

Zeitschrift: Entomologica Basiliensia et Collectionis Frey
Herausgeber: Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, Entomologische Sammlungen
Band: 30 (2008)

Artikel: New taxa of Afrotropical Pyrrhocoridae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera)
Autor: Stehlík, Jaroslav L.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-981045>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 15.04.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

New taxa of Afrotropical Pyrrhocoridae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera)

by Jaroslav L. Stehlík

Abstract. Two new genus-group taxa of Pyrrhocoridae are described from the Afrotropical Region. *Schaeferiana* gen.nov., consisting of the single species, *S. mirabilis* sp.nov. (Democratic Republic of Congo) is unique for the structure of its pronotal collar and callar lobe. *Depressoculus* subgen.nov. of the genus *Sericocoris* Karsch, 1892 is established to accommodate two species: *Sericocoris (D.) albomaculatus* sp.nov. (Democratic Republic of Congo) and *S. (D.) antennatus* Distant, 1881, comb.nov., previously classified in *Neodindymus* Stehlík, 1965. Four subspecies of *S. (D.) antennatus* are recognized: *S. (D.) antennatus antennatus* (= *Cenaeus bifasciatus* Haglund, 1895, syn.nov.) (Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea: Bioko Island, Gabon, Liberia, Nigeria, Congo), *S. (D.) antennatus congolanus* subsp.nov., *S. (D.) antennatus immaculatus* subsp.nov., and *S. (D.) antennatus obscuratus* subsp.nov. (all three new subspecies from different parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo).

Keywords. Heteroptera – Pyrrhocoridae – *Schaeferiana* gen.nov. – *Sericocoris (Depressoculus)* subgen.nov. – new species – synonymy – Afrotropical Region – Democratic Republic of Congo

Introduction

The Afrotropical genus *Sericocoris* was established by KARSCH (1892) as a monotypic genus to accommodate *Sericocoris acromelanthes* Karsch, 1892. The genus was redescribed and revised by STEHLÍK (1965), who recognized three subgenera and 13 species: *Sericocoris* s.str. (2 species), *Sericocoriopsis* Stehlík, 1965 (3 species), and *Pseudocenaeus* Stehlík, 1965 (8 species), all of them distributed in sub-Saharan Africa. Later, only LINNAVUORI (1988) described *Sericocoris obuduanus* Linnavuori, 1988 from Nigeria. The genus has recently been catalogued by ROBERTSON (2004). In this paper, I describe two new genus-group taxa related to *Sericocoris*, and four species-group taxa from equatorial Africa.

Materials and methods

To a large extent, the terminology for body parts in this contribution follows VAN DOESBURG (1968), but the more specific terms proposed by SCHAEFER (1977) are employed for the genital capsule. The measurements are presented as means, with minimum and maximum values in parentheses. When quoting label data from type specimens, a double slash (//) is used to indicate data on different labels; authors' comments are given in square brackets ([...]); and the abbreviations hw = handwritten and p = printed are used. The names of the provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo are given according to the revised system of organization imposed in 2006.

The following abbreviations are used for collections:

BMNH	.....	Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom
EHIA	.....	Ernst Heiss Collection, Tiroler Landesmuseum, Innsbruck, Austria
MMBC	.....	Moravian Museum, Brno, Czech Republic
MNHN	.....	Muséum National d'Historie Naturelle, Paris, France
MRAC	.....	Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium
NHRS	.....	Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm, Sweden
ZMHB	.....	Zoologisches Museum, Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany

Taxonomy

Sericocoris Karsch, 1892

Sericocoris Karsch, 1892: 132. Type species: *Sericocoris acromelanthes* Karsch, 1892 (by monotypy).

Sericocoris: LETHIERRY & SEVERIN (1894): 245 (catalogue); KARSCH (1894): 106 (description); BERGROTH (1912): 316 (note); BERGROTH (1913): 169 (catalogue); DISTANT (1919): 220 (description); HUSSEY (1929): 50 (catalogue); SCHMIDT (1932): 245 (distribution); STEHLÍK (1965): 220 (revision); ROBERTSON (2004): 16–21 (catalogue).

Hathor Kirkaldy et Edwards, 1902: 168 (description). Type species: *Hathor zoraida* Kirkaldy et Edwards, 1902 (by monotypy), junior subjective synonymy of *Sericocoris acromelanthes*. Synonymized by BERGROTH (1912): 316.

Pseudocenaeus Stehlík, 1965: 223 (description). Type species: *Pyrrhocoris nigriceps* Stål, 1855 (by original designation). Valid subgenus.

Sericocoriopsis Stehlík, 1965: 223 (description). Type species: *Sericocoris johnstoni*, Distant, 1902 (by original designation). Valid subgenus.

Depressoculus subgen.nov.

Type species. *Sericocoris albomaculatus* sp.nov.

Distribution. Equatorial Africa from Liberia to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Derivatio nominis. The name is a compound of the Latin adjective *depressus* (= depressed) and the noun *oculus* (= eye), referring to the peculiar shape of the eyes. The gender is masculine.

Differential diagnosis. *Depressoculus* subgen.nov. differs from all the other subgenera in the following characters: Eyes smaller, dorsoventrally flattened; frons next to the eye with dish-like depression; gena ventrally with a bulge under the temple and a pit-like depression under the eye.

Species included. *Sericocoris albomaculatus* sp.nov. and *S. antennatus* (Distant, 1881) comb.nov. (including four subspecies).

