

NEW RECORDS OF ASSASSIN BUGS
(HEMIPTERA: HETEROPTERA: REDUVIIDAE)
FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLICNuevos registros de chinches asesinos (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae)
para República Dominicana

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ABSTRACT

The Hispaniolan fauna of Reduviidae is only partially known, as it has never been the subject of a comprehensive taxonomic or faunistic inventory. These species belong to Neotropical genera that have Caribbean, Central and South American distributions. In this contribution new records are given for 14 species of assassin bugs belonging to six subfamilies. Among these, seven species are first records from the Dominican Republic and the island of Hispaniola: *Bactrodes spinulosus* Stål, 1862 (Bactrodinae), *Lophoscutus rideri* Kormilev, 1988, *Lophoscutus rugosipes* (Guérin-Méneville, 1857) both belonging to Phymatinae, *Leogorrus pallipes* Stål, 1872 (Reduviinae), and the Saicinae species *Oncerothachelus nasutus* (Bergroth, 1913), *Tagalis drakkar* Varela & Melo, 2017 and *Tagalis grossi* Gil-Santana, 2011. With these new records the reported extant fauna of Hispaniolan Reduviidae reaches a total of 46 documented species, which are classified in 25 genera and 10 subfamilies. Additionally, 13 fossil species have been reported from the Dominican amber.

Keywords: Reduviids, Hispaniola, Greater Antilles, West Indies.

RESUMEN

La fauna de Reduviidae en la Hispaniola es conocida solo parcialmente, ya que nunca ha sido objeto de un inventario taxonómico o faunístico comprensivo. Estas especies pertenecen a géneros neotropicales que tienen distribuciones en el Caribe, Centro y Sur América. En esta contribución se reportan nuevos registros de 14 especies de chinches asesinos pertenecientes a seis subfamilias. Entre estos, siete especies son primeros registros para la República Dominicana y la isla Hispaniola: *Bactrodes spinulosus* Stål, 1862 (Bactrodinae), *Lophoscutus rideri* Kormilev, 1988, *Lophoscutus rugosipes* (Guérin-Méneville, 1857), de la subfamilia Phymatinae; *Leogorrus pallipes* Stål, 1872 (Reduviinae), así como *Oncerothachelus nasutus* (Bergroth, 1913), *Tagalis drakkar* Varela & Melo, 2017 y *Tagalis grossi* Gil-Santana, 2011, pertenecientes a Saicinae.



Con estos nuevos registros, la fauna actual de Reduviidae en la Hispaniola alcanza un total de 46 especies documentadas, las que son clasificadas en 25 géneros y 10 subfamilias. Adicionalmente, 13 especies fósiles han sido reportadas del ámbar dominicano.

Palabras clave: redúvidos, Hispaniola, Antillas Mayores, Indias Occidentales.

INTRODUCTION

Assassin bugs (Reduviidae) are terrestrial ambush predators of other insects. They are characterized by having a narrowed long neck and curved piercing mouthparts that fit into a groove in the prosternum. Reduviidae are the second most speciose family of the order Hemiptera after the Miridae, including some 7425 valid species in 1011 genera worldwide (ITIS, 2018). Being very abundant, relatively large, voracious, polyphagous, and amenable to mass culture, many species are thought to have good potential as agents of biological control (Ambrose, 2003). A small number of assassin bugs are medically important. Members of the subfamily Triatominae (~150 species) specialize in sucking the blood of vertebrates including humans and are potential vectors of blood parasites that produce Chagas' disease (Lent & Wygodzinsky, 1979). The exceptions to these habits can be found in some species of Harpactorinae that often or exclusively prefer glandular sweet substances produced by extrafloral nectaries of trees (Bérenger & Pluot-Sigwalt, 1997).

Hispaniola is the second largest island of the Greater Antilles. Its subtropical terrain is dominated by extensive and rugged mountains with valleys in between, a mosaic of ecosystems with diverse vegetation that harbors a diverse insect fauna. The Hemiptera are (after the Coleoptera) the second most diverse insect order in the island, with 1042 species in 543 genera recorded (Perez-Gelabert, 2020). The assassin bugs of Hispaniola have never been the subject of a targeted inventory and faunistic studies and many species remain undocumented. Herein, new records of 14 species, seven of them new records for the island of Hispaniola, are included. The reported extant fauna of Hispaniolan Reduviidae reaches a total of 46 species (21 endemic), classified in 25 genera and 10 subfamilies. Additionally, 13 fossil species have been reported from the Dominican amber (see Perez-Gelabert, 2020).

