

Scientific Note

New records of species of *Nitornus* Stål, 1859 (Hemiptera: Reduviidae: Stenopodainae) from French Guiana and Surinam

Nuevos registros de especies de *Nitornus* Stål, 1859 (Hemiptera: Reduviidae: Stenopodainae) en la Guayana Francesa y Surinam

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Abstract. The occurrences of *Nitornus lobulatus* Stål, 1859 and *Nitornus parkoi* (Costa Lima & Campos Seabra, 1945) from French Guiana and of *N. parkoi* (Hemiptera: Reduviidae: Stenopodainae) from Surinam are reported by the first time. The discovery of these species broadens their known geographic distribution. Brief comments on bionomics information and further discussion of the limited data currently available for these assassin bug species are provided.

Key words: Biogeography; Heteroptera; intraspecific variation.

Resumen. Se reporta por primera vez la presencia de *Nitornus lobulatus* Stål, 1859 y *Nitornus parkoi* (Costa Lima y Campos Seabra, 1945) en la Guayana Francesa y de *N. parkoi* (Hemiptera: Reduviidae: Stenopodainae) en Suriname. El descubrimiento de estas especies amplía sus distribuciones geográficas conocidas. Se proporcionan breves comentarios sobre la información bionómica y una discusión adicional de los limitados datos disponibles actualmente para estas especies de insectos asesinos.

Palabras clave: Biogeografía; Heteroptera; variación intraespecífica.

Approximately 114 genera belonging to the assassin bug subfamily Stenopodainae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae) have been described, with the greatest diversity located in the Amazon basin of South America (Bérenger 2001; Gil-Santana and Oliveira 2016). Data about the biology of Stenopodainae are very scarce. Species are collected under logs, on the ground in open grassy areas, in leaf litter, while sweeping and beating vegetation, and, most frequently, at lights (Gil-Santana *et al.* 2015). The twenty genera of Stenopodainae recognized as valid in the New World can be separated by consulting the key presented by Gil-Santana and Oliveira (2016).

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Nitornus Stål, 1859 currently includes two valid species, *Nitornus lobulatus* Stål, 1859 and *Nitornus parkoi* (Costa Lima & Campos Seabra, 1945) (Gil-Santana 2016). Voucher specimens in collections and ecological information for these species are lacking. *Nitornus lobulatus*, the type species of the genus, is known to have a wide distribution, extending from Panama south to Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil, while *N. parkoi* has been recorded only from Bolivia and Brazil so far (Gil-Santana 2016). Both *N. lobulatus* and *N. parkoi* exhibit intraspecific variation; however, these species can be readily distinguished from each other by a suite of characters, including total length (*N. lobulatus* 13.5-16.0 mm; *N. parkoi* 19.0-21.5 mm) and the presence of a tubercle-like elevation on the antecular portion of the head in *N. lobulatus* (Gil-Santana 2016).

Detailed accounts of specimen label information for these species are included in Gil-Santana (2016); however, label data provide very little bionomics information.

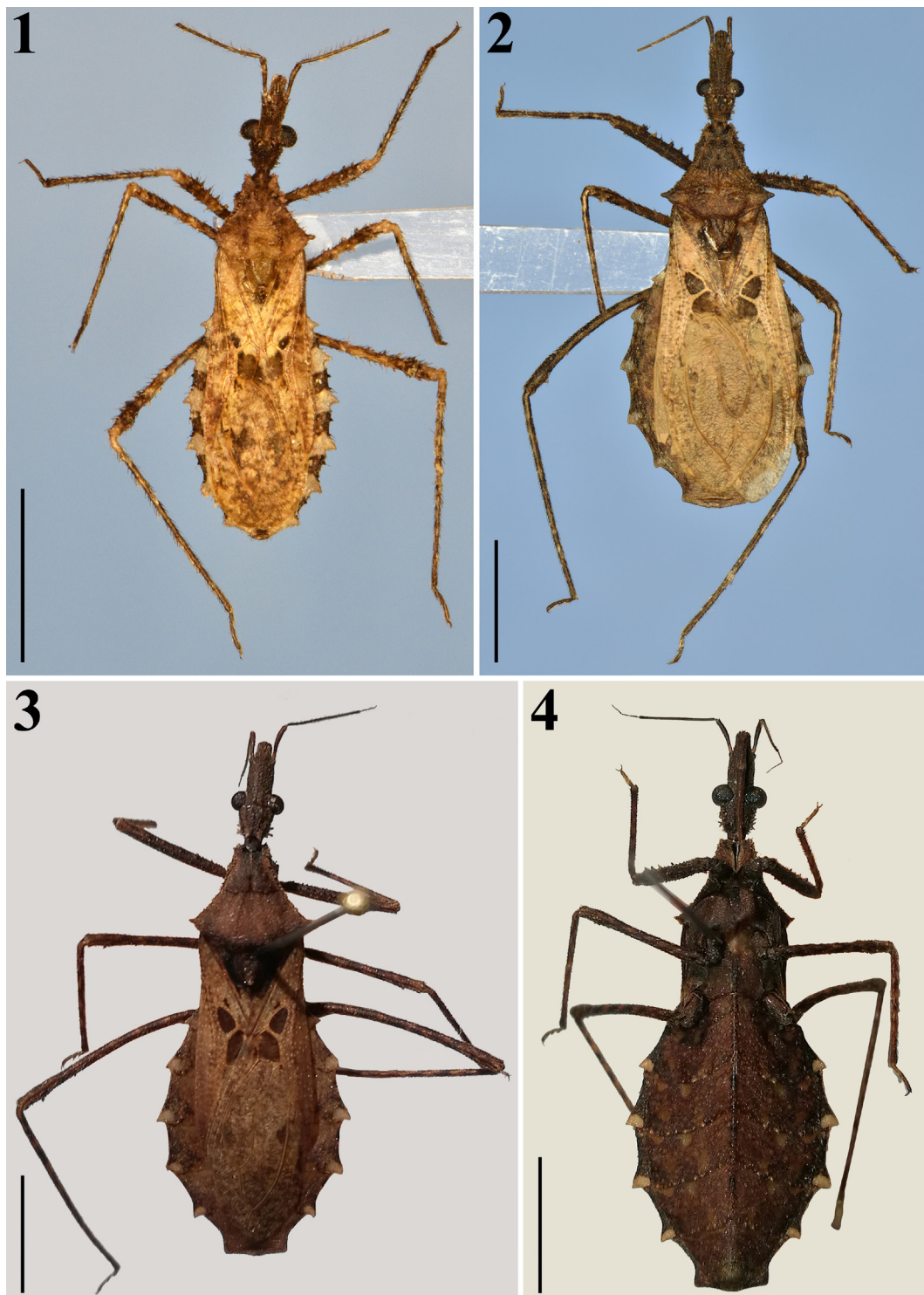
The first records of *N. parkoi* and *N. lobulatus* from French Guiana and of *N. parkoi* from Surinam are given here. The specimens examined here will be deposited in the Entomological Department of the Central Laboratory, Bureau of Public Healthcare, Ministry of Health, Surinam (EDCL), the Museu Nacional da Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (MNRJ), and, by donation, the Entomological Collection of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (CEIOC).

