

***Saicireta correntina*, a new genus and species of assassin bug  
from Argentina (Heteroptera, Reduviidae, Saicinae)  
with a key to the New World genera**

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**Key words:** Reduviidae, Saicinae, Argentina, new genus, *Saicireta correntina* sp. n., key.

## Abstract

The new genus *Saicireta* is described to include *S. correntina* sp. n. from Corrientes, Argentina. Head, pronotum, scutellum, forewing, male and female genitalia are illustrated. Its relationship to other neotropical Saicinae genera is discussed. A key to the Neotropical genera is presented.

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## Introduction

The subfamily Saicinae comprises 21 genera and 140 species (Maldonado Capriles 1990), in New World is represented by 8 genera and 35 species. According to Wygodzinsky (1966) it is closely related to the Emesinae; this relationship is based on characters such as the absence of ocelli and dorsal abdominal scent glands, and a well developed corium. The Saicinae are characterized by the elongate forecoxa, the second segment of rostrum more or less bulbously expanded basally, and the prosternum produced into an acute process. This group of nocturnal reduviids was first studied by McAtee & Malloch (1923) who made a key to the American genera and species; later Monte (1943), Maldonado Capriles (1981), and Blinn (1990) described three new genera and modified the key to include them.

In this paper we describe a new genus from Argentina and adapt Blinn's key to the American genera to include *Saicireta* n.g. Illustrations

of forewing, male and female genitalia, and other structures are given.

The specimens examined were found in Rincón Santa María Reserve, Ituzaingo ( $27^{\circ}28' S$ – $56^{\circ}34' W$ ), Corrientes, Argentina. The material was collected at night at a mercury vapour light trap. Measurements are given in millimetres. The holotype and paratypes are deposited in the collection of the Museo de Ciencias Naturales de La Plata, Argentina.

### ***Saicireta* Melo & Coscarón, gen. n.**

Type species. *Saicireta correntina* Melo & Coscarón, sp. n.

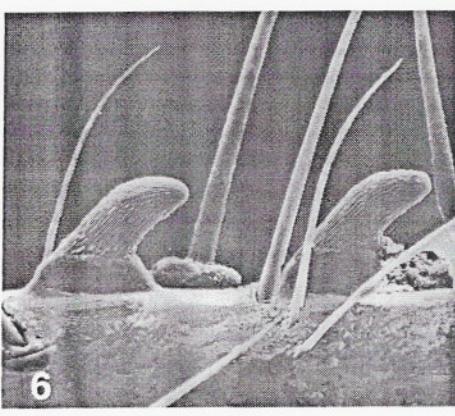
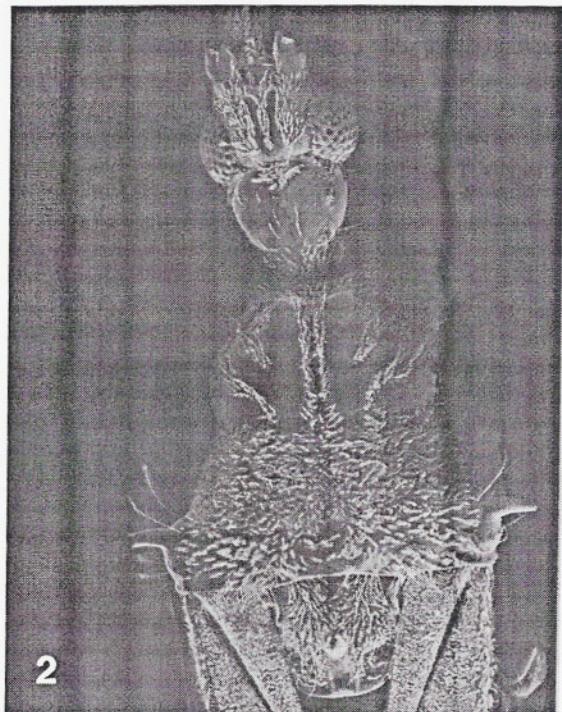
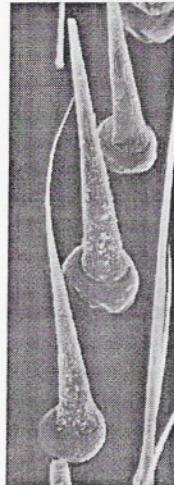
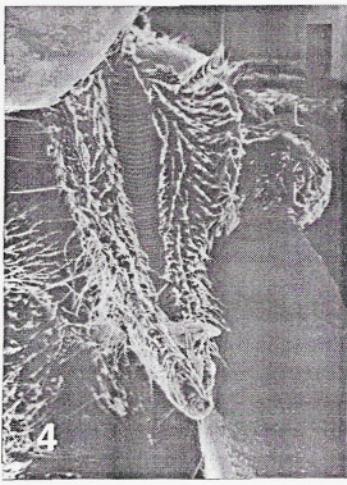
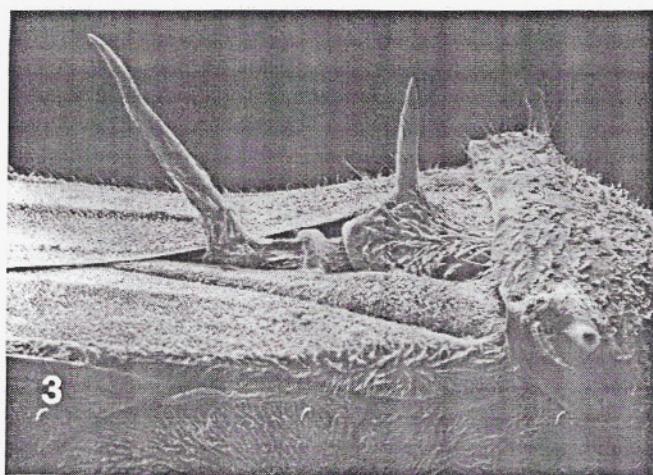
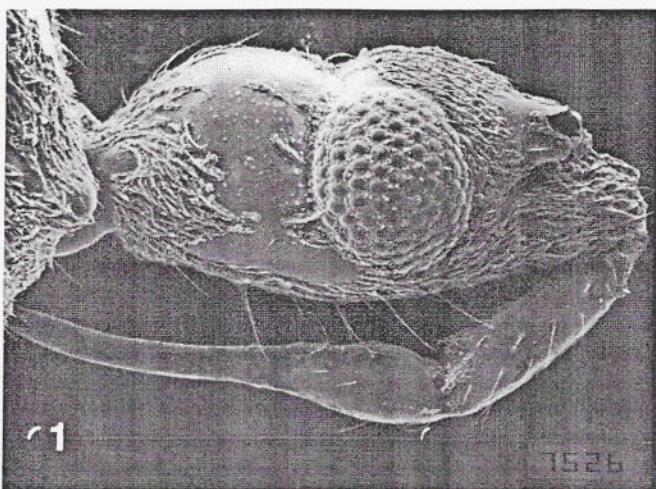
Distribution. Argentina.