Sericocoris (Depressoculus) albomaculatus sp.nov.

(Figs 1–5)

Type material. Holotype ♂, Democratic Republic of Congo: “Ubangi [Sud-Ubangi province], Buburu, xii.1931, H. J. Brédo” (MRAC). Paratypes: Democratic Republic of Congo: Kwilu province: Kikwit, 1920, 2 ♂♂, P. Vanderijst lgt. (MRAC). Nord-Ubangi province: Bombona, vii.1935, 1 ♀, A. Ball lgt. (MRAC). Sud-Kivu province: Kivu, Costermanville [= Bukavu], 1951, 4 ♂♂ 3 ♀♀, H. Bomans lgt. (MRAC, 1 ♂ MMBC). Zaïre [now Democratic Republic of Congo], Irangi [Nord Kivu, 01°54'S 28°27'E] 1 ♀ (EHIA).

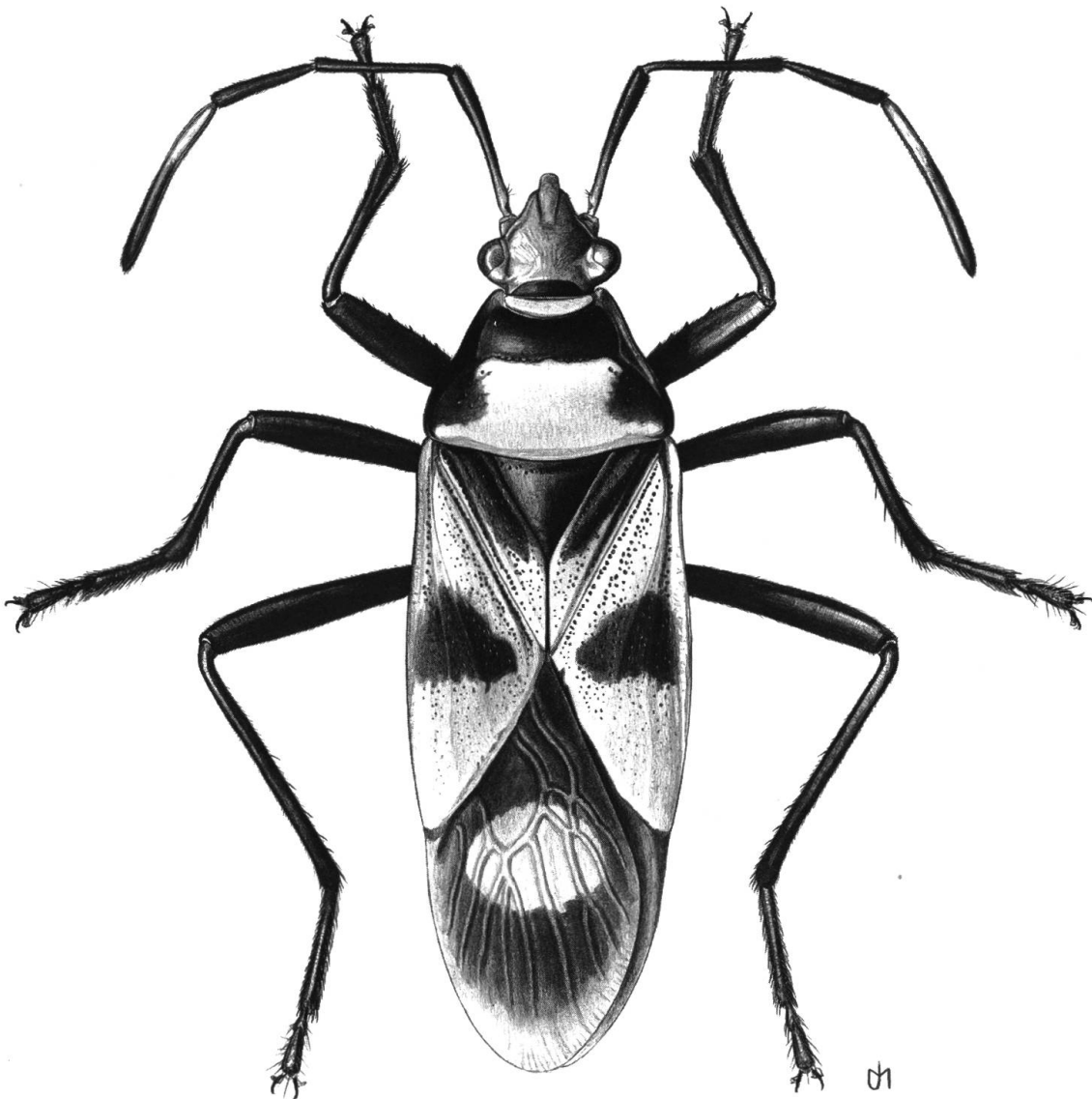


Fig. 1. *Sericocoris (Depressoculus) albomaculatus* sp.nov. (Meduna del.)

