

NEUROPTERA OF THE AMAZON BASIN

Part 9. Albardiinae

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Summary

The Albardiinae Weele, 1908 (Neuroptera: Ascalaphidae) with a single species, *Albardia furcata*, is recorded for the first time from the Amazon Basin.

INTRODUCTION

Since its description by van der Weele in 1903, *Albardia furcata* has been something of an enigma for Neuroptera specialists. Originally described as a part of the Protascalaphinae in the Ascalaphidae, along with *Stilbopteryx*, this group was later raised to family level by Riek (1976), and considered more closely related to Myrmeleontidae than Ascalaphidae. Riek (l. c.) further separated the Stilbopterygidae into two subfamilies, the Albardiinae and Stilbopteryginae. Thus, in two recent articles covering Amazonian Ascalaphidae (Penny, 1981, 1982) this group was not included.

New (1982) has shown that the Albardiinae are more closely related to the Ascalaphidae, although forming a separate grouping, while Stilbopteryginae is more closely related to the Myrmeleontidae, and the grouping "Stilbopterygidae" is considered to be polyphyletic.

However, all of this discussion of phylogeny and taxonomic placement of the Albardiinae involves only a single species from the coastal region of Brazil, from Rio de Janeiro to Fortaleza, and known from a total of less than a dozen specimens. Nothing at all is known about the life cycle or larval morphology.

Thus, it was with surprise and delight that one female specimen was collec-

ted by Dr. Michael Miles at Serra Norte, near Marabá, while collecting Triatomine bugs with light traps for medical studies. This constitutes the first record of this species (subfamily) for the Amazon Basin, and Dr. Miles' generosity in sharing this material is gratefully acknowledged. It is hoped that devolution of information about this species will stimulate further collections and interest in its biology.

ALBARDIA FURCATA van der Weele, 1903

(Fig. 1, Map 1)

Albardia furcata van der Weele, 1903, *Notes Leyden Mus.*, 23: 235. One male, one female syntypes in the Weele Collection, Leyden Museum. Present description based on 1 female, pinned, one female, in alcohol, and New (1982).

Head: Vertex and frons reddish brown, glabrous. Clypeus and labrum darker brown, with numerous long dark setae. Mouthparts extended only slightly below lower level of non-sulcate compound eyes; prominent, reddish brown.

Antennae very short, hairless, extending only slightly beyond head; pale brown basally, with swollen, dark brown apical knob.

Thorax: Pronotum reddish brown, narrow; with transverse medial depression. Meso- and metacuta prominent, reddish brown. Notal and pleural regions densely covered with long, golden setae.

Legs: Pro- and mid-legs very stout and densely covered with long setae; setae golden proximally on femur, becoming black on apex of femur and tibia. Tibia

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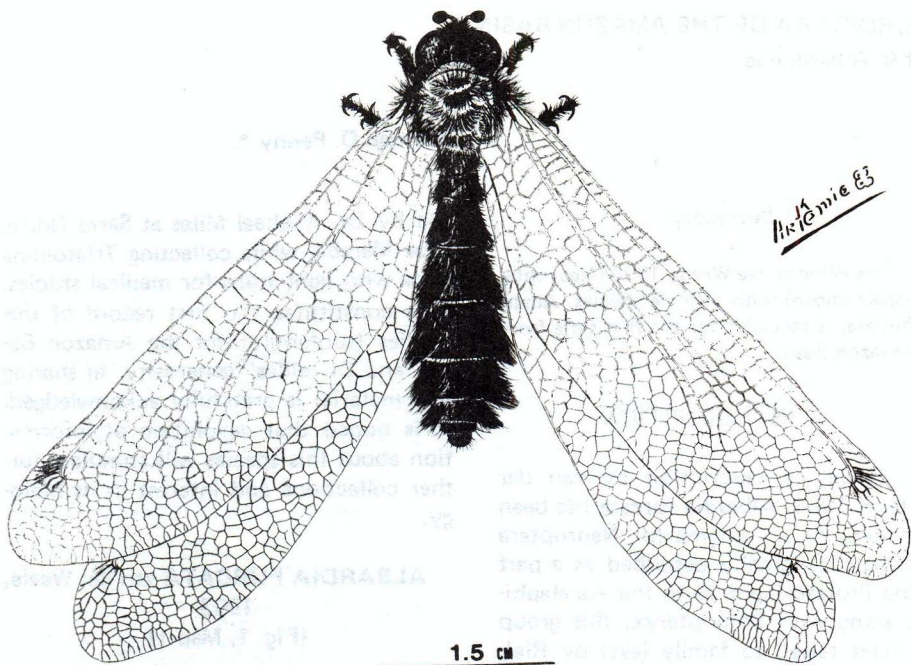


Fig. 1. Dorsal view of *Albardia furcata*. Drawing by Artêmio Coelho da Silva

with two large, reddish brown, apical spurs. Tarsi short; dark brown. Hind leg more elongate than fore — and mid-legs; with femur black; tibia basally yellowish with apex black; tarsi black. Last tarsal segment about as long as first four together.

Wings: Fore — and hindwings similar, transparent and glossy, except for dark pigmentation at extreme base, and golden color in pterostigmal area. Crossveins very numerous. Fork of CuA prominent. CuP sinuous, reaching anal margin at level of fork of CuA.

Axillary angle present, prominent. Hindwing with CuP long, sinuous at mid-length; without axillary angle.

Abdomen: Elongate with tergites reddish mesally, black laterally. Sternites black. All membranous areas between sclerites and on pleuron bearing dense, very long, mixed pale and dark setae. Male ninth sternite extended caudally and

apically bifurcate; mediuncus apically simple, with quadrate eighth sternite with posterior, medial lobe. Female ninth gonocoxites simple, rounded.

Body length: male, 40 — 41 mm; female, 35 — 45 mm.

Forewing length: male, 52—54 mm; female, 53—63 mm.

Geographical Distribution: Weele (1908) mentions the Brazilian states of Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro (Nova Friburgo). New (1982) mentions specimens from: Espírito Santo, Santa Leopoldina, 1 male; Espírito Santo, 1 male, 1 female; Minas Gerais, Sabará; Belo Horizonte, Rio das Velhas, A.G.N. Chalmers, 1 female, all in the British Museum (Natural History). Other unpublished records are Ceará, II—1934, M. Leitão, 1 ? (MNRJ); Ceará, Fortaleza, I—1958, L. Huffdis, 1 ? (MNRJ); Minas Gerais, Nova Lima, X—1963, Angelo Machado, 1 female (INPA); Pará, Serra Norte, XI—1982, Michael Mi-



Map. I. Geographical distribution of *Albardia furcata*.

les, 1 female, armadilha de Luz (INPA). thout is one additional specimen without data in the possession of Dr. Habib-Fraiha of the Instituto Evandro Chagas, Belém, Pará.

This species is among the largest of South American Neuroptera; and its very short, clubbed antennae, very long, abundant pilosity, and red abdominal tergites make it virtually unmistakable.

Resumo

A *Albardiinae* (Neuroptera: Ascalaphidae) com só uma espécie, *Albardia furcata*, é registrada pela primeira vez na Bacia Amazônica.

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(Aceito para publicação em 5/7/83).