

On the African Herdoniini (Hem. Het., Miridae, Mirinae)

By R. LINNAVUORI
21220 Somersoja, Finland

The main range of the small Mirinae tribe *Herdoniini* is in the Nearctic and Neotropical regions. From the Old World only four genera, *Camponotidea* Fb. (Mediterranean), *Sphinctothorax* St. (Ethiopian), *Xenetomorpha* Pop. (Ethiopian) and *Laurinia* Rt. (Eremian), have been recorded (Carvalho 1955, p. 109—111). Of them *Laurinia* actually belongs to the Orthotylinae.

In a small Herdoniini material from Africa, recently examined by me, a new species of the genus *Sphinctothorax*, *S. striatulus* sp.n., was detected. A description of the new species and a key to the African Herdoniini are published below.

Key to the African genera

- 1 (2) Upper surface with short adpressed brownish hairs. Head strongly declivous with apical margin nearly vertical in profile, in apical view nearly as broad as long, in profile distinctly higher than long; vertex with a longitudinal median sulcus; eyes nearly contiguous with anterior margin of pronotum. 1st antennal joint much longer than diatone and nearly as long as basal width of pronotum, 2nd joint nearly twice as long as basal width of pronotum. Basal part of pronotum strongly convex. Apical part of scutellum tumid. Elytra strongly constricted at middle *Xenetomorpha* Pop.
- 2 (1) Upper surface with double hair covering with semidecumbent blackish hairs and smooth silvery pubescence. Head obliquely declivous, in apical view distinctly higher than broad, in profile longer than high; vertex smooth; eyes removed from anterior margin of pronotum. 1st antennal joint much shorter than diatone, 2nd about $1.3 \times$ as long as basal width of pronotum. Basal part of pronotum moderately convex. Apical part of scutellum flattish. Elytra parallel-sided *Sphinctothorax* St.

Xenetomorpha Pop.

Xenetomorpha Poppius 1912, p. 149—150. Type: *X. carpenteri* Pop. Monotypic.

X. carpenteri Pop.

Figs. 1 c, 2 b and 3 a. The original complete description is not repeated here.

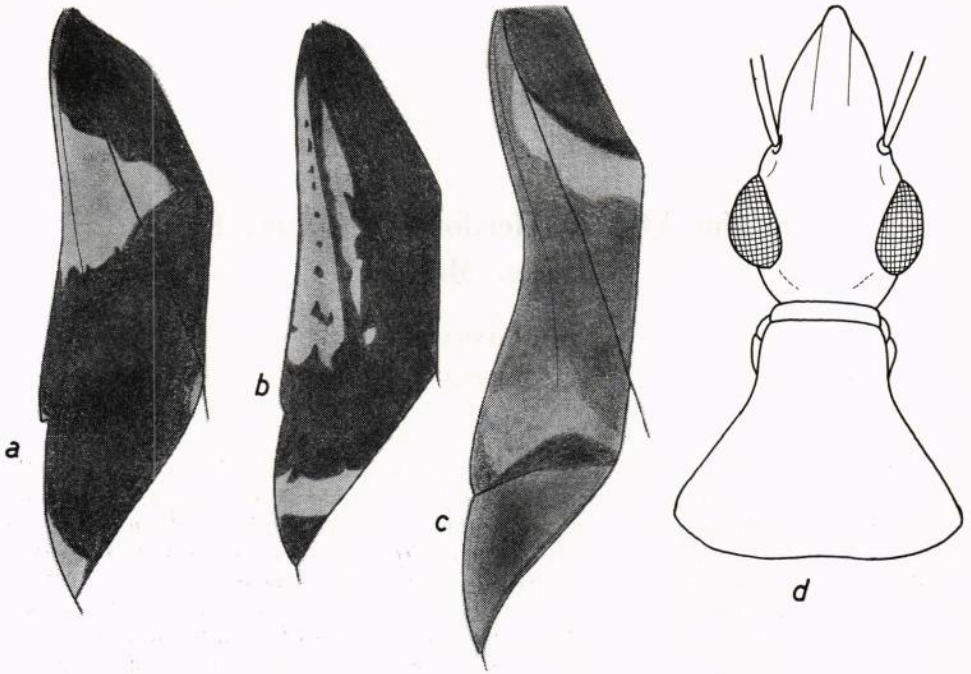


Fig. 1. *Sphinctothorax leucophaeus* (Gm.): a elytron; d head and pronotum. — *S. striatulus* sp.n.: b elytron. — *Xenetomorpha carpenteri* Pop.: c elytron.

