

**REDESCRIPTION OF *NESOCASTOLUS NIGROCORIS*
(FRACKER AND BRUNER) AND NOTES ON THE GENUS
(HETEROPTERA: REDUVIIDAE: HARPACTORINAE)**

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Abstract.—The holotype and paratypes of *Nesocastolus nigrocoris* (Fracker and Bruner) were examined. Differentiating characters between this species and *Castolus* Stål are given.

Key Words: *Nesocastolus nigrocoris*, *Castolus* sp., Reduviidae

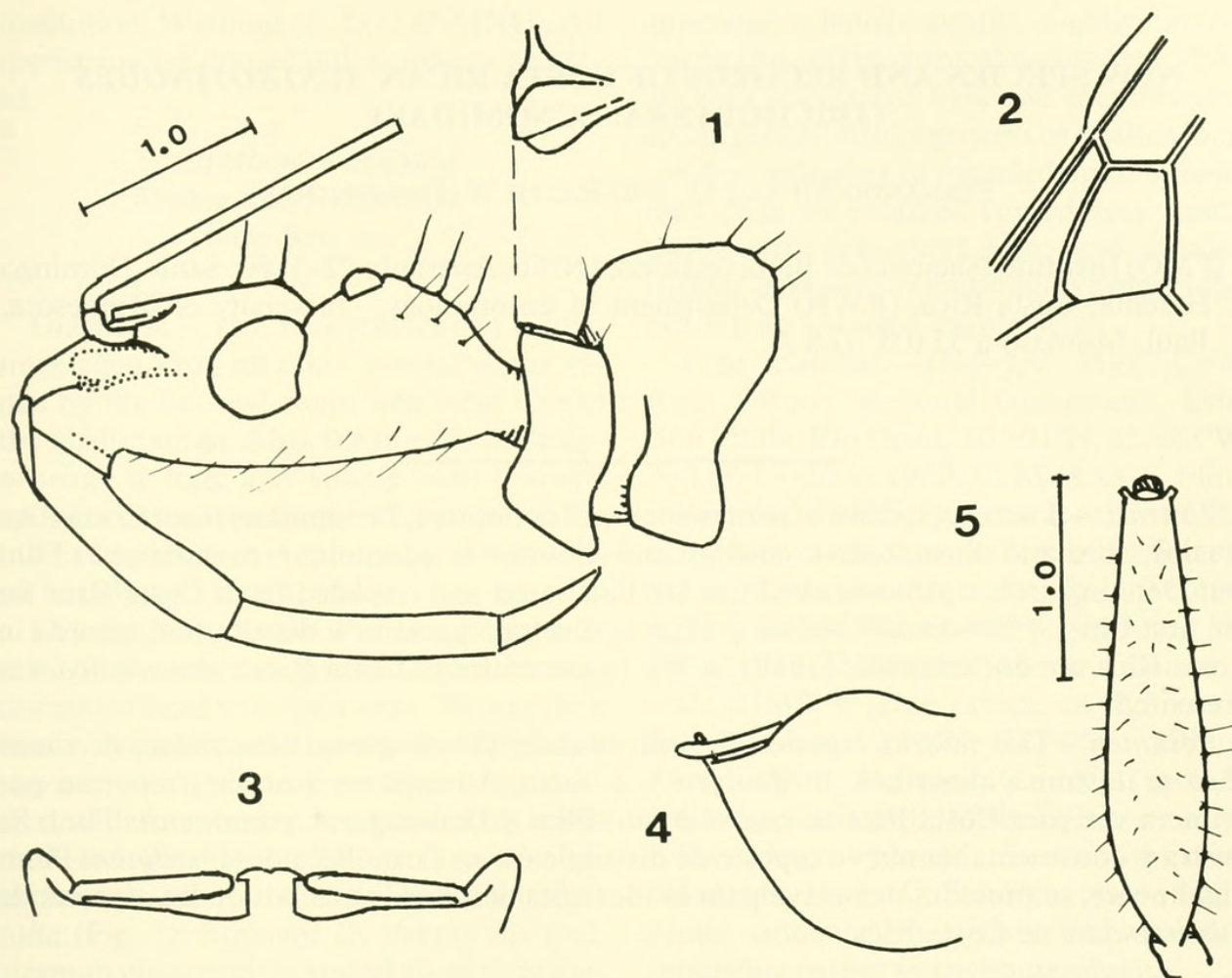
Bruner and Barber (1937) erected the genus *Nesocastolus* to include *Castolus multinctus* var. *nigrocoris* Fracker and Bruner, 1924, known only from Cuba. They gave this variety species rank and designated it the type of the genus. They studied seven other specimens four of which, besides the female holotype, are at the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) in Washington, D.C. The specimens are from Santiago de las Vegas, El Cano, and Caibaren. Herein I describe the male and compare the three other specimens with the type. The species is quite variable, within a given geographic locality, so, no subspecific names should be given to these forms. In the notes that follow all measurements are in mm.