Description. Body narrow and elongate. Head longer than wide (1 : 0.6), bilobed. Eyes rounded, separated from upper and lower margins of head. Antenna inserted at level of upper margin of eyes; antennal segments slender, filiform with fine erect setae. Pronotum trapezoidal,

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anterior lobe dorsally convex, each anterolateral angle subconical, lower anterior angle forming a subconical process, humeral angles with a short erect spine. Prosternum as Fig. 4. Mesoscutum with a long erect spine, scutellum with an oblique long spine (Fig. 3).

Legs lacking spines, anterior femora armed with two rows of stiff setae ventrally (Fig. 5); tibiae with a row of short curved denticles (Fig. 6). Hemelytra with four cells (Fig. 7), apex extending to tip of abdomen or slightly beyond. Meta-



Figs 1–6. *Saicireta correntina* Melo & Coscarón, sp. n. 1, head, lateral view,  $\times 75$ ; 2, Head and pronotum, dorsal view,  $\times 14.35$ ; 3, mesoscutum and scutellum, lateral view,  $\times 50$ ; 4, prosternal process,  $\times 150$ ; 5, detail of stiff setae on anterior femora,  $\times 750$ ; 6, detail of denticles on anterior tibia,  $\times 750$ .

pleura with a tubercle close to acetabular cavity. Abdomen narrow and parallel

**Male:** posterior border of pygophore produced into triangular median process; parameres short, enlarged apically, acute process on medial dorsal portion.

**Etymology.** The name is the combination of the subfamily name and the area where the specimens were collected (Yaciretá).

**Discussion.** *Saicireta* is related to *Pseudosaica*, as they share the following characters: absence of spines on the forelegs; presence of spines on humeral angles of pronotum, mesonotum and metanotum. *Saicireta* n.g. differs from *Pseudosaica* in having a spatulate, triangular median process of pygophore, and the hemelytra with four cells.

This is the only genus in the subfamily Saicinae that lacks spines on the opposed surfaces of head and rostrum.