OBJECTIVES

- To provide new records for 14 species of assassin bugs in Hispaniola, including the first records from the Dominican Republic and the island for seven of them.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Some of the studied material was collected by the author. Other specimens examined were borrowed from the Dominican Republic institutions Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Santo Domingo (MNHNSD) and the Instituto de Investigaciones Botánicas y Zoológicas (IIBZ) at the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD). Other specimens are from the entomological collection of the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA. Morphological examinations were done using 10-60X magnifications under a stereoscope. Photographs were taken using the Visionary Digital™ BK Lab imaging system outfitted with a Canon Mark II 5D.

RESULTS

Subfamily Bactrodinae

Bactrodes spinulosus Stål, 1862

(Fig. 1)

Recognition. Small (~10 mm) and very slender reduviids, with long and delicate legs and antennae, light brown in coloration. The body is tuberculated and setose, pronotum with two spines on humeral angles; abdomen with two posterolateral projections and protruding spiracles. Individuals of *B. spinulosus* are commonly found on the leaves of Melastomataceae (*Piper* sp.) in the Dominican Cordillera Central where they search for small prey.

Material examined: 15 specimens, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, La Vega Prov., Arroyazo, Reserva Ébano Verde, ~1000 m, 20/x/2012, D. Perez, A. Sánchez [NMNH]. 3 specimens, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, La Vega Prov., Parque Nacional Armando Bermúdez, La Ciénaga Manabao, 3050 ft., 19°03'45"N 70°51'50"W 20 April 2000 T. J. Henry & R. E. Woodruff [NMNH]. 2 specimens, HDR-010 Arroyazo, Reserva Científica Ébano Verde, La Vega Prov., 1,090 m, 19°01.919'N 70°32.621'W, 20-21/vii/2015, D. Perez, S. Navarro [NMNH]. 3 specimens, REP. DOM.: La Vega, 5 km de Manabao, Paso de la Perra, Finca de Eladio, 15-v-2001, D. Veloz [MNHNSD]. 1 specimen DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Monseñor Nouel Prov.: Rt. 12.6 km SW of jct. Rt. 1, above Bonao, el. 3225 ft., 19°01'48"N 70°29'28"W, 18 April 2000, T. J. Henry & R. E. Woodruff (USNM Drake collection). 3 specimens, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HDR-018 Río Las Guázaras, nr. Junction w/Yaque del Norte, W of Jarabacoa, La Vega Prov., 662 m, 17°48.547'N 71°26.732'W, 29/vii/2015, D. Perez, A. Sánchez, C. Ramírez, J. Sánchez B. (day) [NMNH]. 3 specimens, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HDR-005 Salto de Jimenoa, Jarabacoa, La Vega Prov., 19°09'42.20"N 70°59'29.73"W, 11/vii/2015, D. Perez, S. Navarro [NMNH]. 1 specimen, REP. DOM.: Prov. La Vega, Arroyazo, Res. Ébano Verde, 19°1'94.5"N 70°32'59.3"W, 1067 m, 9-10 October 2002, coll. D. Perez, B. Hierro, R. Bastardo [MNHNSD].

Comments. The genus *Bactrodes* Stål, 1866 is the sole member of the subfamily Bactrodinae, which is comprised of five species distributed in the Neotropical region from Mexico to Argentina (Coscarón & Melo, 2003). *Bactrodes spinulosus* is known from Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, and now for the first time cited for the Dominican Republic.

Subfamily Peiratinae

Melanolestes degener (Walker, 1873)

Material examined: 22 specimens, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Km 1 trail Fondo Paradí, 3 km S Oviedo, Pedernales Prov., 17°49.085'N 71°26.336'W, 120 m, 27/viii/201, D. Perez, S. Medrano, A. Hilario (day + UV). [USNM, MNHNSD, IIBZ]. 10 specimens, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, RD-210 Mirador del Hoyo de Pelempito, Parque Nacional Sierra de Bahoruco, Pedernales prov., 1250 m, 18°05.396'N 71°30.663'W, 5.iv.2004, D. Perez, R. Bastardo, B. Hierro. (d/n). [USNM, MNHNSD, IIBZ]. 1 Specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Pedernales Prov., Cabo Rojo, 17°54'10"N 71°40'23"W, 10 April 2000, T. J. Henry & R. E. Woodruff [USNM Drake Collection]. 2 specimens, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Dajabon Prov., 3 km E of Canongo, 5 km N of Dajabon, elev. 200 ft., 19°35'58"N 71°40'44"W, 25 April 2000, T. J. Henry & R. E. Woodruff, blacklight [USNM Drake Collection].

