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Taxonomy and distribution of aquatic and semiaquatic Heteroptera (Insecta) from Cuba

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Abstract: Heteroptera is a worldwide distributed group of insects inhabiting both terrestrial and aquatic habitats and has an important ecological role. A survey of aquatic and semiaquatic Heteroptera from Cuba is provided based on literature reports and field collections. General data on species geographical distribution are given, along with altitude and collection season. Representatives of 86 species and morphospecies of the infraorders Dipsocoromorpha, Leptopodomorpha, Gerromorpha and Nepomorpha are listed, distributed in 35 genera and 16 families were found. Based on distributional data, a preference for habitats of stagnant water or slow current and lower altitudes is inferred. Fifteen species are distributed throughout the entire island. A higher species diversity was found in the Eastern sector, with 53 species (61.63%), 16 of which (18.60%) are confined to this area. The strongest biological similarity was found between Eastern and Western sectors (25%), and the weakest between Western and Central sectors (14%). Rev. Biol. Trop. 58 (3): 897-907. Epub 2010 September 01.

Key words: biodiversity, biogeography, check list, Neotropical Region, water bugs.

The suborder Heteroptera comprises a very interesting group of insects with a worldwide distribution. Most of the species are terrestrial, but many are found in stagnant or running freshwater habitats, estuaries, and even in open ocean waters (Nieser & Melo 1997, Andersen 1982). Generally, the aquatic and semiaquatic Heteroptera are predators with an intermediate stage in the food chains of their respective communities; some species may have economic importance as predators of mosquito larvae and adults, or as food for fish (Jenkins 1964, Menke 1979).

Most species of the aquatic and semiaquatic Heteroptera belong to the infraorders Leptopodomorpha, Gerromorpha and Nepomorpha, with the last two encompassing

approximately 92% of the aquatic bugs diversity (Polhemus & Polhemus 2008). According to Polhemus & Polhemus (2007), since the 1970's, major taxonomic activity concerning Neotropical water bugs is represented by works on Suriname, adjacent Northern South America, the Caribbean and Mexico, with the exception of the monograph of the genus *Rhagovelia* Mayr, 1865 of the Western Hemisphere (Polhemus 1997).

As for the Cuban island, there is a great gap of knowledge concerning this fauna, since only three significant taxonomic surveys of aquatic Heteroptera have been published up to date (Guérin-Méneville 1857, Alayo 1967, 1971, 1974, Nieser 1973, 1977). In this contribution, we present a review of the studies on

aquatic and semiaquatic Heteroptera reported from Cuba, an updated list of species, and biogeographical and distributional data.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

For species survey and information on their geographic distribution, a thorough bibliographic review, of published studies and recent monographs regarding aquatic insects from Universidade de Oriente, was undertaken. Also, specimens from different collections, made by researchers from the Departamento de Biología de la Universidad de Oriente throughout the country, were examined. Not all surveyed species were included in biogeographical and distributional discussions, because some of them presented incomplete locality or habitat data.

Tables were produced linking each species to biogeographical, habitat, season, and altitude data. For biogeographic distribution analysis, Samek (1973) regionalization criterion and Tsechanovsky's Index of Biological Similarity (BSI) (Feinsinger 2004) were applied. For habitat preference evaluation, habitats were divided into areas of flowing or stagnant water, the latter including river or stream pools, as well as ponds of any kind. For inferring altitudinal distribution, four groups were defined: species found up to 60m asl (A), up to 200m asl (B), up to 600m asl (C), and up to 750m asl (D). Seasonal distribution evaluation was based on available data from 46 species, which were grouped according to season (dry or rainy) of collection. Altitudinal distribution of Cuban aquatic bugs was inferred from data available for 39 species.

