

## A new synonymy in the genus *Zelus* (Heteroptera, Reduviidae, Harpactorinae)

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*Zelus* Fabricius, 1803 is one of the most speciose genera among Nearctic and Neotropical Harpactorinae. Hart (1972) revised the genus and Maldonado Capriles (1990) catalogued near 60 species with distributions from the southern Canada to central Argentina.

*Zelus araneiformis* Haviland, 1931 was described from a female collected in British Guiana (currently Guyana) and the type specimen was deposited in the British Museum. The species has a restricted distribution to Guyana region in the northeastern South America: Guyana (Haviland, 1931; Maldonado Capriles, 1990) and French Guiana (Bérenger & Pluot-Sigwalt, 1997). It is a remarkable species because it is the only phytophagous Reduviidae that complete its life cycle on the plant *Cecropia obtusa* Trécul (Urticaceae) (Bérenger & Pluot-Sigwalt, 1997).

*Zelus josephpaulusi* Jadin, Dahan, Jadin-Nyssens, Houbion, Le Corre & Verellen-Dumolin, 2002, was described on material collected in French Guiana, Mountain of Kaw in plants of *Cecropia schreberiana* Miq. In the description the new species was not compared with any of the others closest relatives or described in the adjacent regions. The characters mentioned in the discussion to justify the description of the new species and his separation of the others species of the genus: "Le *Zelus josephpaulusi* se distingue des autres espèces de *Zelus* par des petits dépôts granulaires blancs en tâches sur la face inférieure de l'abdomen" (Jadin *et al.*, 2002) appear in the description of *Z. araneiformis*: "...the first six segments decorated on each side with two white tomentose patches;..." (Haviland, 1931).

The study of a series of specimens of *Zelus* collected on *Cecropia* sp. in Kaw Mountain by Joe Eger, Pablo Barranco and myself and the comparison with the descriptions of *Z. araneiformis* and *Z.*

*josephpaulusi* lead us to confirm that both species are co-specifics and we propose the following synonymy: *Zelus josephpaulusi* Jadin, Dahan, Jadin-Nyssens, Houbion, Le Corre & Verellen-Dumolin, 2002 = *Zelus araneiformis* Haviland, 1931, **new synonymy**.

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