

The presence of *Argas keiransi* Estrada-Peña, Venzal & González-Acuña, 2003 (Acari: Argasidae) in Argentina

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Abstract

Forty-two larvae of *Argas keiransi* (Acari: Argasidae) were collected from the Chimango Caracara, *Milvago chimango* (Falconiformes: Falconidae), at three localities in La Pampa Province, Argentina. Ticks were determined by a combination of palpal segment IV as long as or longer than the other palpal segments, absence of a trumpet-shaped sensillum extending from the capsule of Haller's organ into the lumen of the tarsus, length of dorsal plate between 180 and 240 µm, length of hypostome between 180 and 205 µm, dental formula 2/2 in the basal third, 2/2 or 3/3 apically, and length of posterolateral setae between 45 and 50 µm. Morphological determination was confirmed by analysis of sequences of the mitochondrial 16S rRNA gene. The results of this work constitute the first Argentinean record of *A. keiransi*, which has previously been reported only from Chile.

Key words: *Argas keiransi*, Argentina, *Milvago chimango*, 16S rDNA sequences

Introduction

The tick fauna of Argentina is represented by 47 species (Guglielmone & Nava 2005, 2006; Nava *et al.* 2009; Venzal *et al.* 2012; Nava *et al.* 2014), nine of which belong to the family Argasidae, namely, *Argas monachus* Keirans, Radovsky and Clifford, 1973, *Argas neghmei* Kohls and Hoogstraal, 1961, *Argas persicus* (Oken, 1818), *Ornithodoros hasei* (Schulze, 1935), *Ornithodoros mimon* Kohls, Clifford and Jones, 1969, *Ornithodoros quilinensis* Venzal, Nava & Mangold, 2012, *Ornithodoros rioplatensis* Venzal, Estrada-Peña and Mangold, 2008, *Ornithodoros rostratus* Aragão, 1911, and *Otobius megnini* (Dugès, 1883).

Argas keiransi Estrada-Peña, Venzal & González-Acuña, 2003 was described from larvae collected on the Chimango Caracara, *Milvago chimango* (Vieillot, 1816) (Falconiformes: Falconidae), in Chile by Estrada-Peña *et al.* (2003). Later, Estrada-Peña *et al.* (2006) described the female of *A. keiransi* from additional Chilean specimens. Because all prior records of this tick are from Chile, the aim of this work is to present the first record of *A. keiransi* in Argentina through a diagnosis based on morphological characters and DNA sequences.