RESULTS

Brief history of Cuban aquatic and semiaquatic Heteroptera: In the 19th century, the classic work of Guérin-Ménéville (1857) listed 14 species (not including synonyms and misidentified species) of aquatic and semiaquatic Heteroptera from Cuba, belonging to

the families Saldidae, Gerridae, Hydrometridae, Veliidae, Belostomatidae, Corixidae, Naucoridae, Nepidae, and Notonectidae.

In Kirkaldy & Torre-Bueno (1909), excluding synonyms and errors of identification and distribution, 25 species were mentioned for Cuba, including records for Mesoveliidae and Pleidae. It is important to mention that records for *Neoplea striola* (Fieber, 1844) from Cuba cited by Kirkaldy & Torre-Bueno (1909) and previous works, actually belong to *Paraplea puella* (Barber, 1923). In addition, *Gelastocoris oculatus oculatus* (Fabricius, 1798) and *G. o. variegatus* (Guérin-Ménéville, 1844), treated as different species instead of subspecies, were cited by various authors for different localities from Insular Central America, but Kirkaldy & Torre-Bueno (1909) regarded those records as doubtful.

After the above cited works, isolated descriptions of species and studies on specific families or genera were made (Martin 1928, Anderson, 1932, Hungerford 1933, Hungerford & Evans 1934, Drake 1938, Kuitert 1942, Drake & Harris 1942, 1943, Hungerford 1948, Drake 1952, Truxal 1953, Hungerford 1954, Drake & De Carlo 1953, Drake & Hussey 1955, Lauck 1959, Menke 1963, Drake & Van Doesburg 1966). Those studies added 27 species to Cuban fauna, including records for Ochteridae and Hebridae, and ensuring the occurrence of Gelastocoridae.

However, the first taxonomic study dealing specifically with aquatic and semiaquatic Heteroptera from Cuba was published only by Alayo (1967), who listed and keyed 14 families, 30 genera and 63 species. Additions and emendations to this study were published by Alayo (1971), and an updated version in Alayo (1974), with 14 families, 32 genera and 68 species. New country records for 10 species were presented in Alayo's papers, including two Saldidae, three Gerridae, two Hebridae, one Mesoveliidae and two Veliidae.

Alayo (1974) recorded an undetermined species of *Laccocoris* Stål, 1856 from Cuba. However, the occurrence of the genus in America is highly questionable, and thus the record

should not be considered valid. Considering the doubtful presence of *Laccocoris*, the synonymy between *Trochopus* Carpenter, 1898 and *Rhagovelia* proposed by Polhemus (1997), the revalidation of *Neogerris* Matsumura, 1913 by Andersen (1975), and the newly described genera *Platyvelia* Polhemus & Polhemus, 1993 and *Steinovelina* Polhemus & Polhemus, 1993, the number of currently valid genera in Alayo (1974) remains 32.

Nieser (1973, 1977) enriched Alayo's list by adding one family (Dipsocoridae), three genera (*Cryptostemma* Herrich-Schäffer, 1835; *Eurygerris* Hungerford & Matsuda, 1958; and *Corisella* Lundblad, 1928), and six species. Since then, just a few contributions to the knowledge of aquatic Heteroptera of Cuba were made, and only *Trepobates carri* Kittle, 1982, *Hermatobates breddini* Herring, 1965 and *Rhagovelia cubana* Polhemus, 1997 have been newly recorded from the country (Polhemus & Herring 1979, Kittle 1982, Polhemus 1997).

Taxonomy: An updated list of Cuban aquatic and semiaquatic Heteroptera was generated, with 86 species and morphospecies, 35 genera and 16 families. *Eurygerris dominicus* (Drake & Maldonado-Capriles 1956), known only from Dominican Republic up to the date, is recorded from Cuba for the first time.

