

The taxonomic catalog of the Bolivian fauna: biodiversity and geographical distribution of Triatominae (Hemiptera, Reduviidae)

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INTRODUCTION

The subfamily Triatominae (Heteroptera: Reduviidae) are of epidemiological importance because they feed primarily on vertebrate blood and act as vectors of *Trypanosoma cruzi* (Chagas, 1909). The subfamily currently comprises 159 species, distributed in 19 genera and five tribes. Here, we present a taxonomic catalog of the Bolivian triatomine fauna, providing comprehensive information on the species recorded in the country.

OBJECTIVE(S)

The authors update all valid taxa of the Bolivian Triatominae and synthesize their known geographical distribution.

MATERIAL & METHODS

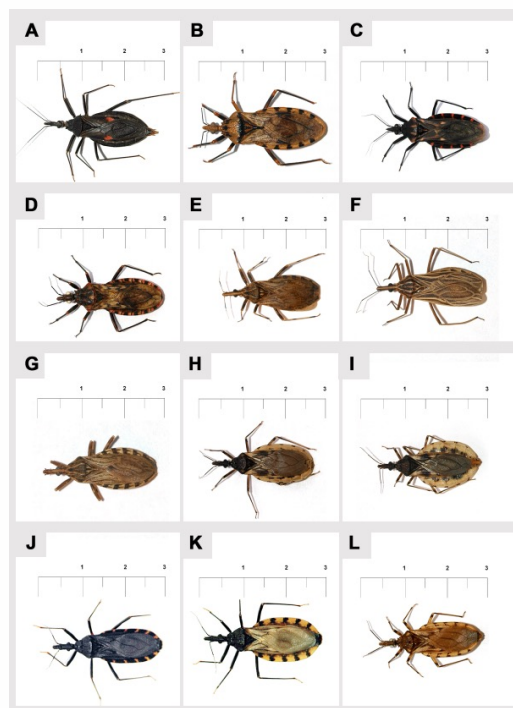
Data sources and geographic distribution. The geographic distribution data of triatomines from Bolivia have been updated since Rojas-Cortez et al. (2007). Records of triatomine occurrences were obtained through an exhaustive review of the bibliographic literature on geographic distribution. Additional data from publications published after 2007, as well as from the examination of specimens, are included here. The distributions presented refer exclusively to Bolivian departments. Species figures were included to facilitate the recognition of diagnostic characteristics and general morphological aspects.

RESULTS & CONCLUSION

For the year 2007, according to Rojas-Cortez et al (2007), Bolivia had a catalog of 16 triatomines species identified in their different Biogeographic areas. Currently, in the Bolivian territory, a remarkable diversity of triatomines unfolds, encompassing representatives from out of the six recognized genera. Up to the present moment, we have identified 22 out of the 159 known species, representing an increase of six species over 18 years, corresponding to 27% of the total. Leading the roster of biodiversity is the department of Santa Cruz, boasting a richness of 18 distinct species, closely followed by La Paz with 12 and Cochabamba 11. Conversely, Potosí (4) and Chuquisaca (5) emerge with the lowest recorded species counts. Currently *T. infestans* remains the main vector of Chagas disease in Bolivia. In the checklist published by Noireau et al. (2007), seven secondary candidate vector species were reported in Bolivia, distributed across a total of nine departments occurrences:

E. mucronatus, *P. megistus*, *P. rufotuberculatus*, *R. pictipes*, *R. stali*, *T. guasayana* and *T. sordida*.

Compared to current data, there has been an increase of 2 secondary candidate species for vectors: *P. geniculatus* and *R. robustus*.



Main vector and secondary vectors in Bolivia: A. *E. mucronatus*; B. *P. geniculatus*; C. *P. megistus*; D. *P. rufotuberculatus*; E. *R. pictipes*; F. *R. robustus*; G. *R. stali*; H. *T. guasayana* captured in the Chaco Serrano; I. *T. guasayana* captured in the Gran Chaco; J. *T. infestans* captured in Mesothermal Valleys; K. *T. infestans* captured in the Chaco Serrano and L. *T. sordida*. (Photographic images correspond to Rojas-Cortez M).

REFERENCES

•Galvão C (2025) Triatomine Bugs: History, Control, and Citizen Surveillance. Disease Biology, Genetics, and Socioecology 1, 8. <https://doi.org/10.53941/dbgs.2025.100008>

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