Description. Colouration. Head, both dorsally and ventrally, and ventrites (except stripes on posterior margin of ventrites II–V), red. Pronotal lobe (except lateral spots), clavus (except base), and corium (except median spot), whitish-yellow. Callar lobe, lateral spots on pronotal lobe, lateral pronotal margins, base of clavus (reaching medially to, or nearly to, claval commissure, laterally up to postcubital vein), membrane (except median spot and posterior margin), antennae (except basal half to two-thirds of antennomere 4), legs, labium, pronotal epipleuron, pleura, and basisternum, black. Median black spot on corium somewhat pointed anteriorly, nearly horizontal or slightly arcuately incised posteriorly, almost reaching across entire width of corium. Pronotal



Figs 2-3. *Sericocoris (Depressoculus) albomaculatus* sp.nov., pygophore of holotype: 2 – dorsal view, 3 – posterior view.

collar (sometimes yellowish), prosternal collar, posterior pleural flanges I–III, epicoxal lobes I–III, posterior stripes on ventrites II–V, hypocostal lamina, costal margin of corium (not always), and large, round, median spot on membrane, white. Posterior margin of membrane rather widely whitish-grey.

Sculpture. Pronotum impunctate. Clavus and corium with prominent punctures; punctures on corium more prominent in its basal part up to the median spot, black punctures less prominent beyond the spot. Body glabrous.

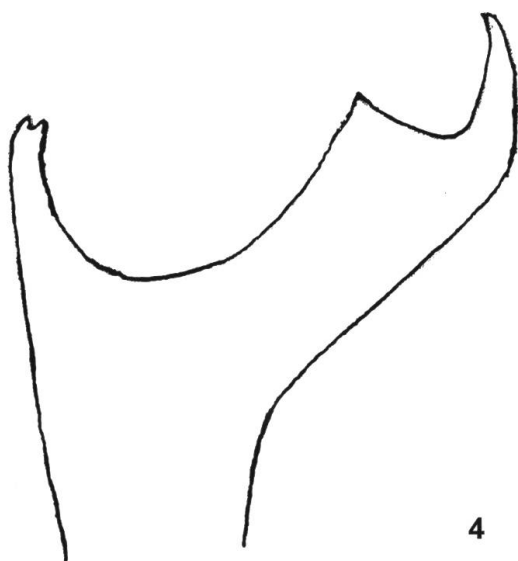
Structure. Body nearly parallel-sided.

Frons rather flat, only medially somewhat elevated, laterally declining into depression next to each eye. Temple round, convex. Labium reaching proximal margin of ventrite IV.

Lateral margins of pronotum narrower, raised dorsally (especially in males), and medially somewhat concave; posterior pronotal angles rounded.

Femora rather slender; fore-femora with four equidistant teeth in the apical half.

Pygophore (Figs 2–3). In lateral view, basal portion of ventral wall receding, dorsal portion convex with erect hairs; ventral rim slightly projecting posteriad and detached from ventral wall by arcuate furrow. In caudal view, dorsal portion of ventral wall with



4 **Fig. 4.** *Sericocoris (Depressoculus) albomaculatus* sp.nov., paramere.

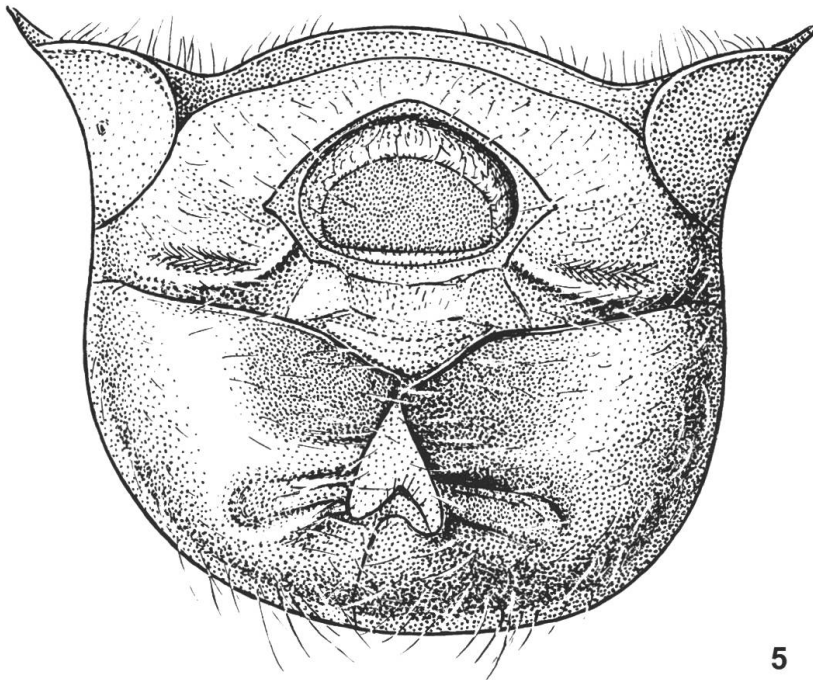


Fig. 5. *Sericocoris (Depressoculus) albomaculatus* sp.nov., outer female genitalia.

distinct depression sublaterally; ventral rim slightly round, incised, with small teeth near junction with lateral rim. In dorsal view, ventral rim slightly arched medially; ventral rim infolding under the arched part with a fine transversal ridge and then steeply declining into genital chamber. Lateral rim sharp, raised above level of ventral rim, than nearly straight (not arcuate), bearing short, black hairs beyond the junction with the ventral rim. Lateral rim infolding regularly concave, with wider patch of small black denticles before the junction with ventral rim. Dorsal rim straight, lowered relative to lateral rim. Parameres (Fig. 4) flat, vertical, nearly touching one another at their inner edges, apically pointed, than divergent, strongly raised and incised in nearly semicircular fashion, this incision ending in a small spine; paramere beyond nearly horizontal and ending apically in a small, inward-curved spine. Prolonged part of paramere in genital chamber rather short, dish-like, lower margin arcuate. Upper margin of paramere black, with sensory hairs.