Melanolestes picipes (Herrich-Schäffer, 1848)

Material examined: 1 specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, intercepted Miami, Fla. Aug. 18, 1964 L. A. Maclain 64-20305 [USNM]. 1 specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Monte Cristi Prov., 10 kms S Monte Cristi, 5 m, 23 May 1973, Don & Mignon Davis [USNM].

Rasahus hamatus (Fabricius, 1781)

Material examined: 1 specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Santiago Prov., La Cumbre, 15-vi-76, R. E. Woodruff, blacklight trap, 3000' [USNM].

Subfamily Phymatinae

Lophoscutus confusus Kormilev, 1989

Material examined: 1 specimen, REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA, Prov. La Vega, El Arroyazo, Reserva Científica Ébano Verde, 980 m, 337594mE 2105122mN, 4/5.vi.2005, R. Bastardo [IIBZ]. 3 specimens, REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA, Prov. Pedernales, Parque Nacional Sierra de Bahoruco, Aceitillar, Caseta 4, 18°05.396'N 71°30.663'W, 1250 m, 28.vi.2005, R. Bastardo, E. Fernandez [IIBZ]. 1 Specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Ocoa Prov., Rancho Arriba, La Bocaina, 667 m, 18°40.363'N 70°27.214'W, 5.iv.2008, D. Perez, R. Bastardo [IIBZ]. 1 specimen, REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA, Prov. La Vega, La Sal, Reserva Científica Ébano Verde, 2/3.vii.1992, S. Navarro, 220 [IIBZ]. 1 specimen, REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA, Prov. La Vega, La Ciénaga, P. N. Armando Bermúdez, (19°4'22"N 70°51'849"W), 1183 m, 19.viii.2006, coll. D. Perez, R. Bastardo, B. Hierro [IIBZ]. 1 specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Arroyazo, Reserva Ébano Verde, La Vega Prov., 19°02.27'N 70°32.64'W, UV light/night coll., 9/ix/2014, 990 m, D. Perez, C. de Soto M. [USNM]. 1 specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, RD-275 La Ciénaga – Los Tablones, P N Armando Bermúdez, La Vega prov., 19°04.044'N 70°51.789'W, 1100–1270 m, 17.vii.2004, D. Perez (d) [USNM]. 1 specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Santo Domingo Norte, Sierra Prieta, 9.viii.2006, D. Perez, R. Bastardo, B. Hierro, S. Medrano [USNM].

Lophoscutus rideri Kormilev, 1988

(Fig. 2)

Recognition. A typical looking, small phymatine. The male individuals available are about 6 mm in length and show variation in coloration. According to the key to Caribbean *Lophoscutus* in Kormilev & van Doesburg (1991), *L. rideri* is distinguished from other species in the genus by having the antennal segment IV distinctly longer than II + III.

Material examined: 1 ♂, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Pico Duarte trail - 8700 ft., Agüita Fría – sweeping, 19°01.979'N, 70°56.194'W, 30 June 2004, S. W. Lingafelter [NMNH]. 1 ♂, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, RD-253 Trail Agüita Fría – La Compartición, P. N. Armando Bermúdez, La Vega Prov., 2,650-2,450 m, 1.vii.2004, D. Perez (d[ay]) [NMNH]. 1 ♂, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, RD-251 Los Tablones – La Laguna, P N Armando Bermúdez,

La Vega Prov., 2270–1980 m, 30.vi.2004, D. Perez (d[ay]) [NMNH]. 1 ♂, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, RD-255 La Compartición – Pico Duarte, P N Armando Bermúdez, La Vega Prov., 2450–3087 m, 1.vii.2004, D. Perez (d[ay]) [NMNH].

Comments. The genus *Lophoscutus* is widely distributed in the neotropics including 66 species. The key of Kormilev & van Doesburg (1991) treats 27 species of this genus from the Caribbean. *Lophoscutus rideri* was originally described from Puerto Rico and is now recorded for the first time from the Dominican Republic.

