

Occurrence of the weevil genus *Rhigopsidius* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) in Patagonia

The weevil genus *Rhigopsidius* Heller includes two species: *R. tucumanus* Heller and *R. piercei* Heller (Morrone & Loíacono, 1992). It is the only American genus of Rhytirrhinae, subtribe whose greatest diversity lies in the Old World (Schenkling & Marshall, 1929, 1931). Species of *Rhigopsidius* have been recorded from Bolivia, Perú, and north-western Argentina. Wibmer & O'Brien (1986) considered that *R. tucumanus* was the only species present in Argentina; however, Morrone & Loíacono (1992) concluded that both species were present in the country. The southernmost record known for this species is from La Falda, Córdoba (Espinal province, Chacoan domain, sensu Cabrera & Willink, 1973), in Córdoba (Argentina).

Now, I have identified two specimens from Estancia Collón-Curá (37° S, 59° W), Collón-Curá department, Neuquén province (Argentina) as *R.*

tucumanus, which were collected in the steppes, in the same locality, in two successive years (September 1994, 1995). These records extend the distribution of this species, and consequently of the subtribe Rhytirrhinae, to northern Patagonia (see figure 1 for the distribution of both species in Argentina).

From a biogeographic viewpoint the importance of these new records lies on the fact it is the first record for the subtribe Rhytirrhinae in the Patagonian province, Andean-Patagonian domain (Cabrera & Willink, 1973). Thus, *R. tucumanus* should be added to the most recent and comprehensive checklist of Patagonian Curculionoidea (Morrone & Roig-Juñent, 1995).

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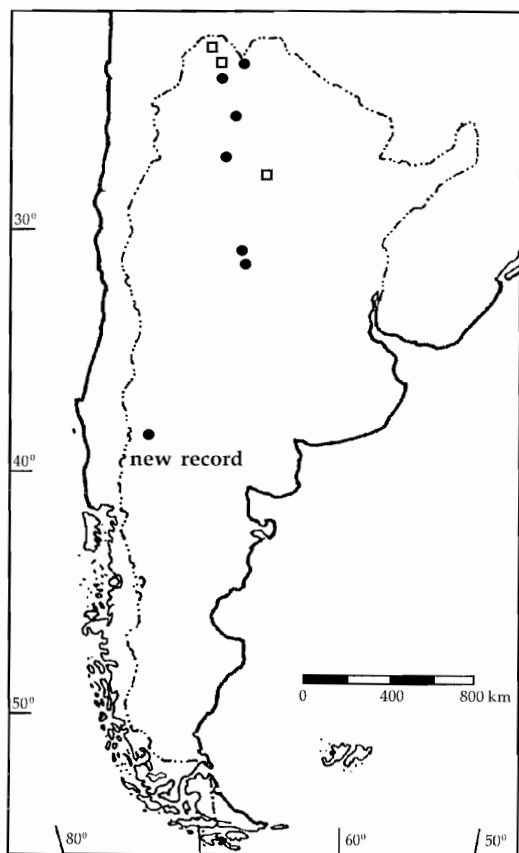


Fig. 1. Distribution in Argentina of *R. tucumanus* (black circles) and *R. piercei* (white squares).