Outer female genitalia (Fig. 5). Both sides of valvifer I basally partly overlapping or parallel, shortly above the base narrowly incised, sutural margins beyond this incision convergent and touching one another; dorsal margin first slightly oblique, than nearly

horizontal. Valvifer I at level of the incision with elongated, nearly horizontal depression, another (somewhat shallower) depression below dorsal margin near sutural margin. Valvifer II less prominent, anteriorly usually wide, medially usually with small projection. Laterotergite IX nearly merging with tergite IX, laterotergite IX medially with wide depression. Laterotergite VIII rather large, nearly semicircular.

Measurements (mean (minimum–maximum); mm). Males (n = 7). Body length 10.98 (10.37–12.37); head: width (including eyes) 1.69 (1.65–1.73), interocular width 1.01 (0.97–1.05); lengths of antennomeres: 1 – 2.17 (2.00–2.27), 2 – 1.80 (1.65–1.94), 3 – 1.33 (1.30–1.43), 4 – 2.56 (2.48–2.59); pronotum: total length 1.98 (1.91–2.22), collar length 0.23 (0.19–0.27), callar lobe length 0.52 (0.46–0.57), pronotal lobe length 1.98 (1.91–2.22), width 3.09 (2.97–3.21); scutellum: length 1.35 (1.30–1.46), width 1.48 (1.38–1.57); corium: length 5.21 (4.86–5.45), width 1.70 (1.57–1.78).

Females (n = 5, but some antennomeres missing). Body length 13.32 (12.31–13.82); head: width (including eyes) 1.98 (1.89–2.01), interocular width 1.23 (1.13–1.35); lengths of antennomeres: 1 – 2.32 (2.11–2.48), 2 – 2.02 (1.84–2.16), 3 – 1.46 (1.35–1.57), 4 – 2.67 (2.48–2.86); pronotum: total length 2.47 (2.15–2.64), collar length 0.29 (0.24–0.32), callar lobe length 0.56 (0.51–0.62), pronotal lobe length 1.61 (1.40–1.70), width 3.92 (3.59–4.08); scutellum: length 1.67 (1.62–1.78), width 1.98 (1.89–2.05); corium: length 6.60 (6.05–7.02), width 2.15 (1.94–2.27).

Variation. Lateral black spots on pronotal lobe considerably elongated mesad (in two males from Kikwit locality); corium in males rarely with reddish spots (holotype); male ventrites sometimes uniformly yellow. Structure of outer female genitalia somewhat variable, both sutural margins of valvifer II beyond the incision abruptly and strongly convergent.

Distribution. West, north-west, and east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kwilu, Nord-Ubangi, Sud-Kivu, Nord Kivu and Sud-Ubangi provinces).

Derivatio nominis. The specific is composed of the Latin adjectives *albus* (= white) and *maculatus* (= spotted), referring to the large median white spot on the membrane.

Differential diagnosis. *Sericocoris* (*Depressoculus*) *albomaculatus* sp.nov. differs from all subspecies of *S. (D.) antennatus* (Distant, 1881) in its black membrane with large, round, white median spot. Moreover, it differs from *S. (D.) a. antennatus* in the pronotal lobe lacking a continuous black stripe across its entire width.

***Sericocoris* (*Depressoculus*) *antennatus antennatus* (Distant, 1881) comb.nov.**
(Figs 6–7)

Dysdercus antennatus Distant, 1881: 275, pl. xxxi: Fig. 5 (description, figure).

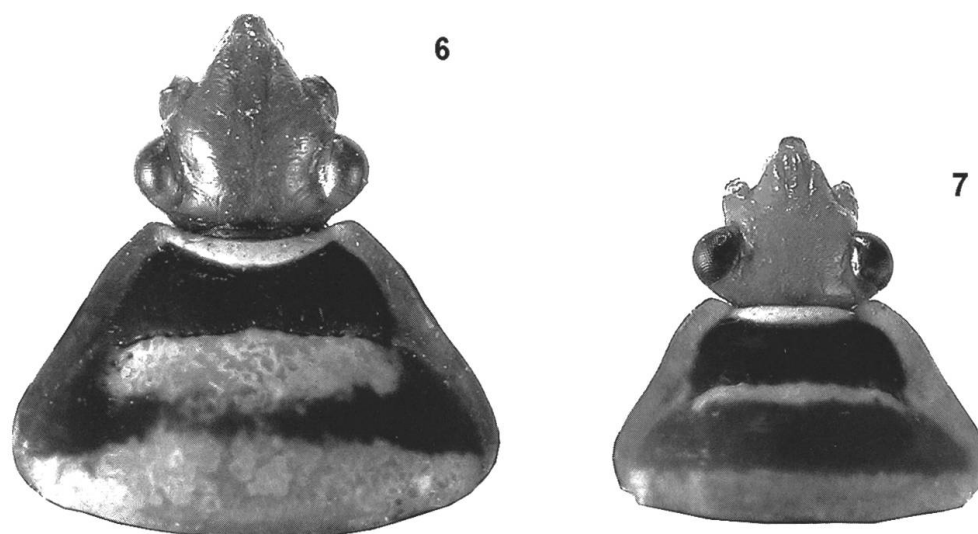
Dysdercus antennatus: LETHIERRY & SEVERIN (1894): 252 (catalogue); BERGROTH (1920): 4 (note); HUSSEY (1929): 96 (catalogue).