Lophoscutus rugosipes (Guérin-Ménéville, 1857)
(Fig. 3)

Recognition. A typical looking, small phymatine. The female examined is relatively large (10 mm). According to the key to Caribbean *Lophoscutus* in Kormilev & Van Doesburg (1991) this species is distinguished by having the body not covered with spiculae, only with round granulations; eyes not pilose.

Material examined: 1 ♀, REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA, Prov. Santo Domingo, Jardín Botánico Nacional, en el Dpto. de Botánica, iii.2000, R. Bastardo [IIBZ].

Comments. It is notable that the specimen was collected at the national botanical garden, an area located within the city of Santo Domingo. This species was originally described from Cuba and is now recorded for the first time from Dominican Republic.

Phymata interjecta Dudich, 1922

Material examined: 1 specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Azua Prov., N edge of Pueblo Viejo, 2 Aug 2017, 18°24.445'N 071°45.796'W, T. Henry, M. Guidoti, D. Perez [USNM].

Subfamily Reduviinae
Leogorrus pallipes Stål, 1872
(Fig. 4)

Recognition. Less than 10 mm in length. Body and legs black to dark brown in general coloration, with hemelytra marked by whitish and yellowish areas. Head subcylindrical and short, with eyes not surpassing margin of head. Pronotum anteriorly smoother, while posteriorly rugose.

Material examined: 1 specimen, REP. DOMINICANA, Azua, Padre Las Casas, Monte Bonito, La Jarda, 5-7-iv-03, C. A. Nuñez [MNHNSD].

Comments. The genus *Leogorrus* Stål, 1859, was revised by Melo (2007) and comprises 12 species that range from Mexico to Argentina. *Leogorrus pallipes* was originally described from Brazil and later recorded from Argentina, Guyana, and Paraguay. This is the first record from Dominican Republic.

Leogorrus litura (Fabricius, 1787)

Material examined: 2 specimens, El Número, Azua, Prov. Azua, R. D., 9-xi-1980, col. Dguez [MNHNSD]. 1 specimen, REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA, Pedernales, Oviedo, dry forest, 5-8-vi-2001, H. Takizawa [MNHNSD]. 2 specimens, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HDR-015 Fondo Paradí, nr. caseta, Parque Nacional Jaragua, Pedernales Prov., 124 m, 17°47.546'N 71°27.596'W, 26/vii/2015, D. Perez, J. Espinal, M. d'Oleo (day + UV light) [USNM]. 1 specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, km 1 trail Fondo Paradí, 3 km S Oviedo, Pedernales Prov., 17°49.085'N 71°26.336'W, 120 m, 27/viii/2011, D. Perez, S. Medrano, A. Hilario (day + UV) [USNM].

Subfamily Saicinae

Oncerotrachelus nasutus (Bergroth, 1913)

(Fig. 5)

Recognition. Body slender, pilose and about 5 mm in length. Head short, eyes globose with large ommatidia. Pronotum short, dissected longitudinally at middle by marked sulcus. Posterior pronotal margin straight and without lateral lobes. Large, pointed spine protruding at angle and backwards from scutellum. Abdominal margins externally marked with a minute spine at each conexivum.

Material examined: 1 specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: La Altagracia Prov., Nisibón beach, ¾ km S. Batey Papagayo, elev. 150 ft., 18°56'41"N 68°45'42"W, 4-8 April 2000, T. J. Henry & R. E. Woodruff, taken at blacklight [NMNH]. 1 specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: La Vega Prov., Parque Nacional Armando Bermúdez, La Ciénaga Manabao, 3050 ft, 19°03'45"N 70°51'50"W, 21 April 2000, T. J. Henry & R. E. Woodruff [USNM Drake collection].

Comments. The genus *Oncerotrachelus* Stål, 1868 includes 14 species distributed from USA to Argentina (Gil-Santana, 2013). *Oncerotrachelus nasutus* was only known from Argentina and now is recorded for the first time from the Dominican Republic.