Ten morphospecies were found, representing either possibly undescribed taxa or new records to Cuban fauna: (1) Saldidae Gen. sp 1, recorded from Río Guantánamo, Guantánamo (Álvarez 2007); (2) Saldidae Gen. sp 2, from Río Cacoyoguín, Holguín (Hernández & Bauta 2003); (3) *Limnogonus* sp., from Río Gibara, Holguín (Hernández & Bauta 2003); (4) *Metrobates* sp., from Río Mayarí, Holguín (Aldana & Fonseca 2001); (5) *Rheumatobates* sp. and (6) *Buenoa* sp., from Río Máximo, Camagüey (Bello 2004); (7) *Trepobates* sp., from Río Cacoyoguín, Holguín (Hernández & Bauta 2003); (8) *Hydrometra* sp. from Hoyo de Fania, Pinar del Río (Nieser 1977); and (9) *Microvelia* sp. and (10) *Trichocorixa* sp., from Río Cauto, Granma (Hernández & Cala 2003).

Updates on those species will be published in forthcoming papers.

Besides *Laccocoris* sp., records of four other species cited by Alayo (1974) were not taken in consideration in the elaboration of the checklist: (1) *Limnogonus hyalinus* (Fabricius 1803), as Alayo affirmed that he had just one unlabeled specimen doubtfully belonging to this species and no others records from Cuba were found; (2) *Microvelia capitata* Guérin-Méneville, 1857, based in an inaccurate description and unknown type-series, which was considered a probable junior-synonym of *M. pulchella* Westwood, 1834 by Drake & Hussey (1955); (3) *Buenoa femoralis* (Fieber, 1851) and (4) *Lethocerus annulipes* (Herrich-Schäffer 1846), included among Cuban species by Alayo based only in records from nearby Puerto Rico and Hispaniola (Menke 1963), but that does not occur on Cuba (Perez-Goodwyn 2006).

Some other mistaken records for the aquatic and semiaquatic Heteroptera from Cuba were found in literature. The species *Ochterus perbosci* (Guérin-Méneville, 1843) was cited from Cuba by Champion (1901), based on Uhler (1893, 1894). However, the species recorded in both Uhler's articles were collected in St. Vincent and Grenada, but not in Cuba.

Several erroneous records were due to nomenclatural problems involving Central American Nepomorpha *Notonecta indica* Linnaeus, 1771 was mistakenly cited in literature as *N. americana* Fabricius, 1775 and *N. undulata* Say, 1832 (Hungerford 1933, Alayo 1974). *Trichocorixa louisianae* Jackzewski, 1931 was mistakenly identified as *T. reticulata* (Guérin-Méneville, 1857) by several authors, but is not a synonym of the latter species. The actual *T. reticulata* is a senior-synonym of *T. wallengreni* (Stål, 1859), *T. blackburni* (White, 1877) and *T. mariae* (Champion, 1901).

Belostoma apache cubensis Mayr, 1871, also cited by Alayo (1967, 1974) and Deler-Hernández *et al.* (2007), is a junior-synonym of *B. minor* (Palisot de Beauvois, 1805). *Belostoma boscai* (Lepeletier & Serville, 1863), cited from Cuba by Alayo and other authors, is a

nomen dubium, and thus not considered here. Both *B. anurum* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1848) and *B. elongatum* Montandon, 1908 were recorded from the island, but are in fact restricted to central and Southern South America (Lauck 1962-64). The *Zaitha anura* of Champion (1901) is interpreted nowadays as a mixture of species and the Cuban specimens originally seen by him probably corresponds to *B. ellipticum* Latreille, 1833.

The naucorid *Pelocoris poeyi* (Guérin-Méneville, 1835) was considered a junior-synonym of *P. femoratus* (Palisot de Beauvois, 1805), until Nieser (1969) revalidated that species. This erroneous synonymy lead to mistaken records of *P. femoratus* from Cuba, as may be seen in Alayo (1967, 1974), Aldana & Fonseca (2001), Puerta (2002), Hernández & Cala (2003), Hernández & Bauta (2003), Deller-Hernández *et al.* (2007) and Alvarez (2007). Finally, *Pelocoris convexus* Nieser, 1969 was described from the Antilles, but Nieser (1975) synonymized his *P. convexus* with *P. poeyi*.