Dindymus antennatus: BLÖTE (1931): 117 (generic placement).

Neodindymus antennatus: STEHLÍK (1965): 228 (generic placement); LINNAVUORI (1988): 16 (cited); ROBERTSON (2004): 26 (catalogue).

Cenaeus bifasciatus Haglund, 1895: 465 (description), **syn.nov.**

Cenaeus bifasciatus: BERGROTH (1913): 171 (catalogue); HUSSEY (1929): 66 (catalogue); SCHMIDT (1932): 245 (distribution); VILLIERS (1950): 934 (distribution); STEHLÍK (1965): 225 (as incertae sedis, unplaced to genus); VILLIERS (1967): 373 (distribution); ROBERTSON (2004): 30 (catalogue).



Figs 6–7. *Sericocoris (Depressoculus) antennatus antennatus* (Distant), head and pronotum: 6 – specimen from Cameroon, Yaudé, 7 – specimen from South Nigeria, Ilesa.

Type material examined. *Dysdercus antennatus*: Holotype ♀, “Type [p, round white label with red margin] // antennatus Dist. [hw, rectangular white label] // Calabar [hw, white label] // Distant coll. 1911–1913 [p, rectangular white label]” (BMNH). The holotype is pinned, head of pin missing. Pronotum longitudinally cracked along its entire length, left hind leg missing.

Cenaeus bifasciatus: Holotype ♀, “Camerun [p, white label] // Sjöstedt [white label] // *Cenaeus bifasciatus* Hagl. Typ! [hw] // Typus [p, pale red label with dark red margin] // 435[p] 59[hw] [pale red label] // Rijkmuseum / Stockholm [p, green label]” (NHRS). The holotype is in poor condition, left antennomeres 2–4, and right antennomere 4 missing; right hemelytron with part of the membrane lost, left hemelytron standing away, left wing projecting sideways and apically damaged.

Additional material examined. Cameroon: Mundame, Mukonje Farm, 1 ♂ 7 ♀♀, (ZMHB). Equatorial Guinea: Fernando Po [= Bioko Island] (MNHM) Nigeria: (South), Ilesha [= Ilesa], 1 ♂ (BMNH).

Redescription. **Colouration.** Head, lateral margins of pronotum, pronotal epipleuron, dorsal and ventral laterotergites, tergites, ventrite VII, and genitalia, bright red. Pronotal collar and pronotal lobe pale yellow, more than basal half of antennomere 4, prosternal collar, posterior pleural flanges I–III, epicoxal lobes I–III, ventrites II–V (except intersegmental sutures), and zygosternites II–V, white. Antennae (except base of antennomere 4), legs, callar lobe, transverse stripe at *ca.* midlength of pronotal lobe (Fig. 6), stripe on inner margin of clavus, large round spot on membrane, intersegmental sutures II–V, and entire zygosternite VI, black. Clavus and corium mostly whitish. Membrane grey, colouration less distinct at base (widely) and somewhat less on posterior margin.

Structure. Body slightly oval, sometimes nearly parallel-sided. Body length: ♂♂ 10.04–11.39 mm, ♀♀ 12.96–13.66 mm.

Head less wide, more elongated in front of eyes; frons of males flat, medially somewhat depressed, with fine longitudinal furrow bifurcate before clypeus; female frons somewhat more convex than in male; with fine bifurcate furrow (occasionally absent) before clypeus.

Pronotum narrower, pronotal collar longer, flat; callar lobe slightly convex; pronotal lobe distinctly raised towards base, its posterior margin above the level of scutellum. Lateral pronotal margin wide, raised dorsally, reaching humeral bulges, slightly concave at level of median furrow, its distal margin distinctly rounded. Scutellum only slightly convex. Fore-femora with four equidistant teeth.

Variation. There is some variation in the width of the transverse stripe on the pronotal lobe. A male from the Ilesa (Nigeria) (Fig. 7) locality has a much wider stripe (0.70 mm), as does a female from Bioko Island (width of stripe 0.65 mm), while in the female holotype the width is only 0.22 mm medially, laterally somewhat wider). In both the specimens from Ilesa and Bioko Island, the clavus and corium are reddish, while the costal margins and veins of the corium are whitish. More specimens are needed to decide whether this is merely a variation or these specimens belong to another new subspecies.

Distribution. Cameroon (HAGLUND 1895, SCHMIDT 1932), Equatorial Guinea: Bioko Island (VILLIERS 1967), Gabon (VILLIERS 1967), Guinea (ROBERTSON 2004), Liberia (VILLIERS 1950), Nigeria (DISTANT 1881), Congo (VILLIERS 1967).

Differential diagnosis. See Key to species.

Note. ROBERTSON (2004) also mentioned distribution of *N. antennatus* in Guinea but original references are not given in the catalogue.

Sericocoris (Depressoculus) antennatus congolanus subsp.nov.

Type material. Holotype ♂, Democratic Republic of Congo: “Mayumbe [Congo Central province], Makaia N’Tete – Tuevo, 20.–30.vi.1915, R. Mayné’ (MRAC). Paratypes: Democratic Republic of Congo: Kongo Central province: Bas Congo, Tshela, ii.1940, 1 ♀, Vleschouvers lgt. (MRAC); Congo da Lemba, iv.1911, 1 ♀, l.x.1911, 1 ♂, R. Mayné lgt. (MRAC); Lenghilukula, Cabra, 1 ♀ (MRAC); Mayumbe, Makaia N’Tete – Tuevo, 20.–30.vi.1915, 1 ♀, R. Mayné lgt.” (MRAC); “Mayumbe, Mediakoko, riv. Dizi, viii.–ix.1958, 1 ♀, Dr. R. Laurent lgt.” (MRAC).

