A NEW CYLINDROSTETHUS FROM PERU (HEMIPTERA: GERRIDAE)

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The genus Cylindrostethus Mayr (1865) is represented in the Western Hemisphere by seven species, all from the Neotropical Region. The members of the genus are very long, nearly cylindrical, and are the largest of the American water-striders. The type species of the genus is C. fieberi Mayr from Ceylon.

The present paper characterizes a new species from Peru, which belongs to the "regulus group" of species, the members of which have the seventh sternum in the male with only a broadly rounded excavation on hind margin.

Cylindrostethus stygius, new species

Very long, terete, blackish, rather densely clothed with short, grayish, appressed, pubescent hairs, the hairs on sides of body a little longer than those on dorsal and inferior surfaces; vertex and most of genital segments yellowish brown. Antennae dark brownish fuscous. Legs brownish fuscous, with most of femora, coxae, trochanters, and acetabula yellowish brown; fore femora with front face and inferior side of tibiae blackish. Pronotum, mesonotum, and metanotum with a narrow, longitudinal, dark fuscous stripe on each side. Connexiva brownish to blackish brown with exterior margin blackish fuscous. Pronotum impressed medially, mesonotum and metanotum with impressed, median, longitudinal line. Entire surface feebly shiny, with sides of body slightly silvery. Length 18 mm, width (base of metanotum) 2 mm. Macropterous form unknown.

Antennal measurements: segment I, 2.6 mm; II, 0.8 mm; III, 0.5 mm; IV, 1.28 mm. Rostrum short, with last segment shining black, not reaching to base of head. Legs very long, middle and hind pairs with apices of femora extending considerably beyond tip of last genital segment in male; hind femora only slightly projecting beyond apex of last genital in female, connexiva moderately wide, nearly erect, each terminating behind in a backward-directed spine in both sexes, these spines extending to middle of first genital segment in male, slightly longer in female.
Male: Seventh abdominal sternum deeply, broadly, concavely excavated behind. First genital segment above subquadrate in outline, impressed on each side of median ridge, broadly rounded behind; beneath longer than wide. Second genital segment very long, above strongly compressed laterally at base so as to be ridge-like, thence tapering posteriorly to a point, the lateral processes (one on each side) subtriangular, blackish, shiny.

Female: First genital segment slowly narrowed posteriorly, rounded at apex, beneath longer than above with apex obtusely rounded; second genital segment very long, tapering backwards to a point.  

Holotype (male), allotype (female): San Alejandro River, Peru, July 1956, F. Woythowski. Paratypes: 1 male (genital segments missing) and 4 females, same data as type label. Types in Drake Collection (USNM).

This species belongs to the group of species of Cylindrostethus that have the abdominal sternum in male broadly concavely emarginate behind. It differs from C. palmaris Drake and Harris, C. hungerfordi Drake and Harris, and C. regulus (Buchanan-White) by its blackish color, short, grayish pubescence, very narrow, parallel, thoracic stripes (one on each side of dorsal surface), and genital segments as described in the description. The color of the body reminds one of C. linearis (Erichson) and related forms, but the members of this group have the hind margin of the seventh abdominal sternum double-emarginate (second notch subquadrate and located at middle of first emargination).