#### *Saicireta correntina* Melo & Coscarón, sp. n.

Figs 1–13

**Description.** Body brown. Total length 9.20. Head length 1.25 and width 0.75; transverse sulcus present just behind posterior margin of eyes; abundant semidecumbent setae on preocular and ventral portion, sparse long erect setae on postocular (Fig. 1). Eyes regular, width 0.20, interocular distance 0.35. Rostrum almost glabrous, with sparse short semierect setae on segment I; length 1.75, ratio of segments length ca. 1:0.82:1.36. Antenna with long erect setae, more abundant on segments II–IV; length 7.10, ratio of segments length ca. 1:0.54:0.37:0.28.

Anterior lobe of pronotum with short decumbent setae except distinct glabrous areas (Fig. 2), median sulcus present; posterior lobe with abundant short decumbent and sparse long erect setae. Pronotum length 1.60, width 1.50. Thoracic pleura and sterna with short decumbent setae,

sterna carinate. Legs long and slender, with sparse long erect setae. Coxa and trochanters pale brown, apex of tibia with golden decumbent setae. Femora II and III with a pale band on distal half, apex pale. Tarsi pale brown. Hemelytra length 6.50. Exterior border of corium pale brown.

Abdomen with short decumbent golden setae intermixed with sparse long erect setae; length 5.00, width 1.75. Anterior part of connexival segments pale brown with sparse long erect setae.

**Male:** Figs 8–10. Pygophore elliptical (Fig. 8), with setae on apical and dorsal portions, median process flat and triangular (Fig. 9); parameres short, enlarged apically with short setae, acute process on middle dorsal part (Fig. 10).

**Paratypes:** One female specimen with a pale band on anterior femora and dark apex. Total length 9.00–9.40 (mean = 9.02). Head length 1.10–1.40 (mean = 1.25), width 0.75–0.80 (mean = 0.77). Width of eyes 0.20–0.25 (mean = 0.23), interocular distance 0.28–0.38 (mean = 0.33). Rostral length 1.40–1.73 (mean = 1.61), ratio of segment lengths ca. 1:0.70:1.20. Antenna length 6.60–7.00 (mean = 7.05), ratio of segment lengths ca. 1:0.57:0.38:0.26. Pronotum length 1.35–1.70 (mean = 1.56), width 1.45–1.60 (mean = 1.52). Hemelytra length 5.60–6.56 (mean = 6.19). Abdominal length 4.75–5.50 (mean = 5.02), width 1.75–2.00 (mean = 1.83).

**Female:** Figs 11–13. Gonocoxite and gonapophysis VIII as fig. 11; gonocoxite IX reduced, gonapophysis IX as fig. 12; tergite IX + X as fig. 13.