Range: Previously known only from the type locality in Eastern Africa.

Material studied: Nigeria: Serti, 1 ♀, 29.III.1970, J. Medler, in my collection. Eastern Africa: Is. Damba, Victoria Nyanza, 1 ♀ cotype, G. Carpenter, Mus. Helsinki.

Biology: Myrmecophilous, the type series found together with *Oecophylla smaragdina*.

Sphinctothorax St.

Sphinctothorax Stål 1853, p. 18. Type: *Cyllecoris leucophaeus* Gm.

Sphinctothorax Poppius 1912, p. 6—7.

Range: Southern Africa.

Key to the species

- 1 (2) Length 9 mm. 2nd antennal joint pale with apex black. Head black, general colouring otherwise reddish brown. Elytra with oblique pale band near base of corium, also base of cuneus pale *montandoni* Kk. (Zanzibar; unknown to me, generic position uncertain)
- 2 (1) Length 6—7 mm. 2nd antennal joint black. General colouring black, elytra with whitish pattern. South-African species 3

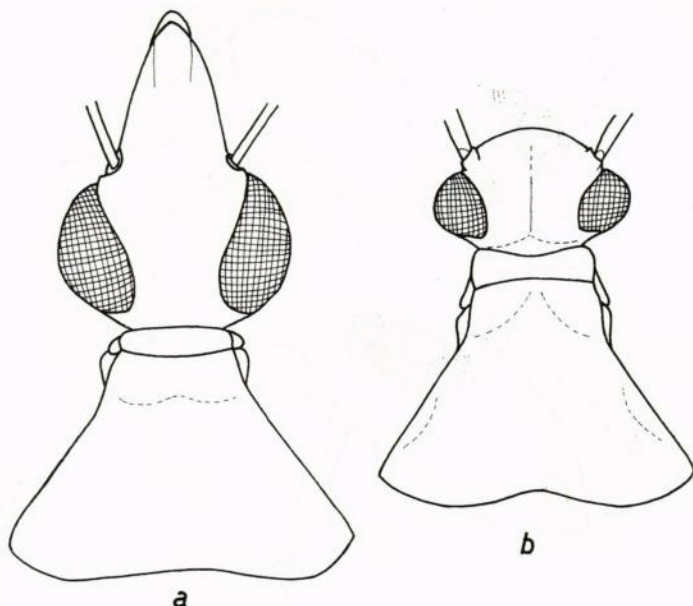


Fig. 2. *Sphinctothorax striatulus* sp.n.: a head and pronotum. — *Xenetomorpha carpenteri* Pop.: b same.

- 3 (4) Elytra black with a sharply delimited transversely triangular pale spot at middle; extreme apex of cuneus pale (Fig. 1 a) *leucophaeus* (Gm.)
 4 (3) Elytra black, corium laterally broadly pale, the pale area traversed by longitudinal dark stripes; cuneus with a broad subapical white band, extreme tip black (Fig. 1 b) *striatulus* sp.n.

S. leucophaeus (Gm.)

Cyllecoris leucophaeus Germar 1837, p. 135—136.

♂. Length 7 mm. Subopaque. Black with whitish ochraceous pattern. Vertex with a small triangular pale spot bordering either eye. Antennae uniformly black. Basal margin of pronotum narrowly pale. Extreme tip of scutellum pale. Elytra (Fig. 1 a) with a large transversely triangular pale spot at middle; extreme tip of cuneus pale; membrane dark brown, veins pale. Segmental margins on under surface of thorax and base of venter partly pale; scent gland orifices white. Legs black.

Upper surface with semidecumbent brownish hairs and evenly distributed, adpressed silvery pubescence. Head in apical view $1.32 \times$ as high as broad, in profile (Fig. 3 b) $1.28 \times$ as long as high, ocular index 1.8, eyes distinctly removed from anterior margin of pronotum (Fig. 1 d). Proportions between antennal joints 18: 66: 32:?, 1st joint $0.47 \times$ as long as diatone, 2nd moderately broadening apicad, $1.74 \times$ as long as diatone, $1.32 \times$ as long as basal width of pronotum. Pronotum $1.3 \times$ as broad as long at middle (incl. collar). Proportions between joints of hind tarsi 17: 20: 25.

