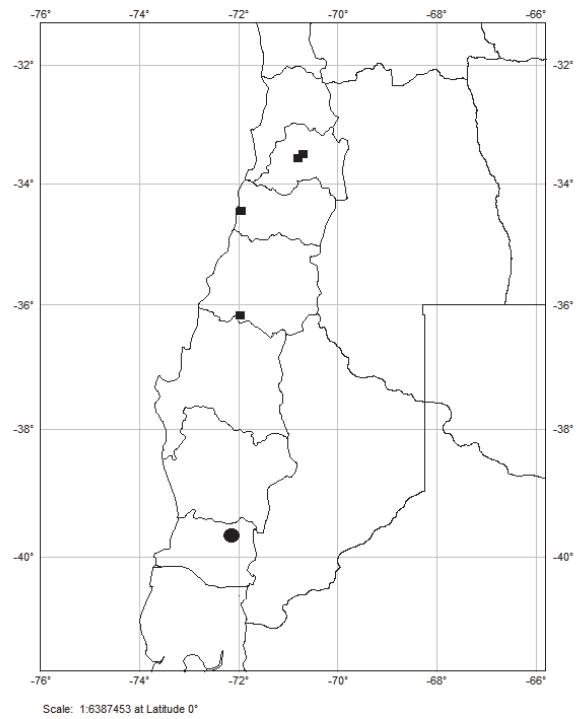


Fig.2. Distribution of *B. elegans* in Chile, squares=known distribution, circle=new record. // Distribución de *B. elegans* en Chile, cuadrados=distribución conocida, círculo=nuevo registro.