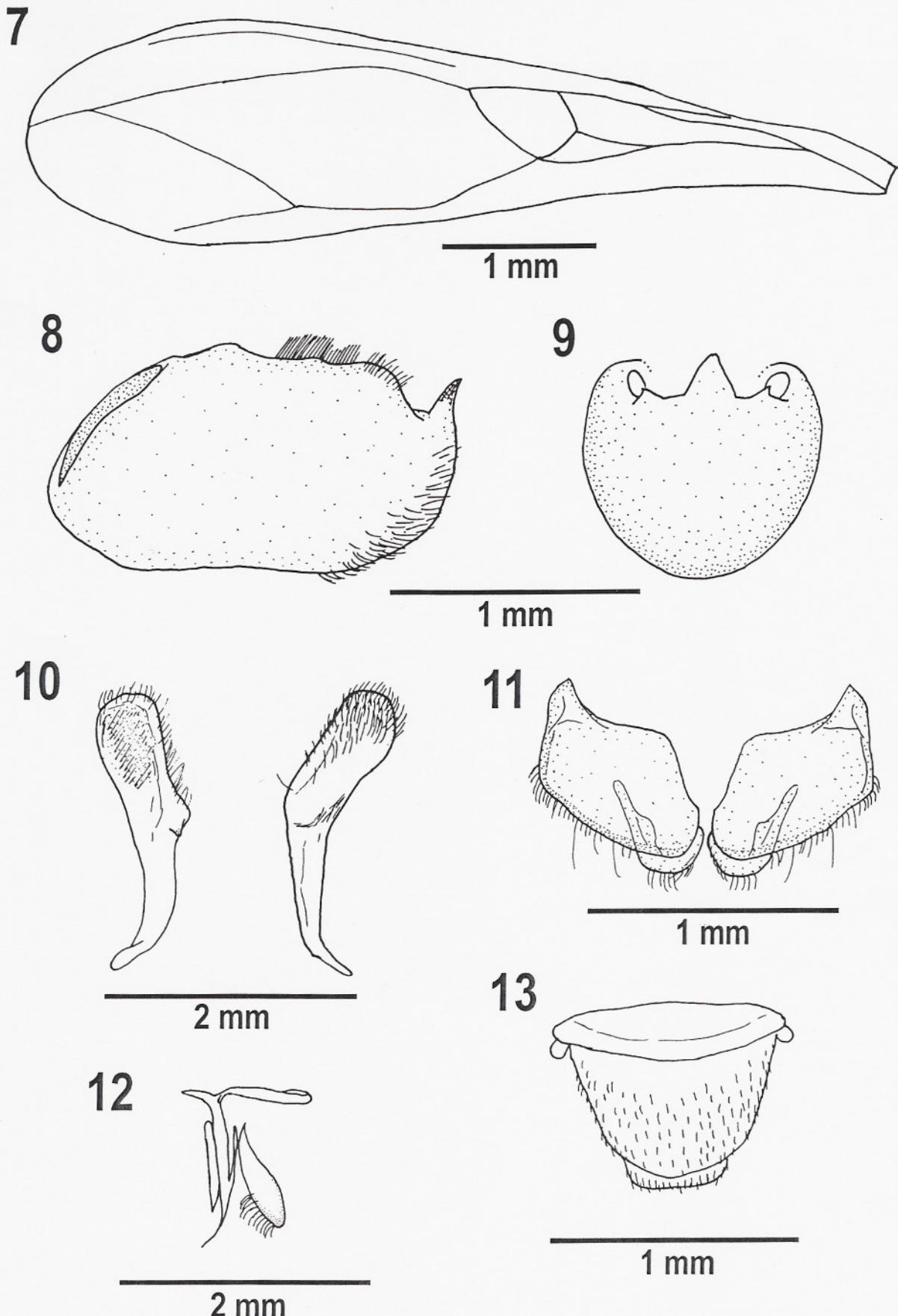
**Etymology:** the specific name refers to the Argentinean province where the specimens were collected.

**Material examined.** Holotype: male, 26-IV-2003, Rincón Santa Marfa Reserve, Ituzaingo (27°28' S – 56°34' W), Corrientes, Argentina (MLP)

Paratypes: 3 males, 2 females, 27-IV-2003, same data as holotype.

#### Key to the New World genera of Saicinae, modified from Blinn (1990)

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 Fore legs without stout spines, at most stiff erect setae .....  | 2                           |
| – Fore tibiae with 1 and forefemora with 2 rows of stout spines .....  | 3                           |
| 2 Posterior pronotal lobe with upward projecting spines or tubercles; mesoscutum and scutellum with an upward projecting apical vertical spine or tubercle ..... | 4                           |
| – Pronotum unarmed; apex of mesoscutum produced into a long horizontal tapering spine.....   | <i>Oncerotrachelus</i> Stål |
| 3 Humeral angles of pronotum without processes, rounded .....  | <i>Tagalis</i> Stål         |
| – Humeral angles of pronotum with spinelike processes .....  | 6                           |
| 4 Opposed surfaces of beak and head with spine-like setae; forewing with 2–3 cells; metapleura without a tubercle near coxal cavity .....                        | 5                           |



Figs 7–13. *Saicireta corretina* Melo & Coscarón sp. n. 7, hemelytra; 8–10, male genitalia: 8, pygophore, lateral view; 9, pygophore, posterior view; 10, parameres, internal and external view; 11–13, female genitalia: 11, gonocoxite and gonapophysis VIII; 12, gonapophysis IX; 13, tergite IX + X.

- Opposed surfaces of beak and head without spine-like setae or bristles; forewing with 4 cells; metapleura with a tubercle near coxal cavity..... *Saicireta* n.g.
- 5** Process of male pygophore bifurcate; posterior margin of abdominal sternum VII in females vertical to subvertical .....
- Process of male pygophore a single, erect barbless spine; posterior margin of abdominal sternum VII in females sloping ventrocephalad..... *Pseudosaica* Blinn
- 6** Forecoxa and anterior lobe of pronotum unarmed; foretibia straight; forewing with 3 closed cells .....
- ..... *Bagriella* McAtee & Malloch
- Forecoxa spined, anterior lobe of pronotum with 4 spines or rounded humps..... 7
- 7** Anterior lobe of pronotum with 4 long vertical spines; forewing with 3 closed cells; about 7 mm long .... *Paratagalalis* Monte
- Anterior lobe of pronotum with 4 humps; forewing with 4 closed cells; over 10 mm long .... *Buinotus* Maldonado Capriles

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