Biogeographic analysis: Six of the 86 species listed were removed due to lack of information (Table 1). According to Samek's Biogeographic Sectors, Eastern Cuba bears a total of 53 species (61.63%), being the most representative sector, whereas Central Cuba is the poorest sector, with only 36 species (41.86%). Similar results were found for species in one of the sectors. Sixteen species were reported only for the Eastern Sector (18.60%), 14 (16.28%) are restricted to Western Sector and only six (6.98%) occur exclusively in Central Sector (Table 1, Fig. 1). There are only 15 pan-Cuban species (17.44%), whereas 13 species (15.12%) may be found in Eastern and Western Cuba, eight (9.30%) in Eastern and Central Cuba, and six (6.98%) are distributed in Central and Western Cuba (Fig. 1).

The highest BSI (25%) was observed between Sectors East-West, whereas East-Center and West-Center similarities amounted to 16% and 14%, respectively. The highest value of the East-West sectors may be due to the fact that these areas were targets of more

collections in the past, and thus reported the largest number of species. It is possible that intense collections in the Central Sector could change this interpretation.

Finally, it was noted that families represented by few species are restricted to one or two biogeographic sectors, with the exception of Pleidae, which has only one widely distributed species on the island (Table 1).

Distributional preferences: The habitat preference evaluation was based on data from 34 species (Table 2). More than a half of the species analyzed, 20 in total (58.8%), prefer stagnant habitats. Only two species (5.8%) were restricted to flowing areas, and 12 (35.4%) were found in both habitats. The two species collected exclusively in flowing areas are *Rhagovelia mira* Drake & Harris, 1938 (Veliidae) and *Sigara bradleyi* (Abbott, 1913) (Corixidae). Members of the genus *Rhagovelia* are usually found in fast running rivers, including areas of swift current. Corixids are almost always associated with stagnant waters rich in algae due to their scraping feeding habitat, and the presence of *S. bradleyi* preferably in flowing habitats is probably due to accidental

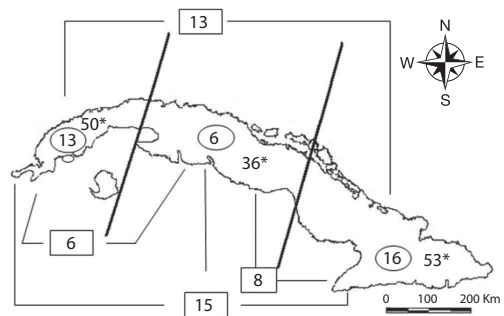


Fig. 1. Geographic distribution of aquatic and semiaquatic Heteroptera in Cuba, following the biogeographical sectors defined by Samek (1973). The two oblique lines separate the Eastern, Central and Western sectors. Numbers with asterisks represent the total of species in each sector. Circled numbers represent the total number of species found in each sector. Numbers in boxes represent the number of species common to a given set of connected sectors.

