

**Revision of the *Phthia* generic complex with a description  
of four new genera (Hemiptera: Heteroptera:  
Coreidae: Coreinae: Leptoscelini)**

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**Abstract.** The Neotropical genus *Phthia* Stål, 1862 in its current wide concept is revised and divided into five genera: *Phthia* s. str., *Phthiacnemia* gen. nov., *Phthiadema* gen. nov., *Phthiarella* gen. nov., and *Rhytidophthia* gen. nov. The following nine new combinations (all from *Phthia*) are proposed: *Phthiacnemia picta* (Drury, 1770), comb. nov.; *Phthiadema cyanea* (Signoret, 1862), comb. nov., *Ph. ornata* (Stål, 1865), comb. nov., and *Ph. smaragdina* (Walker, 1871), comb. nov.; *Phthiarella affinis* (Distant, 1901), comb. nov., *Ph. decorata* (Stål, 1865), comb. nov., *Ph. femorata* (Breddin, 1901), comb. nov., and *Ph. sponsa* (Breddin, 1901), comb. nov.; and *Rhytidophthia splendida* (Valdés, 1910), comb. nov.

**Key words.** Heteroptera, Coreidae, *Phthia* generic complex, new genera

### Introduction

The genus *Phthia* Stål, 1862 has been used as a 'catch-all taxon' to which numerous species displaying superficial similarities have been added. Nonetheless, it is possible to recognize within that assemblage well-defined groups of species whose morphology and coloration justify their recognition as separate genera. The need for such separation had been noted by OSUNA (1981), PACKAUSKAS (1994a,b, 2008) and PACKAUSKAS & SCHAEFER (2001), but no action was taken.

Within the generic complex, some species are completely metallic, others with metallic coloration restricted to certain regions of the body, and still others without metallic colours. On some species the metathoracic peritreme is simple (Fig. 17), whereas on others it is bilobate (Fig. 16); the posttylar sulcus can be present or absent on different species; the tylus can be situated above or below the juga; the anterolateral margins of the pronotum can be smooth or dentate, and the posterolateral margins smooth or with the outer third dentate; the anterior lobe of the pronotum may or may not have a yellow transverse band; the dorsal surface of the hind femur can be smooth or tuberculate; the male hind tibiae can be armed or unarmed;