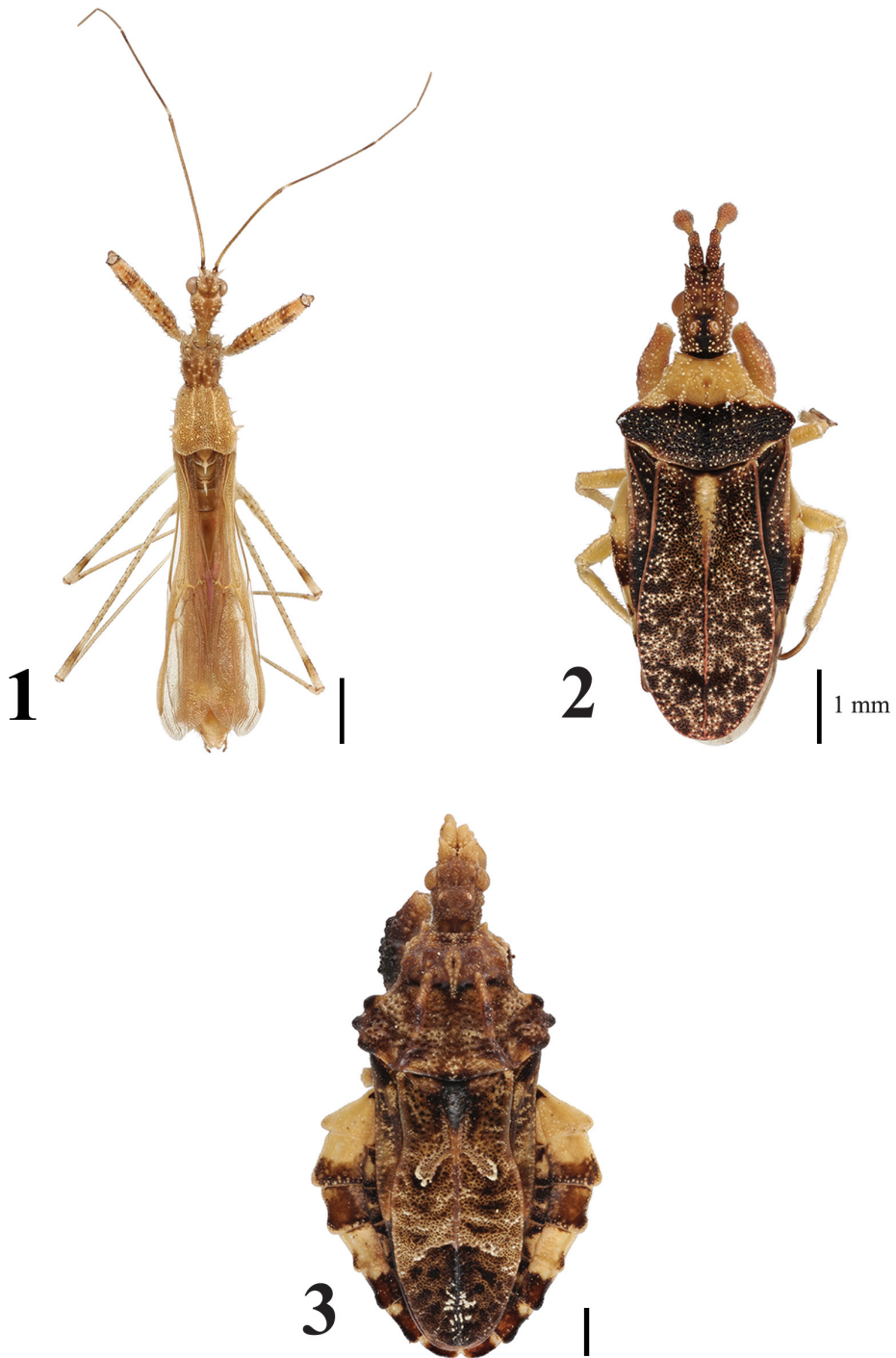
Tagalis drakkar Varela & Melo, 2017

(Fig. 6)