TABLE 1
Species and morphospecies surveyed and their geographic distribution

Family / Species	Western Sector	Central Sector	Eastern Sector
Dipsocoridae			
<i>Cryptostemma linguata</i> Nieser, 1973			X
Saldidae			
<i>Micracanthia humilis</i> (Say, 1832)	X		
<i>Pentacora hirta</i> (Say, 1832)	X		
<i>Pentacora signoreti</i> (Guérin-Méneville, 1857)			X
<i>Pentacora sphacelata</i> (Uhler, 1877)	X		
<i>Saldula coxalis</i> (Stål, 1873)	*	*	*
<i>Saldula pallipes</i> (Fabricius, 1803)			X
Saldidae Gn. Sp1			X
Saldidae Gn. Sp2			X
Gerridae			
<i>Eurygerris beieri</i> (Drake & Harris, 1934)			X
<i>Eurygerris cariniventris</i> (Champion, 1898)		X	X
<i>Eurygerris dominicus</i> (Drake & Maldonado-Capriles, 1956)			X
<i>Halobates micans</i> Eschscholtz, 1822	X		
<i>Limnogonus franciscanus</i> (Stål, 1859)	X	X	X
<i>Limnogonus recens</i> Drake & Harris, 1934		X	
<i>Limnogonus</i> sp.			X
<i>Metrobates tumidus</i> Anderson, 1932	X	X	X
<i>Metrobates</i> sp.			X
<i>Neogerris hesione</i> (Kirkaldy, 1902)	X		
<i>Rheumatobates clanis</i> Drake & Harris, 1932	X		
<i>Rheumatobates meinerti</i> Schroeder, 1931		X	
<i>Rheumatobates vegatus</i> Drake & Harris, 1942	X		X
<i>Rheumatobates</i> sp.		X	X
<i>Trepobates carri</i> Kittle, 1982	X		
<i>Trepobates pictus</i> (Herrich-Schäffer, 1848)		X	
<i>Trepobates taylora</i> (Kirkaldy, 1899)	X		X
<i>Trepobates</i> sp.			X
Hebriidae			
<i>Hebrus concinnus</i> Uhler, 1894	*	*	*
<i>Hebrus consolidus</i> Uhler, 1894	X		X
<i>Merragata hebroides</i> White, 1877	X		X
Hermatobatidae			
<i>Hermatobates bredini</i> Herring, 1965	X		
Hydrometridae			
<i>Hydrometra australis</i> Say, 1832	*	*	*
<i>Hydrometra caraiba</i> Guérin-Méneville, 1857		X	X
<i>Hydrometra consimilis</i> Barber, 1923	X	X	
<i>Hydrometra gibara</i> Torre-Bueno, 1926		X	X
<i>Hydrometra</i> sp.	X		
Mesoveliidae			
<i>Mesovelia amoena</i> Uhler, 1894	X		
<i>Mesovelia mulsanti</i> White, 1879	X	X	X
Veliidae			
<i>Microvelia albonotata</i> Champion, 1898	X		X
<i>Microvelia cubana</i> Drake, 1951	X	X	X
<i>Microvelia longipes</i> Uhler, 1894			X
<i>Microvelia mimula</i> White, 1879	X		
<i>Microvelia paludicola</i> Champion, 1898	X		X
<i>Microvelia pulchella</i> Westwood, 1834	X	X	X

TABLE 1 (Continued)
Species and morphospecies surveyed and their geographic distribution

