

## **Aquatic and semiaquatic Heteroptera of Ecuador (Hemiptera: Nepomorpha, Gerromorpha)**

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Nepomorpha and Gerromorpha in Ecuador are about 100 described species belonging to twelve families. Ecuador is situated in a biogeographically strategic position since the country covers parts of the Amazon, the Andean Cordillera, the Pacific coastal plains, and the Galapagos Islands. Such diversity of biogeographic areas hosts a great variety of Heteroptera species. Within the aquatic and semiaquatic Heteroptera, more than half of the species are Gerromorpha. The most species-rich families are Corixidae and Gelastocoridae within Nepomorpha, Gerridae and Veliidae within Gerromorpha. Recent collecting expedition widened the known range of species previously not known to be present in Ecuador and lead to the discovery of some species new to the science, especially within Gerromorpha. Veliids are the most commonly encountered water bugs, in particular species of the very large genera *Rhagovelia* MAYR, 1865 and *Microvelia* WESTWOOD, 1834. Among Gerridae, *Potamobates shuar* BUZZETTI, 2006 has been recently described, and among Veliidae one new species of *Veloidea* GOULD, 1934 is under description.

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