A male of *N. lobulatus* (Fig. 1) and two male specimens of *N. parkoi* (Fig. 2) were collected in Bélizon, French Guiana, in May and November of 2001, respectively, using interception traps, without any additional data about them.

The complete collecting data of the material examined are as follows: *Nitornus lobulatus* Stål, 1859: FRENCH GUIANA, Bélizon, v.2001, leg. H. Gaspard (1 male) (MNRJ). *Nitornus parkoi* (Costa Lima & Campos Seabra, 1945): FRENCH GUIANA, Bélizon, xi.2001, leg. H. Gaspard (2 males) (MNRJ); SURINAM, Merian 2/Marowijne, N05°08'55" W054°30'25", HPL/BL light sheet, 07.iii.2016, leg. Auke Hielkema (3 males) (EDCL); Berlijn/Para, N05°24'48" W055°11'00", HPL light sheet, 20.iii.2016, leg. Auke Hielkema (1 male, EDCL; 1 male, CEIOC).

A total of 5 male *N. parkoi* specimens (Figs. 3-4) were collected in Surinam; 3 males were collected from the Merian area (Sipaliwini) on 07.iii.2016 from an area about 2 km up a recently broadened forest exploitation road that connects the main road (the "Snesipasi" road to the villages of Snesikondre and Langatabiki) with the Merian gold mine. Specimens were attracted to a lighted sheet using mercury vapor bulbs (HPL) and black light tubes (BL). The area is known for having a rich entomofauna, but other insect species were low in numbers at the lighted sheet during these dates, the poor overall collecting possibly being caused by the dry weather in the precluding days. Two males were collected 1.5 km north of Berlijn (Para) on 20.iii.2016 in a rather bushy part of a white sand savanna ('Zanderij-type' savanna), close to the edge of a savanna forest. This site was starkly different from the Merian location in both geology and flora, which suggests that *N. parkoi* may use a broad range of habitat types. Specimens were attracted to a lighted sheet using mercury vapor bulbs (HPL); only GPS coordinates were taken at both locations and can be verified using Google Earth®, although the road at the first location is not visible yet.

More comprehensive surveys of the neotropical reduviid fauna are warranted. Any additional recorded specimens may contribute to our scant biogeographical and bionomical knowledge regarding these species. Additionally, they may help to establish patterns regarding intraspecific variation within these predatory bugs, potentially even revealing undescribed cryptic species. We hope that this work may serve as a catalyst to compile a complete list of reduviids of Surinam and French Guiana, which would further reveal the rich biodiversity of stenopodaine reduviids in the Amazon region.



Figures 1-4. *Nitornus* spp., male specimens. Scale bars: 5.0 mm. 1-2. Specimens from French Guiana. 3-4. Specimens from Surinam. 1. *Nitornus lobulatus* Stål, 1859. 2-4. *Nitornus parkoi* (Costa Lima & Campos Seabra, 1945). 1-3. Dorsal view. 4. ventral view. / *Nitornus* spp., especímenes machos. Barras de escala: 5,0 mm. 1-2. Especímenes de la Guayana Francesa. 3-4. Especímenes de Suriname. 1. *Nitornus lobulatus* Stål, 1859. 2-4. *Nitornus parkoi* (Costa Lima y Campos Seabra, 1945). 1-3. Vista dorsal. 4. Vista ventral.

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