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(HEMIPTERA, BELOSTOMATIDAE)

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ABSTRACT: A new species of toe biter, *Belostoma rhomboides*, is described from French Guiana, South America. Among material recently received from South America, an interesting specimen of *Belostoma* was found which has proved to be a new species. The terminology used in the description has been explained by Lauck (1962) and Lauck and Menke (1961).

***Belostoma rhomboides*, new species**

Figures 1 and 2

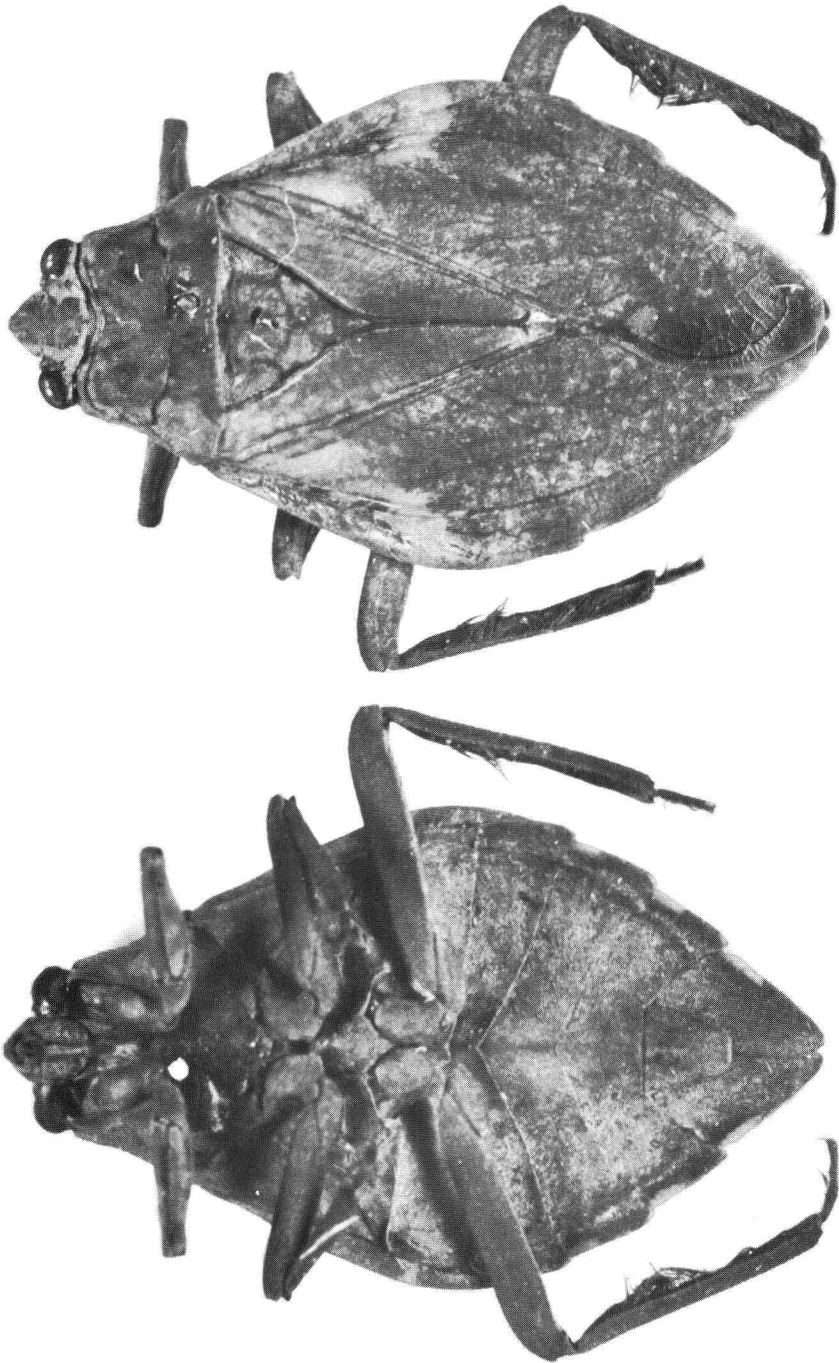
Holotype female.—Length 21.5 mm., width 12.75 mm., width of head 5 mm., length of head 3 mm., width of pronotum 7 mm., length of pronotum 3 mm.; proportions of head as follows: length of anteculus:interoculus (4:3.5), eye length:eye width:maximum interocular width (3.5:3.5:9.5), length of beak segment I:II (3.5:4.5).

Structural characters.—Base of clypeus reaching ocular line; beak stout, segment I about one half as broad as long; antenna four segmented, II and III bearing long finger-like projections; eye globose, outer margin rounded; prosternal keel not developed, prosternum flattened and V-shaped, apex of V directed posteriorly; front tarsus one-segmented (true segments II-III fused); clavus with a few faint veins; corium with a prominent network of veins; embolium very broad, strongly curved at middle (Fig. 1); membrane narrow, greatest width equal to greatest width of clavus (Fig. 1); flight wings fully developed; outer margin of ventral laterotergites not continuous, but serrate, margin of each tergite expanding posteriorly (Fig. 2); visible laterotergites II-V with a narrow band of long silky hair, remainder of abdominal venter covered with short, dense setae.

Distinctive markings.—Posterolateral angle of pronotum with a large, pale, yellow brown spot; base of clavus and corium, and embolium at embolial fracture, pale yellow brown; remainder of dorsum typically dark brown; venter and legs dark brown but anterolateral angle of ventral laterotergites IV-VI with a pale yellow brown spot (Fig. 2).

Distribution.—Known only from holotype female. French Guiana (no further data). Type deposited in the Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles.

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Figures 1 and 2, dorsal and ventral aspect, respectively, of holotype of *Belostoma rhomboides*, new species.

Discussion.—*Belostoma rhomboides* can be separated readily from all other known *Belostoma* by the one-segmented front tarsus, form of prosternum, narrow forewing membrane and the serrate abdominal margin. The only other belostomatids that have a one-segmented tarsus are the species of *Horvathinia* and *Diplonychus urinator* (Dufour). *Belostoma rhomboides* does not fit any of the species groups outlined by Lauck (1962) and probably should be placed in a group by itself. The affinities of this species are not clear. The small eyes and narrow membrane are suggestive of the genus *Abedus* but the air straps are typically *Belostoma*. The discovery of a male should shed some light on the relationships of *rhomboides* since the genitalia are diagnostic in most of Lauck's species groups.

LITERATURE CITED

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