



Letter to Editor/Carta ao Editor

The first recorded occurrence of *Psammolestes coreodes* Bergroth, 1911 (Hemiptera: Reduviidae: Triatominae) in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil

A primeira ocorrência de *Psammolestes coreodes* Bergroth, 1911 (Hemiptera: Reduviidae: Triatominae) no Estado de Mato Grosso do Sul, Brasil

Dear editor:

A recent communication published by Almeida et al¹ in RSBMT reported the occurrence of *Psammolestes coreodes* Bergroth, 1911, for the first time in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. However, the authors overlooked the pioneering articles of Lent², Travassos³, Travassos & Freitas⁴ and Barretto⁵ who had previously recorded the occurrence of this triatomine species in bird nests (*Phacellodomus rufifrons sincipitalis*) in Miranda, a municipality of Mato Grosso do Sul. Thus the phrase "This paper describes the occurrence of *Psammolestes coreodes* Bergroth, 1911, for the first time in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul" published by Almeida et al¹ was clearly a mistake.

Psammolestes coreodes is the southernmost representative of the *Psammolestes*⁶. It has been recorded in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay⁷. As for the other two species of the genus *Psammolestes*, *P. coreodes* specimens are observed mainly in thornbird nests⁸. In a recent study, our group analyzed the distribution of *Psammolestes* species in South America⁹. The predicted distribution of *P. coreodes* covered Argentina, southeastern Bolivia, southwestern Brazil and Paraguay, in eight ecoregions (Chaco savannahs, Humid Chaco, Pantanal, Argentine Espinal, Humid Pampas, Cordoba montane savannahs, Arid Chaco, and Mesopotamian savannahs). The taxonomic status of *Psammolestes* populations of south Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul, in the Brazilian Pantanal, should be analyzed because this region includes the geographical boundaries of *P. coreodes* and *P. tertius*. Thus, these species could be sympatric in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul.

Although the communication of Almeida et al¹ was not the first describing the occurrence of *P. coreodes* in Mato Grosso do Sul, it shows a relevant record of an adult specimen in a chicken house.

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This lead us to deduce a synanthropic trend of *P. coreodes* in Brazil, as occasionally reported in Paraguay and Argentina.⁸. Thus, I suggest that the phrase mentioned in the article of Almeida et al¹ should be substituted with: "This paper describes the occurrence of *Psammolestes coreodes* Bergroth, 1911, for the first time in peridomestic habitat (chicken house) in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul".

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