

A human case of biting by *Nabis punctipennis* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Nabidae) in Chile

Eduardo I. FAÚNDEZ^{1,2} & Máriom A. CARVAJAL²

¹) Grupo Entomon, Laboratorio de Entomología, Instituto de la Patagonia, Universidad de Magallanes, Avenida Bulnes 01855, Casilla 113-D, Punta Arenas, Chile; e-mail: ed.faundez@gmail.com

²) Centro de Estudios en Biodiversidad (CEBCh), Osorno, Chile; e-mail: mariom.carvajal@gmail.com.

Abstract. A case of the damsel bug *Nabis punctipennis* Blanchard, 1852 (Nabidae) biting human in Valparaiso Region, Chile, is described and discussed. The nabid might have been attempting to obtain water and/or solutes.

Key words. Heteroptera, Nabidae, adventitious bite, Chile

Resumen. Se describe y discute un caso de picadura a un humano por el chinche *Nabis punctipennis* Blanchard, 1852 (Nabidae), en la Región de Valparaiso, Chile. Se concluye la obtención de agua y/o solutos como el posible propósito de la picadura.

Palabras clave. Heteroptera, Nabidae, picadura adventicia, Chile

Introduction

Few heteropterans attack humans. Kissing bugs (Reduviidae: Triatominae) and bed bugs (Cimicidae) feed on vertebrate blood, and some willingly or preferentially suck blood from humans. All other heteropterans (except for Polyctenidae ectoparasitic on bats) leave vertebrates alone and they attack humans only adventitiously (SCHAEFER 2000).

In Chile the only heteropterans considered medically important or to bite humans are principally Reduviidae (Triatominae) (i.e. *Triatoma infestans* (Klug, 1834), *Mepraia spinolai* (Porter, 1933), *M. gajardoi* Frías, Henry & González 1998, *M. parapatrica* Frías, 2010) and Cimicidae such as *Cimex lectularius* (Linnaeus, 1758). Although no previous cases of adventitious biting by Nabidae have been reported in Chile, several cases of biting by *Nabis capsiformis* Germar, 1837 also living in Chile, have been described (KINNEAR 1909, MATHESON 1950, HEATH 1985, BRYAN 1933).

The heteropteran family Nabidae, commonly referred to as damsel bugs, contains about 500 species placed in 20 genera (SCHUH & SLATER 1995); four species have been recorded