Description. Colouration. Head ochraceous to red. Black: antennomeres 1–3 (completely) and 4 (apically), labium, legs, callar lobe, scutellum, large round spot on membrane, pleura I–III, narrow to somewhat wider anterior stripe on zygosternites III–V, and zygosternite VI to a varying extent (up to anterior two-thirds of its length). Ventriles VI (sometimes completely) and VII, ventral and dorsal laterotergites, and genitalia always red. Dark lateral spot on pronotal lobe often pale, in rare cases completely missing. Corium uniformly ochraceous including veins, costal margin only slightly paler compared to remaining surface of corium. Prosternal collar, posterior pleural flanges I–III, epicoxal lobes I–III, entire zygosternite II, and zygosternites III–V (except anterior black stripes) yellowish.

Structure. The same as in the nominotypical subspecies.

Distribution. South-west of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kongo Central province).

Derivatio nominis. The subspecies epithet is patronymic, referring to the area of distribution.

Differential diagnosis. See Key to species.

***Sericocoris (Depressoculus) antennatus immaculatus* subsp.nov.**

Type material. Holotype ♂, Democratic Republic of Congo: "Kivu [Nord-Kivu province], Beni, 31.viii.1937, J. Ghesquière" (MRAC). Paratypes: Democratic Republic of Congo: Bas-Uelé province: Bambesa, iii.1937, 1 ♀, J. Vrydaght lgt. (MRAC); Bambesa, 10.v.1937, 1 ♀, J. Vrydaght lgt. (MRAC). Haut-Uelé province: Moto, 1923, 1 ♀, L. Burgeon lgt. (MRAC). Ituri province: Uluku-(Bukunde), 24.ix.1924, 1 ♀, A. Collart lgt. (MRAC); Ituri, d'Uluku à Matenda, 23.ix.1929, 1 ♂, A. Collart lgt. (MRAC). Nord-Kivu province: Beni, 31.viii.1937, 1 ♀, J. Ghesquière lgt.' (MRAC). Sud-Kivu province: Kivu, Kavuma à [= near] Kabunda km 82 (Mingazi), v.1951, 1 ♀, H. Bomans lgt. (MRAC); Costermansville [= Bukavu], 1951, 1 ♀, H. Bomans lgt. (MRAC).

Description. Colouration. Head mostly dorsally and laterally red and gula black, rarely head dorsally black (except clypeus) with ventral surface red. Black antennomeres 1–3 entirely, apical third of antennomere 4, labium, legs, callar lobe, lateral pronotal margins and a lateral spot on each side of pronotal lobe (merging with colouration of lateral margin), scutellum, base of clavus, pleura I–III, narrow stripes anteriorly on zygosternites III–V (medially somewhat widened), rarely a spot on, or anterior two-thirds of, zygosternite VI, median spot on membrane (usually rounded, but sometimes with anterior margin concave), zygosternite VI (usually) and VII, ventral and dorsal laterotergites, and genitalia. Pronotal collar and pronotal lobe yellowish. Pronotal epipleuron pale, colour hard to define. Two basal thirds of antennomere 4, prosternal collar, posterior pleural flanges I–III, epicoxal lobes I–III, zygosternites II (entire) and I–III (except anterior black stripes), whitish. Clavus (except base) and especially corium mostly unbroken red, more rarely grey-yellowish; costal margin whitish; veins mostly less distinct, usually reddish, more rarely grey-yellowish.

Structure. The same as in the nominotypical subspecies.

Variation. Antennomere 1 occasionally pale.

Distribution. North-east and east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Bas-Uelé, Haute-Uelé, Ituri, Nord-Kivu, and Sud-Kivu provinces). In Bas-Uelé province, the distribution ranges of *S. antennatus immaculatus* subsp.nov. and *S. antennatus obscuratus* subsp.nov. meet and their hybridisation here is probable.

Derivatio nominis. The subspecies epithet is the Latin adjective *immaculatus* (= immaculate).

Differential diagnosis. See Key to species.