Family / Species	Western Sector	Central Sector	Eastern Sector
<i>Microvelia</i> sp.			X
<i>Platyvelia brachialis</i> (Stål, 1860)	X		
<i>Rhagovelia collaris</i> (Burmeister, 1835)	X	X	X
<i>Rhagovelia cubana</i> Polhemus, 1997	X	X	
<i>Rhagovelia mira</i> Drake & Harris, 1938			X
<i>Rhagovelia plumbea</i> Uhler, 1894	X	X	
<i>Steinovelina stagnalis</i> (Burmeister, 1835)	X		X
Belostomatidae			
<i>Belostoma ellipticum</i> Latreille, 1833	X		X
<i>Belostoma minor</i> (Palisot de Beauvois, 1805)	X	X	X
<i>Benacus griseus</i> (Say, 1832)	X	X	X
<i>Lethocerus colossicus</i> (Stål, 1854)			X
<i>Lethocerus medius</i> (Guérin-Ménéville, 1857)	X	X	X
Corixidae			
<i>Centrocorisa nigripennis</i> (Fabricius, 1803)	X	X	X
<i>Corisella edulis</i> (Champion, 1901)	X		
<i>Ramphocorixa rotundocephala</i> Hungerford, 1927		X	
<i>Sigara bradleyi</i> (Abbott, 1913)		X	X
<i>Sigara cubiensis</i> Hungerford, 1948		X	
<i>Sigara jarmanae</i> Hungerford, 1939	X	X	
<i>Trichocorixa louisianae</i> Jaczewski, 1931	X		X
<i>Trichocorixa minima</i> (Abbott, 1913)	X	X	
<i>Trichocorixa sexcinta</i> (Champion, 1901)	X	X	
<i>Trichocorixa reticulata</i> (Guérin-Ménéville, 1857)	X		X
<i>Trichocorixa verticalis</i> (Fieber, 1851)	X		X
<i>Trichocorixa</i> sp.			X
Gelastocoridae			
<i>Gelastocoris oculatus oculatus</i> (Fabricius, 1798)	X		X
<i>Gelastocoris oculatus variegatus</i> (Guérin-Ménéville, 1844)			X
Naucoridae			
<i>Pelocoris poeyi</i> (Guérin-Ménéville, 1835)		X	X
Nepidae			
<i>Ranatra fabricii</i> Guérin-Ménéville, 1857	X	X	X
<i>Ranatra sagrai</i> Drake & De Carlo, 1953	X	X	
Notonectidae			
<i>Buenoa antigone</i> (Kirkaldy, 1899)	X	X	X
<i>Buenoa albida</i> (Champion, 1901)	X		
<i>Buenoa gracilis</i> Truxal, 1953	X		X
<i>Buenoa macrophtalma</i> (Fieber, 1851)		X	X
<i>Buenoa pallipes</i> (Fabricius, 1803)		X	X
<i>Buenoa platycnemis</i> (Fieber, 1851)	X	X	X
<i>Buenoa scimitra</i> Bare, 1925	*	*	*
<i>Buenoa</i> sp.		X	
<i>Notonecta indica</i> Linnaeus, 1771	X	X	X
<i>Notonecta confusa</i> Hungerford, 1930	*	*	*
Ochteridae			
<i>Ochterus acutangulus</i> (Champion, 1901)	*	*	*
<i>Ochterus hungerfordi</i> Schell, 1943	X		X
Pleidae			
<i>Paraplea puella</i> (Barber, 1923)	X	X	X

* - no data available.

TABLE 2
Distribution of the species recorded in relation to habitat, season and altitude

