

NEOGOMPHUS MOLESTUS (HAGEN, IN SELYS, 1854) NEW TO ARGENTINA (ANISOPTERA: GOMPHIDAE)

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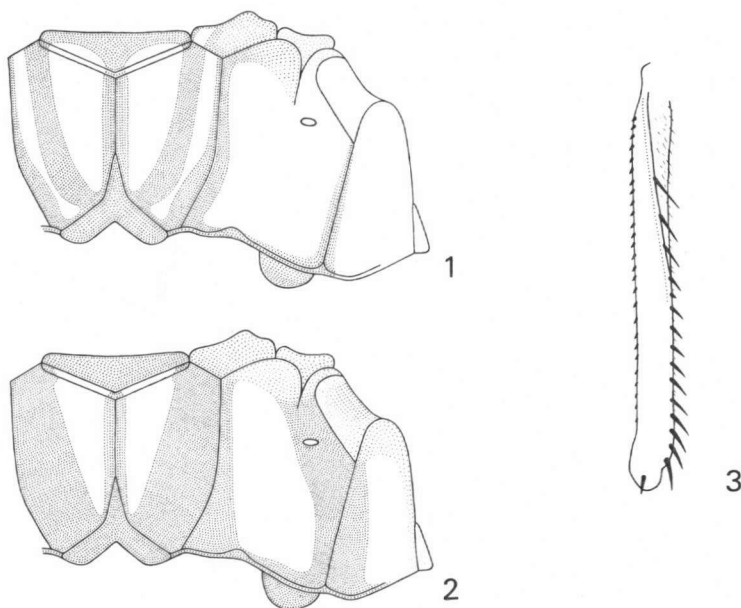
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Abstract *N. molestus* is recorded from Argentina for the first time, and an account and figures are provided of intraspecific differences with the material from Chile.

Introduction and material examined

Disregarding an uncertain record from Brazil (cf. SCHMIDT, 1941), *Neogomphus molestus* has been hitherto known from Chile only. The present record, at the western border of Argentina, was to be expected, since the southern part of the Cordillera is not extremely high.

I had the opportunity to examine the following Argentine material: 13 ♂, 1 ♀ (in copula), Neuquén, Lago Lacar at Estacion Forestal Pucara, 29-31.I.1974 (4 ♂ in the author's coll., others in Natn. Mus. Nat. Hist., Washington, D.C.); 1 ♂, Chubut, Hoyo de Epuyen (2 km South of), Rio Epuyen, 10.II.1974, O.S. Flint, Jr. leg. (Natn. Mus. Nat. Hist., Washington, D.C.). In addition, Prof. Dr. G. Jurzitza (Karlsruhe) kindly informed me (letter dated Sept. 10, 1976) that he collected a female and two males in Lo Aluminé, Neuquén, in January and in



Figs. 1-3. *Neogomphus molestus* (Hagen, in Selys): (1) diagram of pterothorax, ♂ from Valparaíso, Chile; – (2) the same, ♂ from Neuquén, Argentina; – (3) right third tibia, right lateral view, ♂.

February 1976, respectively.

Comparison of material from Chile and Argentina

The Argentine representatives of *N. molestus* appear to be more robust and darker than those from Chile (Angol, Valparaíso, Petrohué, Camino a Farellones). The following other intraspecific differences may be of interest:

- (1) on average, specimens from Chile are smaller than those from Argentina (total length 39-42 mm against 41-46 mm);
- (2) superior surface of frons is laterally covered with black denticles in nearly all Chilean specimens, while these are lacking in the Argentine material;
- (3) dark metapleural stripe is likewise almost absent or very narrow in the specimens from Chile, but it is broad and largely covering the metepisternum

of those from Argentina;

- (4) second pale antehumeral stripe, immediately in front of humeral suture, is more or less well-developed in the Chilean individuals, while it is only weak in the Argentine specimens.

The coloration of the (teneral) female from Petrohué, Chile (25.XII.1937) in the collection of the State Museum of Natural History, Leyden, approaches that of the Argentine specimens, having the second pale antehumeral stripe reduced to a dorsal spot and the dark metapleural stripe rather broad.

The spines of the outer row on the third tibiae are different in the two sexes of this genus. They are shorter and decrease much more in length in the middle of the tibia in the males than in the females.

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Washington, D.C., for the loan and gift of the above mentioned specimens.

Selected References – FRASER, F.C., 1940, *Trans. R. ent. Soc. Lond. (A)* 90: 541-550; – KIRBY, W.F., 1890, *A synonymic catalogue of Neuroptera Odonata or dragonflies*. Gurney & Jackson, London; – NEEDHAM, J.G. & D.S. BULLOCK, 1943, *Fld Mus. nat. Hist. Zool.* 24: 357-373; – SCHMIDT, E.,

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