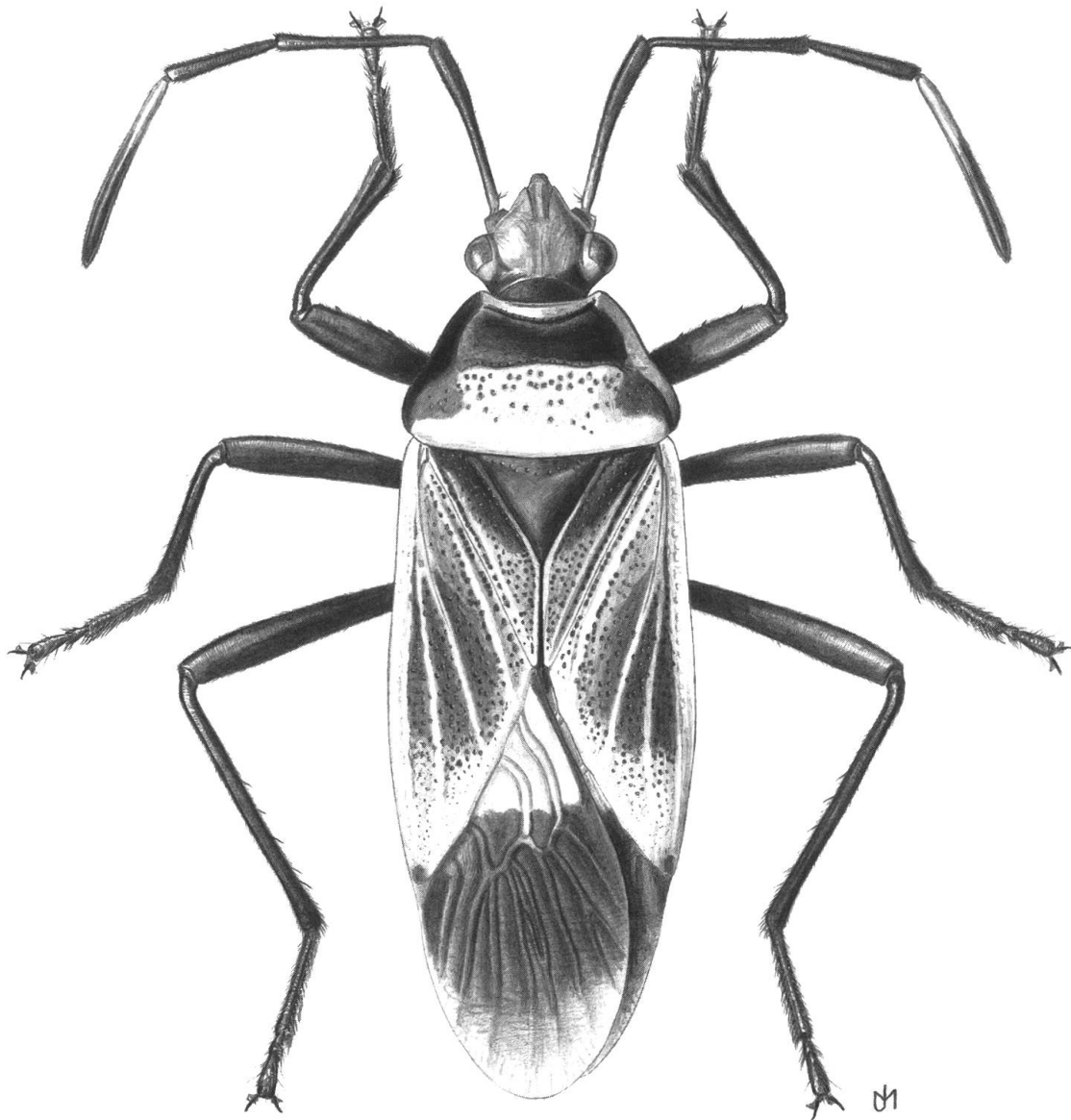


Fig. 8. *Sericocoris (Depressoculus) antennatus obscuratus* ssp. nov. (Meduna del.)

***Sericocoris (Depressoculus) antennatus obscuratus* subsp. nov. (Fig. 8)**

Type material. Holotype ♀, Democratic Republic of Congo: "Tshuapa [prov., currently Equateur province], Flandria, ix.1946–viii.1947, Rev. P. Hulstaert" (MRAC). Paratypes: Democratic Republic of Congo: Bas-Uelé province: Bambesa, x.1933, 1 ♀, H. J. Bredo lgt. (MRAC). Equateur province: Flandria, 1931, 1 ♂, R. P. Hulstaert lgt. (MRAC); Tshuapa, Bokuma, iii.1952, 1 ♀, R. P. Lotens lgt. (MRAC). Kwilu province: Terr. de Dibaya, Kamponde, 1945, 2 ♀♀, Fr. Allaer lgt. (MRAC). Mongala province: Terr. Lisala, Gwangu, vi.1938,

1 ♂, J. J. Deheyn lgt. (MRAC). Sud-Ubangi province: Ubangi, Bumba, 11.xii.1952, 1 ♂, P. Basilewsky lgt. (MRAC). Tshopo province: Stanleyville [= Kisangani], 9.i.1948, 1 ♀, Don Dr. R. Mouchaps lgt. (MRAC). Tshuapa province: Bokungu, 1949, 1 ♂, Dupuis lgt. (MRAC).

Description. Colouration. Head (usually), pronotal epipleuron, first labial segment (sometimes), tergites, ventral and dorsal laterotergites, ventrite VI (sometimes), ventrite VII and genitalia of both sexes, red. Black: dorsal surface of head (sometimes, in that case clypeus red), vertex, antennae (except antennomere 4 basally, and sometimes with the exception of antennomere 1, with lower side more or less lighter), labium (sometimes not first segment), callar lobe, lateral pronotal margin and a round spot adjacent to it, legs, scutellum, base of clavus (mesad up to claval commissure), pleura I–III, stripes anteriorly on zygosternites III–V (usually widening medially), zygosternite VI (usually) more or less (most frequently 2/3), and large round spot on membrane. Basal half (in males) to two-thirds (in females) of antennomere 4, prosternal collar, posterior pleural flanges I–III, epicoxal lobes I–III, and zygosternites II and III–V (except these of anterior margin) whitish. Pronotal collar and pronotal lobe pale yellow. Clavus (except base) and corium (except whitish costal margin and veins) pale ochraceous. Corium with irregular reddish spots, especially in its posterior part (more distinct in females), medially darkened to black, the dark colouration not sharply delimited (reaching from cubital vein to subcosta); medial and radial vein pale, contrasting with surrounding dark colouration. Membrane basally and apically smoky grey.

