
***Panstrongylus rufotuberculatus*, a New Reduviid Bug Record for Trinidad**

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A REDUVIID bug belonging to the sub-family Triatominae, was collected by M.J.W. Cock at the Textel Station, Morne Bleu, Blanchisseuse in February 1981. The specimen was subsequently identified by the author as a male *Panstrongylus rufotuberculatus*. This is the first record of this species in the island.

The importance of this record is due to the fact that all triatomid bugs are blood feeders and, because of this habit, some members of the sub-family are vectors of the protozoan parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*. This parasite is the aetiological agent of Chagas's disease, a human disease of widespread occurrence in South America.

P. rufotuberculatus has been recorded as naturally infected with *T. cruzi* in South America. To date, only the one specimen of *P. rufotuberculatus* has been collected in Trinidad, and this unfortunately, could not be examined for *T. cruzi*. Another member of the genus, *P. geniculatus*, occurs in Trinidad and specimens collected from various areas of the island have been found to be naturally infected with *T. cruzi* (unpublished data).

Information on the general biology, external structure, systematics and geographical distribution of these two species of triatomid bugs, is given by Lent and Wygodzinsky (1979).

Since the presence of *T. cruzi* in the island has been clearly established, it is obvious that further collections of *P. rufotuberculatus* are essential in order to determine whether this species is a natural vector of the parasite in Trinidad.

My thanks to Dr. M.J.W. Cock for his interest in my research work, which resulted in the collection of this specimen and to Dr. Pedro Wygodzinsky of the American Museum of Natural History, for confirming the identification of the specimen.

REFERENCE

LENT, HERMAN and WYGODZINSKY, PEDRO (1979). Revision of the Triatominae (Hemiptera, Reduviidae), and their significance as vectors of Chagas' disease. Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History Volume 163: Article 3.



Panstrongylus rufotuberculatus (male)