Range: South Africa.

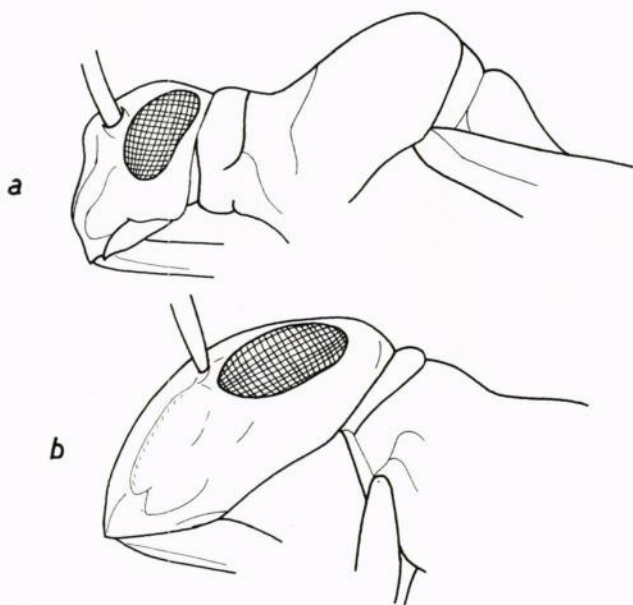


Fig. 3. *Xenetomorpha carpenteri* Pop.: a head and thorax in profile. — *Sphinctothorax leucophaeus* (Gm.): b head in profile.

Material studied: South Africa: Caffraria, 1 ♂, J. Wahlberg, Mus. Stockholm.

S. striatulus sp.n.

♂. Length 6.5—7.25 mm. Shiny. Black with whitish ochraceous pattern. Vertex with a small pale spot bordering either eye. Antennae blackish, base of 3rd joint whitish. Basal margin of pronotum narrowly pale. Scutellum totally black. Corium (Fig. 1 b) laterally broadly pale, the pale area traversed by irregular longitudinal dark stripes; cuneus with a broad subapical pale band, extreme apex black; membrane dark brown, veins concolorous. Segmental margins on under surface of thorax and base of venter partly pale. Scent gland orifices whitish. Legs black, tibiae and basal joint of tarsi reddish brown.

Upper surface with semidecumbent blackish hairs; adpressed silvery hairs arranged into small groups on elytra. Head (Fig. 2 a) in apical view $1.12 \times$ as high as broad, in profile $1.11 \times$ as long as high, eyes large, extending near to anterior margin of pronotum, ocular index 1.14—1.19. Proportions between antennal joints (Fig. 17: 55: 30:?, 1st joint about $0.4 \times$ as long as diatone, 2nd slightly expanding apicad, 1.64 — $1.67 \times$ as long as diatone, 1.25 — $1.28 \times$ as long as basal width of pronotum. Rostrum extending beyond fore coxae. Pronotum appearing broader than in the preceding species, 1.33 — $1.43 \times$ as broad as long at middle. Proportions between joints of hind tarsi 12: 15: 20.

Material studied: South Africa: Cap B. Spei, 1 ♂, type, de Vylder, Mus. Stockholm; Stellenbosch, 1 ♂ paratype, 12.XII.1928, C. Brain, in my collection.

References

- CARVALHO, J. 1955. Chaves para os generos de Mirideos do Mundo (Hemiptera). — Bol. Mus. Paraense Emilio Goeldi 11, p. 1—151.
- GERMAR, E. 1837. Hemiptera Heteroptera promontorii Bonae Spei nondum descripta, quae collegit C. F. Drège. — Silb. Rev. Ent. 5, p. 135—136.
- POPPIUS, B. 1912. Die Miriden der Äthiopischen Region. I. — Acta Soc. Scient. Fenn. XLI (3), p. 1—203.
- STÅL, C. 1853. Sphinctothorax gen. n. (Het. Capsidae). — Öfv. K. Vet. — Akad. Förh. 1853, p. 260.