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TWO NEW SPECIES OF WATER-STRIDERS FROM PERU (HEMIPTERA: GERRIDAE)

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The present paper characterizes two new species of water-striders from Peru, one belonging to the genus *Rheumatobates* and the other to *Cylindrostethus*. The members of the latter genus are the largest water-striders found in the Americas. The types of the new species are in the Drake Collection (U. S. National Museum).

Rheumatobates minimus, n. sp.

Apterous form: Very small, velvety black, with a subapical, rectangular, orange spot on pronotum. Antennae blackish fuscous, with narrow basal part and most of ventral surface of first segment whitish testaceous. Legs blackish fuscous with all acetabula, coxae, trochanters and bases of femora pale testaceous. Length 1.75 mm., width 0.60 mm.

Head with impressed, median, longitudinal line. Labium blackish fuscous, shiny, extending between anterior coxae. Antennae moderately long, straight, unmodified, with one or two stiff, dark hairs on third segment—segmental measurements: I, 19; II, 16; III, 15; IV, 18; (80 units equal 1 mm.). Anterior femora moderately swollen, thickest near middle, unmodified, 0.45 mm. long, beneath with a row of five or six, long, slender, blackish spines; tibiae enlarged apically, thickest at apex, 0.25 mm. long. Middle legs straight, with femora 1.35 mm. long, tibiae 1.15 mm. long. Hind legs straight, unmodified; femora 1.60 mm. long, extending nearly half of its length beyond apex of last genital segment; tibiae 0.50 mm. long.

Pronotum short, nearly truncate at middle behind. Mesonotum long, slightly longer than wide. Male genital segments beneath with a prominent, median, longitudinal furrow extending from near the base of first to middle of second segment.

Macropterous male: Pronotum convex across humeral angles, rounded on hind margin, median length and width (across humeri) subequal. Hemelytra very long, dark fumous, with apices reaching beyond tips of hind femora, not quite attaining tips of hind femora, with transverse breaking suture a little in front of middle. Length 2.50 mm. (to apex of hemelytra).

Holotype apterous male and 2 male *paratypes* (1 macropterous and other apterous) taken near the shore in quiet waters, River San Alejandro (Pampa Sacramento), Department of Loreto, July, 1958 (F. Woytkowski).

This tiny species has straight, unmodified antennae and legs. It is rather similar in general aspect to *R. drakei* Hungerford, but easily separated from it by measurements of the antennal segments beneath. Hungerford states that the anterior femur of male *drakei* has a row of about ten spines on the ventral side and that the comparative segmental measurements of antennae are: I (45), II (18), III (35) and IV (30).

***Cylindrostethus podargus*, n. sp.**

Apterous male: Very long, parallel-sided, blackish with vertex and a median, longitudinal stripe on anterior half of pronotum flavous; meso- and metanotum with a pair of narrow parallel, chocolate-brown stripes (one on each side) of meso- and metanotum; connexiva also with exterior margin chocolate-brown. Entire dorsal surface blackish, very densely clothed with recumbent, grayish white pubescence, the lateral sides and body beneath with slightly longer and more bluish pubescence. All acetabula, coxae and trochanters flavotestaceous. Anterior legs yellowish brown with ventral surface of femora, tibiae, apices of tibiae and entire tarsi blackish fuscous. Middle and hind legs yellowish brown with tips of femora, tibiae and tarsi blackish fuscous. Apical part of first genital segment above and most of last segment yellowish brownish. Length 18.50 mm., width 2.10 mm.

Antennae moderately long, fairly stout, with terminal segment slightly bent and tapered on apical third; measurements of segments: I, 2.50 mm.; II, 0.80 mm.; III, 0.25 mm.; IV, 1.30 mm. Labium with last segment black, shiny. Pronotum subquadrate, broadly depressed on median, longitudinal line; mesonotum not longitudinally depressed on sides, four times as long as broad, with a median, impressed, longitudinal line; metanotum about as long as pronotum, depressed, with a median, longitudinal, impressed line. Connexiva upright, moderately wide, each terminating be-

hind in a moderately long, straight spine, which extends backward almost to middle of first genital segment. First genital segment rather broad, impressed basally on each side, rounded behind; terminal segment very long, slender, tapering to apex, not quite twice as long as first segment, deeply impressed basally on each side, with a small, rectangular, platelike process on each side. Last segment of abdomen beneath deeply broadly excavated behind, without median notch. Apices of middle and hind femora extending beyond tip of last genital segment.

Apterous female: Slightly longer than male. Color and markings same, except connexiva yellowish brown with outer margins lighter chocolate-brown. Connexiva also upright with apices terminating in sharp, black, outwardly curved spines that reach scarcely beyond middle of first genital segment. Apices of femora of last two pairs of legs extending a little beyond the tip of last genital segment. First genital segment narrower than in male, also rounded behind; terminal genital segment very long, slender, tapering posteriorly to a sharp point. Length 19.30 mm. Macropterous forms unknown.

Holotype male, *allotype* female and 5 *paratypes*, River San Alejandro, (Pampa Sacramento), Department of Loreto, Peru, July 1958, Felix Woytkowski. The specimens were netted in the swift-flowing waters some distance from the shore.

This species belongs to the group of species that have the hind margin of the last ventral tergite in the male very deeply widely roundly excavated and without a median notch. The other members of this group are: *C. palmaris* Drake & Harris, *C. regulus* (B.-White) and *C. hungerfordi* Drake & Harris. The narrow, chocolate-brown stripes (one on each side of the dorsal surface) of meso- and metanotum distinguish *C. podargus* at once from the above species. In general aspect and size, it looks very much like the other group of the genus which has the last ventrite behind doubly emarginate (with a smaller median notch at the middle of the large emargination) and the thorax above without longitudinal stripes.



1958. "Two new species of water-striders from Peru (Hemiptera: Gerridae)."
Bulletin of the Brooklyn Entomological Society 53, 109–111.

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