Species	Habitat		Season		Altitudinal Groups			
	Flowing	Stagnant	Dry	Rainy	A	B	C	D
<i>Saldula pallipes</i> (Fabricius, 1803)	*	*	X	X		X		
Saldidae Gn. Sp1	*	*	X	X		X		
Saldidae Gn. Sp2	*	*	X	-	X			
<i>Eurygerris cariniventris</i> (Champion, 1898)	*	*	*	*				X
<i>Eurygerris dominicus</i> (Drake & Maldonado-Capriles, 1956)	X	X	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Limnogonus franciscanus</i> (Stål, 1859)	-	X	X	X			X	
<i>Limnogonus</i> sp.	*	*	X	X		X		
<i>Metrobates tumidus</i> Anderson, 1932	-	X	X	X				X
<i>Metrobates</i> sp.	*	*	X	-	*	*	*	*
<i>Neogerris hesione</i> (Kirkaldy, 1902)	X	X	X	X	*	*	*	*
<i>Rheumatobates meinerti</i> Schroeder, 1931	-	X	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Rheumatobates vegatus</i> Drake & Harris, 1942	X	X	-	X	X			
<i>Rheumatobates</i> sp.	-	X	X	-	X			
<i>Trepobates carri</i> Kittle, 1982	X	X	X	X	*	*	*	*
<i>Trepobates pictus</i> (Herrich-Schäffer, 1848)	X	X	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Trepobates taylori</i> (Kirkaldy, 1899)	X	X	X	X			X	
<i>Trepobates</i> sp.	*	*	X	X	X			
<i>Hebrus concinnus</i> Uhler, 1894	*	*	X	X	*	*	*	*
<i>Hebrus consolidus</i> Uhler, 1894	-	X	X	X	*	*	*	*
<i>Merragata hebroides</i> White, 1877	-	X	X	X		X		
<i>Hydrometra australis</i> Say, 1832	-	X	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Hydrometra caraiba</i> Guérin-Méneville, 1857	*	*	X	X		X		
<i>Hydrometra consimilis</i> Barber, 1923	*	*	X	-	*	*	*	*
<i>Hydrometra gibara</i> Torre-Bueno, 1926	X	X	-	X		X		
<i>Hydrometra</i> sp.	-	X	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Mesovelgia amoena</i> Uhler, 1894	*	*	X	-	*	*	*	*
<i>Mesovelgia mulsanti</i> White, 1879	*	*	X	X			X	
<i>Microvelia albonotata</i> Champion, 1898	*	*	*	*				X
<i>Microvelia cubana</i> Drake, 1951	-	X	X	X				X
<i>Microvelia paludicola</i> Champion, 1898	X	X	X	X	X			
<i>Microvelia pulchella</i> Westwood, 1834	-	X	X	-	*	*	*	*
<i>Microvelia</i> sp.	*	*	-	X			X	
<i>Rhagovelia collaris</i> (Burmeister, 1835)	-	X	X	X				X
<i>Rhagovelia cubana</i> Polhemus, 1997	*	*	X	X				X
<i>Rhagovelia mira</i> Drake & Harris, 1938	X	-	-	X				X
<i>Rhagovelia plumbea</i> Uhler, 1894	-	X	X	X	X			
<i>Steinovelgia stagnalis</i> (Burmeister, 1835)	*	*	X	X	X			
<i>Belostoma minor</i> (Palisot de Beauvois, 1805)	-	X	X	X			X	
<i>Benacus griseus</i> (Say, 1832)	*	*	X	-	*	*	*	*
<i>Lethocerus colossicus</i> (Stål, 1854)	*	*	X	X			X	
<i>Lethocerus medius</i> (Guérin-Méneville, 1857)	X	X	X	X	*	*	*	*
<i>Ramphocorixa rotundocephala</i> Hungerford, 1927	-	X	X	X	*	*	*	*
<i>Sigara bradleyi</i> (Abbott, 1913)	X	-	*	*	X			
<i>Trichocorixa louisianae</i> Jaczewski, 1931	*	*	X	X	*	*	*	*

TABLE 2 (Continued)
Distribution of the species recorded in relation to habitat, season and altitude

Species	Habitat		Season		Altitudinal Groups			
	Flowing	Stagnant	Dry	Rainy	A	B	C	D
<i>Trichocorixa minima</i> (Abbott, 1913)	-	X	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Trichocorixa sexcinta</i> (Champion, 1901)	-	X	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Trichocorixa reticulata</i> (Guérin-Méneville, 1857)	*	*	X	-	X			
<i>Trichocorixa</i> sp.	-	X	X	X			X	
<i>Gelastocoris oculatus oculatus</i> (Fabricius, 1798)	-	X	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Gelastocoris oculatus variegatus</i> (Guérin-Méneville, 1857)	X	X	*	*				X
<i>Pelocoris poeyi</i> (Guérin-Méneville, 1835)	*	*	X	X		X		
<i>Ranatra fabricii</i> Guérin-Méneville, 1857	X	X	X	X		X		
<i>Ranatra sagrai</i> Drake & De Carlo, 1953	X	X	-	X	X			
<i>Buenoa antigone</i> (Kirkaldy, 1899)	*	*	*	*				X
<i>Buenoa gracilis</i> Truxal, 1953	*	*	X	-			X	
<i>Buenoa macrophtalma</i> (Fieber, 1851)	-	X	X	X				X
<i>Buenoa platycnemis</i> (Fieber, 1851)	*	*	*	*				X
<i>Buenoa</i> sp.	*	*	-	X	*	*	*	*
<i>Notonecta indica</i> Linnaeus, 1771	*	*	X	X			X	
<i>Paraplea puella</i> (Barber, 1923)	-	X	X	X		X		

* - no data available.

collection or mislabeling. At family level, Hebridae, Notonectidae and Pleidae occurred exclusively on stagnant water, and all other families were represented in both flowing and stagnant habitats (but see note on Corixidae above).

