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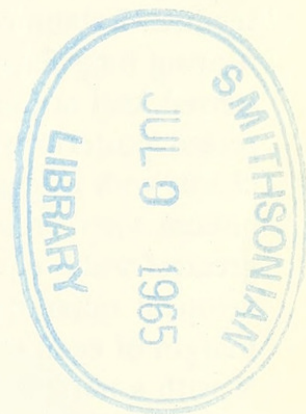
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A NEW SOUTH AMERICAN TOE BITER (HEMIPTERA, BELOSTOMATIDAE)

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A NEW SOUTH AMERICAN TOE BITER (HEMIPTERA, BELOSTOMATIDAE)

By A. S. MENKE¹

ABSTRACT: A new species of toe biter, *Belostoma rhomboides*, is described from French Guiana, South America. Among material recently received from South America, an interesting specimen of *Belostoma* was found which has proved to be a new species. The terminology used in the description has been explained by Lauck (1962) and Lauck and Menke (1961).

***Belostoma rhomboides*, new species**

Figures 1 and 2

Holotype female.—Length 21.5 mm., width 12.75 mm., width of head 5 mm., length of head 3 mm., width of pronotum 7 mm., length of pronotum 3 mm.; proportions of head as follows: length of anteoculus:interoculus (4:3.5), eye length:eye width:maximum interocular width (3.5:3.5:9.5), length of beak segment I:II (3.5:4.5).

Structural characters.—Base of clypeus reaching ocular line; beak stout, segment I about one half as broad as long; antenna four segmented, II and III bearing long finger-like projections; eye globose, outer margin rounded; prosternal keel not developed, prosternum flattened and V-shaped, apex of V directed posteriorly; front tarsus one-segmented (true segments II-III fused); clavus with a few faint veins; corium with a prominent network of veins; embolium very broad, strongly curved at middle (Fig. 1); membrane narrow, greatest width equal to greatest width of clavus (Fig. 1); flight wings fully developed; outer margin of ventral laterotergites not continuous, but serrate, margin of each tergite expanding posteriorly (Fig. 2); visible laterotergites II-V with a narrow band of long silky hair, remainder of abdominal venter covered with short, dense setae.

Distinctive markings.—Posterolateral angle of pronotum with a large, pale, yellow brown spot; base of clavus and corium, and embolium at embolial fracture, pale yellow brown; remainder of dorsum typically dark brown; venter and legs dark brown but anterolateral angle of ventral laterotergites IV-VI with a pale yellow brown spot (Fig. 2).

Distribution.—Known only from holotype female. French Guiana (no further data). Type deposited in the Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles.

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Figures 1 and 2, dorsal and ventral aspect, respectively, of holotype of *Belostoma rhomboides*, new species.



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