

***Largus giganteus* sp. nov. from Brazil
and notes on hybridization within *Largus*
(Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Largidae)**

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Abstract. A new species of the family Largidae, *Largus giganteus* sp. nov., is described from Brazil. The possible hybridization among several Central American species of *Largus* Hahn, 1831 is noted.

Keywords. Heteroptera, Largidae, hybridization, taxonomy, new species, Brazil, Neotropical Region

Introduction

The genus *Largus* Hahn, 1831 includes 56 valid species (HUSSEY 1929; SCHMIDT 1931; BLÖTE 1933; BLIVEN 1956, 1959, 1973; VAN DOESBURG 1966; HALSTEAD 1970, 1972a,b; DELLAPÉ et al. 2010); however, the status of several species is controversial and needs revision (cf. HALSTEAD (1972) versus BLIVEN (1973); see also HENRY (1988)). All *Largus* species are distributed in America from the north of the United States (Minnesota, New Jersey, New York) to Argentina in the south, as well as in the West Indies (HUSSEY 1929, SCHMIDT 1931, HENRY 1988, COSCARÓN et al. 2004, DELLAPÉ et al. 2010). SCHMIDT (1931) divided *Largus* into two main groups: ‘Gruppe I’ including species with metafemora without spines and ‘Gruppe II’ including those with metafemora spinose. He further divided the first group according to the coloration of the metathorax into ‘Gruppe I. A’ (posterior pleural flange III whitish, not concolorous with the rest of thorax; including the type species *Largus humilis* Drury, 1782); and ‘Gruppe I. B’ (posterior pleural flange III concolorous with the remaining thorax). The ‘Gruppe I. A’ is distributed only in South America (SCHMIDT 1931) and all the included species and their subspecies are morphologically distinct without any intermediates. The ‘Gruppe I. B’ is more widely distributed, occupying the entire distribution area of the genus (SCHMIDT 1931). Some North and Central American species of the ‘Gruppe I. B’ often produce morphologically intermediate specimens which might suggest a collapse of the reproduction barrier among the species and common hybridization, as well as back-crosses between hyb-