Based on data available from 46 taxa, 31 species (67.4%) were found in both seasons, 6 (13%) only during rainy season, and 9 (19.6%) were collected only during dry season (Table 2).

Altitudinal distribution of Cuban aquatic bugs was inferred from data available for 39 species (Table 2). Group A (found up to 60m asl) was represented by 10 species (25.6%), Group B (found up to 200m asl) 9 species (23%), Group C (found up to 600m asl) 9 species (23%) and Group D (found up to 750m asl) 11 species (28%). Almost half of the species studied are restricted to altitudes up to 200m above sea level. Saldidae, Hebridae, Hydrometridae, Naucoridae, Nepidae and Pleidae were found exclusively on altitudinal

groups A and B, showing that most water bugs exhibit a distinct preference for lower altitudes. Considering species found at higher altitudes (Group D), there is a clear dominance of Veliidae, Gerridae and Notonectidae species, although Gelastocoridae and Belostomatidae are also represented. Gerridae and Veliidae exhibited the most diverse altitudinal preferences, with some species restricted to lower areas, such as *Rheumatobates* spp. and *Steinovelina stagnalis* (Burmeister, 1835), and others being more widely distributed, as most members of the genus *Rhagovelia*.

DISCUSSION

For the biogeographic analysis, our results are similar to those obtained by Naranjo & Cañizares (1999), Trapero & Naranjo (2003), and Naranjo & González (2005) in their respective studies on the orders Ephemeroptera,

Odonata and Trichoptera from Cuba. Distributional patterns of these orders and that described here for Heteroptera are consistent with the fact that the main flow of species between Cuba and the American Continent took place through two fundamental means: (1) from North America and Yucatán throughout the Western part of Cuba and (2) from South America throughout the Lesser Antilles arriving in the Eastern part of Cuba. This hypothesis explains the existence of a greater number of species in Eastern and Western Sectors in comparison to Central Sector (Iturralde-Vinent 2004). Notwithstanding that, the greatest number of species on Eastern Cuba is probably related with the presence of the largest number of hydrographic basins, and large well-preserved mountainous ecosystems in this sector.

Our results at the species and family level are similar to those found by Alayo (1967, 1974), and corroborate the preference of aquatic bugs for slow current or stagnant waters. The vast majority of species presented a wide seasonal distribution, whereas only few were restricted to just one season. Saulich & Musolin (2007) stated that in regions where environmental conditions are constantly stable and favorable, some heteropterans may breed all year round, thus having a homodynamic type of seasonal development. In fact, this might be the case of most Cuban species.

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RESUMEN

Heteroptera es un grupo de insectos que se distribuyen en todo el mundo, viven en ambientes terrestres y acuáticos, en los que tienen un papel ecológico muy importante. Mediante la literatura y colecciones en el

campo se estudiaron los Heterópteros acuáticos y semiacuáticos de Cuba, junto con datos sobre la distribución geográfica de las especies, altitud y estaciones de colecta. Se enumeran representantes de 86 especies y morfosppecies de los infraórdenes Dipsocoromorpha, Leptopodomorpha, Gerromorpha y Nepomorpha, con un total de 35 géneros y 16 familias. Los datos de distribución muestran una preferencia por los ambientes de aguas lentas o estancadas y áreas de baja altitud. Quince especies se distribuyen en toda la isla; el sector Oriental es el mejor representado, con 53 especies (61.63%), 16 de ellas (18.60%) confinadas a este sector. La similitud biológica más fuerte se encontró entre los sectores oriental y occidental (25%) y la más débil entre los sectores occidental y central (14%).

Palabras clave: chinches acuáticos, biogeografía, lista de especies, Región Neotropical.

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