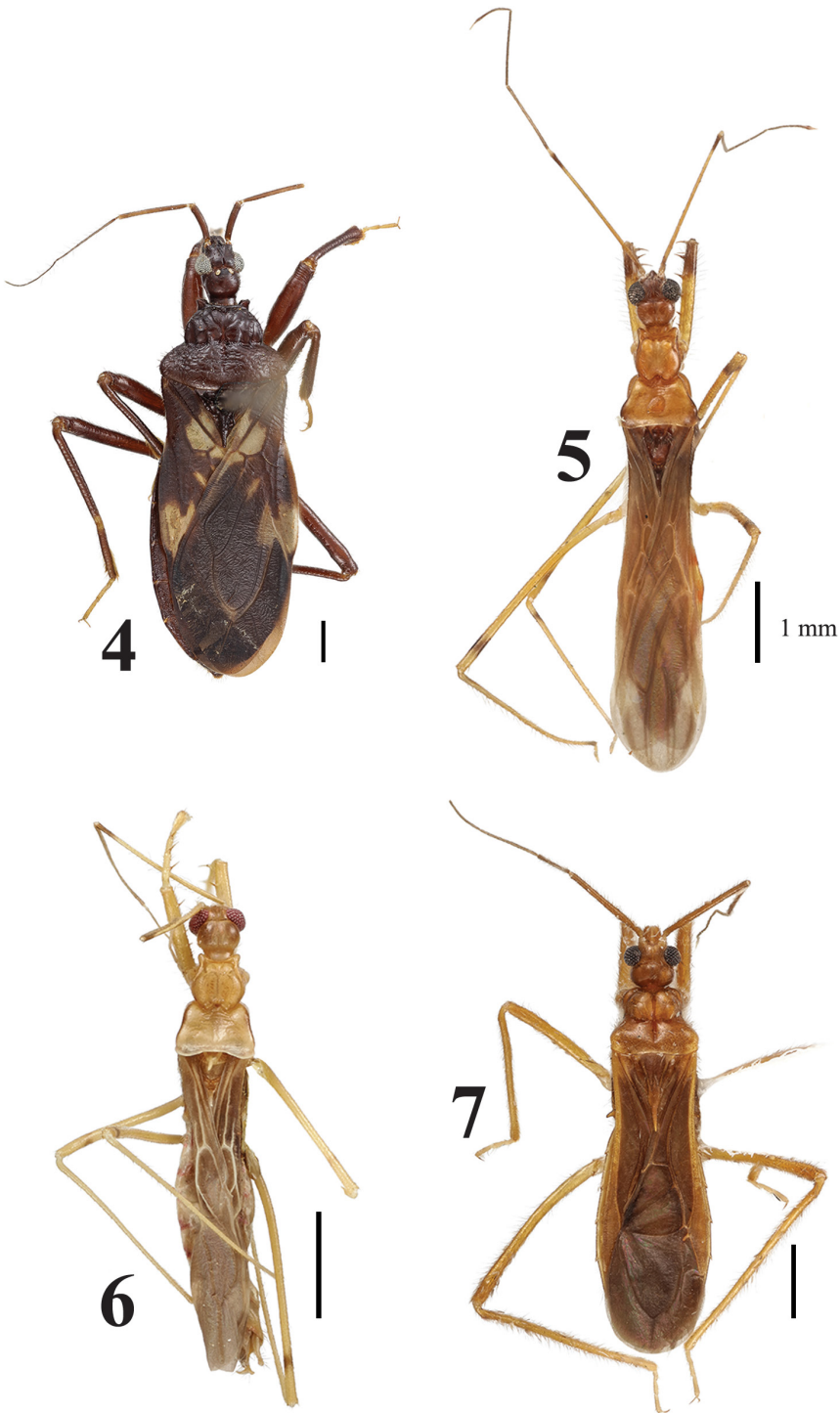
Recognition. Slender, delicate, and very small (~4 mm). Pale brown in coloration (specimens apparently decolored by alcohol preservation). Eyes rounded, composed of large ommatidia, separated by an almost equally wide interocular space. Pronotum glabrous, anteriorly with small rounded lateral lobes at sides of head. Dorsal anterior portion raised to two protuberances, depressed at middle, and widened posteriorly. Lateral margins rounded, anterior and posterior margins slightly concave. Scutellum with two sharp vertically erect spines. Wings somewhat translucent and extended slightly beyond abdominal end.

Material examined: 1 specimen, Dom. R. on pineapple slips at San Juan, P. R., C. G. Lewis [NMNH]. 1 specimen, Dom. R., on *Ananas comosus* leaf, x-5-36 at San Juan, P. R., C. G. Lewis [NMNH].

Comments. *Tagalis drakkar* was originally described from Argentina and is now cited for the first time from the Dominican Republic.



Figures 1–3. Habitus of the species newly recorded for the Dominican Republic and Hispaniola. **1**) *Bactrodes spinulosus* Stål, 1862; **2**) *Lophoscutus rideri* Kormilev, 1988; **3**) *Lophoscutus rugosipes* (Guérin-Méneville, 1857). In all figures the scale represents approximately 1 mm.



Figures 4–7. Habitus of the species newly recorded for the Dominican Republic and Hispaniola. 4) *Leogorrius pallipes* Stål, 1872; 5) *Oncerothelus nasutus* (Bergroth, 1913); 6) *Tagalis drakkar* Varela & Melo, 2017; 7) *Tagalis grossi* Gil-Santana, 2011. In all figures the scale represents approximately 1 mm.

