

RESEARCH NOTE

Current Spread of *Triatoma infestans* at the Expense of *Triatoma sordida* in Bolivia

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Our first study area was the Yungas in the department of La Paz. The Yungas are steep-sided valleys covered with subtropical forest in the foothills of the Eastern Andean Cordillera. Both *T. infestans* and *T. sordida* were reported more than 50 years ago in several main villages such as Chulumani, Coripata and Coroico; *T. sordida* was the only triatomine species collected in many houses in Chulumani and Villa La Fuente (S Mazza 1942 *Prensa Med Arg* 29: 1-15). In spite of the competitive superiority of *T. infestans* over *T.*

are situated in areas which have recently experienced substantial human migrations (during the 1976-1992 period, the yearly increasing rate of Velasco population was 3.50% compared to 2.11% for Bolivia as a whole; Censo Nacional de Población y vivienda, Bolivia, 1992). On the contrary, isolated villages located off the lines of communication and consequently less affected by migration are still free of *T. infestans*. Nevertheless, such isolated villages may be considered as being at risk to the short-term spread of *T. infestans*. Such

is the case in Tacoigo, located in the middle of the area considered as free of *T. infestans*, one specimen of this last species was recently collected in association with 65 *T. sordida*. These surveys show that in Bolivia as elsewhere *T. infestans*, when introduced into new areas, quickly displaces *T. sordida* from human dwellings.

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