The specimens at NMNH are labeled as follows: female holotype, Santiago de las Vegas, S. C. Bruner, no date; specimens compared with type: female, Santiago de las Vegas, Habana, EEA, Cuba, April 26, 1926, S. C. Bruner; female, El Cano, Cuba, EEA, Nov. 20, 1931, S. C. Bruner; female, Santiago de las Vegas, May 25, 1924, B. Barreto and a male, labeled Santiago de las Vegas, May 26, 1921, BTB(arreto).

Nesocastolus, as mentioned by Bruner and Barber, looks close to *Castolus*. The latter

has the first antennal longer than the second and much longer than head, first rostral segment longer than second and setae without enlarged bases. The setae of *Nesocastolus* arise from low conical bases. I expand their notes about how to differentiate these two genera and I add a few other characters.

All comparisons refer to species of *Castolus*. Anterior femora shorter and stouter (3.18; 0.62 at thickest point, prebasal, Fig. 5), and shorter as compared with thorax (2.63, 3.18). The hemelytra of females at most slightly surpass the abdomen, whereas in *Castolus* they surpass it by close to 2.00. In the latter genus the apex of the pterostigma almost reaches the apex of the abdomen, a useful generic character. The discal cell of the corium is unusually quadrangular (Fig. 2). It is elongate in most neotropical genera. The genus lacks a mesopleural plica, an important character not mentioned by the authors of both papers. The anterior lobe of the pronotum raises almost vertically behind the collar (Fig. 2). The moderately long, fine, vertical setae of the head, legs, and thorax arise from low, conical bases that give the corresponding margin a slight but clear, seemingly undulate appearance (notice upper margin of head and pronotum,



Figs. 1-5. *Nesocastolus nigrocoris* (Fracker and Bruner); female. 1, head and pronotum, lateral aspect, with dorsal detail of anterior angle of pronotum. Male holotype. 2, corial discal cell; 3, hypopygial margin, caudal aspect; 4, hypopygium, lateral aspect; 5, profemur, dorsal aspect.

Fig. 1). Species of *Castolus* typically have short, slender parameres, with their apices well separated from the hypopygial caudal spine and a group of setae between them. The parameres of *Nesocastolus nigrocoris* reach the hypopygial spine and the hypopygial margin lacks a group of setae (Figs. 3, 4).

The other three females studied vary in coloration from the described female. The female collected in 1924 by Barreto, has a mostly red head, both lobes of thorax red, hemelytra red with black membrane, basal half of femora red, and mostly black sterna. The male has the posterior lobe of the pronotum black, the head mostly black, black hemelytra except for reddish humeral an-

gles, tibia red basally, and mostly red abdominal sterna. This specimen has a swollen gular region that gives the head an oval outline on lateral view. This swelling, not mentioned by Bruner and Barber, is probably an abnormality, but if not it would be an excellent differentiating character. In all the female specimens (Fig. 1) the lower and upper surfaces of the head are subparallel.

LITERATURE CITED

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