Tagalis grossi Gil-Santana, 2011
(Fig. 7)

Recognition. Very small (~6 mm), slender and delicate. Pale brown in coloration. Like *T. drakkar* in general morphology. Eyes rounded and large, covering most of head width, with large ommatidia. Antennae long, slender and with abundant setae. Legs long and slender, mostly light brown, femora of second and third pair of legs with dark brown patch near anterior end. Anterior femora covered with strong setae and with several larger and sharp spines on their inner surface. Pronotum shaped as in *T. drakkar*, but with anterior lateral lobes spiny instead of rounded. Two sharp vertically erect spines on scutellum colored dark brown to black. Wings somewhat translucent and extending beyond abdominal end.

Material examined: 2 specimens, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: La Vega Prov., 4 km E. La Ciénaga Manabao, 3050 ft, 19°04'47"N 70°49'29"W, 19 April 2000, T. J. Henry & R. E. Woodruff, black lights [USNM Drake collection].

Comments. *Tagalis grossi* was previously known only from Brazil and is now cited for the first time from the Dominican Republic.

Subfamily Stenopodainae
Stenopoda cinerea Laporte, 1833

Material examined: 1 specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, RD-209 19 kms NE Ocoa on road to Rancho Arriba, Ocoa Prov., 720 m, 18°39.003'N 70°27.849'W, 3.iv.2004, D. Perez, B. Hierro. (d/n). [USNM]. 1 specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, RD-212 ~150 m N bridge on road Cabo Rojo – Aceitillar, Pedernales prov., 16 m, 17°58.530'N 71°39.034'W, 7.iv.2004, D. Perez, B. Hierro, R. Bastardo. (d/n). [USNM]. 1 specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, RD-214 km 20 road to Aceitillar, Pedernales prov., 404 m, 18°04.443'N 71°39.109'W, 7.iv.2004, D. Perez, B. Hierro, R. Bastardo. (n). [USNM]. 1 specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, RD-277 Guaraguao, P N del Este, La Altagracia prov., 18°20.296'N 68°48.907'W, near sea level, 19-20.vii.2004, D. Perez (d/n). [USNM]. 2 specimens, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, El Cajuil, N of Oviedo at Hotel lights, Pedernales Prov., 27-28/viii/2011, D. Perez [USNM]. 2 specimens, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, km 1 trail Fondo Paradí, 3 km S. Oviedo, Pedernales Prov., 17°49.085'N 71°26.336'W, 120 m, 27/viii/2011, D. Perez, S. Medrano, A. Hilario (day+UV). [USNM]. 1 specimen, DOM. REPUB., W. I., Ciudad Trujillo, XI-II-46, '47, IX-XII-1947, H. F. Allard [USNM]. 1 specimen, Oct. 18, 1968, air stowaway intercepted San Juan, Puerto Rico [USNM]. 2 specimens, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, 1 km E Talanquera, San Pedro de Macoris Prov., 16 m, 18°25.665'N 69°22.374'W, 19.iv.2004, D. Perez, B. Hierro, R. Bastardo [USNM]. 8 specimens, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, La Altagracia Prov.: Nisibón, Batey Papagayo, elev. 150 ft., 18°56'41"N 68°45'42"W, 4-8 April 2000, T.J. Henry & R.E. Woodruff, at black light [USNM Drake Collection]. 2 specimens, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Dajabon Province, 13 km S. Loma de Cabrera, ca. 400 m, 20-22 May 1973, Don & Mignon Davis [USNM]. 1 specimen, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, San Pedro de Macoris Prov., Playa Juan Dolio, 16 Nov. 1984, sweeping PSpangler & RFaitoute [USNM].

CONCLUSIONS

The fauna of assassin bugs in Hispaniola is still understudied and multiple species remain to be documented. With the new records given here, a total of 46 species in 25 genera and 10 subfamilies have been recorded for Hispaniola. Most of these species have been recorded from the Dominican Republic, while only seven species are exclusively known from Haiti. Interestingly, 21 of the 46 species (45.6%) are considered endemic to Hispaniola (see Perez-Gelabert, 2020), indicating many instances of speciation within the island. A comprehensive documentation of this fauna will require extensive entomological surveys in many of the remote ecosystems in the island together with specialized study of those collections.

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