

NOTA / NOTE

An interesting observation: A nymph feeding on an adult female of *Stiretrus anchorago* (Fabricius, 1775) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae: Asopinae).

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Abstract: An observation of a nymph feeding on an adult female of *Stiretrus anchorago* (Fabricius, 1775) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae: Asopinae) is reported. Additional information on the ecology and the distribution of this species as well as of the genus *Stiretrus* Laporte, 1833 is also given.

Key words: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Pentatomidae, Asopinae, *Stiretrus anchorago*, ecology, distribution, predation, Mexico.

Resumen: Una observación interesante: Una ninfa alimentándose de una hembra adulta de *Stiretrus anchorago* (Fabricius, 1775) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae: Asopinae). Se informa sobre una observación de una ninfa alimentándose de una hembra adulta de *Stiretrus anchorago* (Fabricius, 1775) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae: Asopinae). Se aporta también información adicional sobre la ecología y la distribución de esta especie y del género *Stiretrus* Laporte, 1833.

Palabras clave: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Pentatomidae, Asopinae, *Stiretrus anchorago*, ecología, distribución, predación, México.

Recibido: 22 de febrero de 2016
Aceptado: 26 de febrero de 2016

Publicado on-line: 2 de marzo de 2016

The genus *Stiretrus* Laporte, 1833 belongs to the subfamily Asopinae of the family Pentatomidae. Eight species within this genus have been described (Grazia *et al.*, 2015).

Stiretrus anchorago (Fabricius, 1775) (Figs. 1-3) is the only species of the genus which is distributed in North America (United States of America) and Central America (Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama). The other seven species are known from South America respectively the Caribbean (Haiti and the Dominican Republic) (Grazia *et al.*, 2015).

Members of the genus *Stiretrus* are predators. They prey on other insects, especially different stages of Coleoptera and Lepidoptera (Richman & Mead, 2001; Poncio *et al.*, 2010; Paleari, 2013). In general, members of the asopines are pointed out as potential agents for pest control (Grazia *et al.*, 2015).

The colour patterns of adults of various species of *Stiretrus* are highly variable with a wide range of polymorphism. Different colour patterns among larvae have also been reported (Richman & Mead, 2001; Paleari, 2013).

On 22.8.2015, Lauren Green Zárte was able to observe and photograph an interesting behaviour: a recently hatched nymph was feeding on an adult female of *S. anchorago*. In the photograph (Fig. 3), the rostrum of the nymph is clearly seen, stuck into the abdomen of the adult female - supposingly sucking hemolymph. The observation took place in a forest in the Chorreadero Park near Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, Mexico. Most likely, both specimens belong to the subspecies *Stiretrus anchorago personatus* Germar, 1839, reported as native to Mexico (ITIS, 2016).

Lauren Green Zárate wrote about her observation that the adult female had a hatchling with her which followed her and eventually began to feed from her abdomen. Furthermore, she wrote: "This may be one origin of the few Pentatomidae (including this one) that are actually predatory. Her abdomen was already extended with eggs." Lauren Green Zárate also noticed that the adult female did not mind having the nymph with her or feeding on her (personal communication).

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Lauren Green Zárate (San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico) for providing me with information about her observation reported in this publication and for the photographs used to illustrate it.

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Fig. 1.- *Stiretrus anchorago* (Fabricius, 1775), female, dorsal view. Chorreadero Park, Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, Mexico, 22.8.2015.



Figs. 2-3. - *Stiretrus anchorago* (Fabricius, 1775), Chorreadero Park, Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, Mexico, 22.8.2015.
2. - Female, lateral view. 3. - Nymph feeding on an adult female. (Photographs: Lauren Green Zárate.)