Structure. The same as in the nominotypical subspecies.

Distribution. Western, north-western, and north-central parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Bas-Uelé, Equateur, Kwilu, Mongala, Sud-Ubangi, Tshopo, and Tshuapa provinces).

Devivatio nominis. The subspecies epithet is the Latin adjective *obscuratus* (= darkened).

Differential diagnosis. See Key to species.

Key to species and subspecies of *Depressoculus* subgen.nov.

1. Membrane black, with large, round, white median spot. Pronotal lobe lacking continuous black stripe across its entire width. West, north-west, and east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kwilu, Nord-Ubangi, Sud-Kivu, Nord Kivu and Sud-Ubangi provinces).
..... *Sericocoris (Depressoculus) albomaculatus* sp.nov.
- Membrane grey, without large, round, white median spot. Continuous black stripe across pronotal lobe developed or absent. 2.
2. Pronotal lobe medially with continuous transverse black stripe across its entire width. From Liberia to Gabon and Congo.
... *Sericocoris (Depressoculus) antennatus antennatus* (Distant, 1881)
- Median transverse black stripe reduced to black spot at each lateral margin of pronotal lobe. Democratic Republic of Congo. 3.

3. Corium medially with large black spot with diffuse margins; veins on corium whitish; lateral spots on pronotal lobe black. Western, north-western, and north-central parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Bas-Uelé, Equateur, Kwilu, Mongala, Sud-Ubangi, Tshopo, and Tshuapa provinces).
 *Sericocoris (Depressoculus) antennatus obscuratus* subsp.nov.
- Corium without black colouration medially. 4.
4. Corium mostly reddish, rarely grey-yellow; veins mostly less distinct, usually reddish, more rarely grey-yellowish; costal margin whitish; lateral spots on pronotal lobe black. North-east and east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Bas-Uelé, Haute-Uelé, Ituri, Nord-Kivu, and Sud-Kivu provinces).
 *Sericocoris (Depressoculus) antennatus immaculatus* subsp.nov.
- Corium ochraceous; corial veins concolorous; costal margin only slightly paler than remaining parts of corium; lateral spots on pronotal lobe often pale, rarely absent. South-west of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kongo Central province).
 *Sericocoris (Depressoculus) antennatus congolanus* subsp.nov.

Schaeferiana gen.nov.

Type species. *Schaeferiana mirabilis* sp.nov.

Description. Structure. Body rather large, oval.

Head horizontal, antecular part largely elongated; frons and vertex only slightly sloping towards apex in lateral view; frons markedly flat with longitudinal median furrow, bifurcated before base of clypeus; median part of head rugose. Frons convex laterally to median furrow; distinct rounded depression present anterior to the bulges, extended to median part of temple and eye. Eye socket narrow, reaching the pit-like depression; eyes relatively small, weakly bulging; temple large, laterally strongly convex; both eye and temple dorsoventrally flattened. Gena under the eye with distinct depression and a large bulge situated anterior to it and adjacent to temple. Basal part of clypeus ridge-like. Antennifers prominent. Vertex higher than frons. Buccular groove indistinct except for base; bucculae elongated, anteriorly concave, distinctly higher posteriorly and rounded. Labium slender, reaching basal half of ventrite IV; first segment stouter than remainder, apically markedly thickened, exceeding the base of head. Antennae slender and long; antennomere 1 long, exceeding head by 4/5 of its length, regularly thickening from its mid-length towards apex, longer than antennomere 2; antennomere 2 thickened subapically; antennomere 3 thickening regularly from base to apex; antennomeres 3 and 4 stouter than antennomere 2; antennomere 4 longest of all.

Pronotum rather long, widening markedly towards base, posterior angles and posterior margin distinctly rounded; lateral margins strongly raised dorsally, concave (deeply in males, slightly in females); at level of callar lobe lateral margins wider than anteriorly. Pronotal collar projecting posteriad, forming rather large, horizontal plate of

rectangular shape with rounded angles and irregular shallow imprints, extended above callar lobe. Base of callar lobe rudimental, its anterior two-thirds cavernous, mostly covered by the rectangular projection of the pronotal collar, visible only as a narrow fissure. Anterolateral margin of the rudimental part usually extended above level of the median part and strongly convex. Pronotal lobe towards base uniformly gibbous, anterolaterally deeply depressed. Prosternal collum laterally narrow, sublaterally largely widened, medially deeply and triangularly incised. Pleura I–III and posterior pleural flanges I–III smooth, lustrous. Basisterna laterally with elevated gibbosities.

Hemelytra parallel-sided; costal margin basally convex, at level of claval commissure markedly concave, in posterior part more distinctly convex; distal angle of hemelytra rounded; radius bifurcated from its base, distally curved inwards; branches of cubital, median, and radial veins only scarcely furcated, running nearly longitudinally. Membrane exceeding abdominal apex posteriorly.

Legs slender, long. Profemur not markedly thickened compared with meso- and metafemur, slightly attenuated basally and towards apex; ventral face of profemur with shallow furrow fading at around mid-lengths, dorsal edge of the furrow with four equidistant teeth, their apices somewhat bent towards femoral apex. Meso- and metafemur uniformly thickening from the base onwards, widest in the distal third, subapically abruptly attenuated. Tibiae straight with slightly prominent spines.

Pygophore (Figs 11–12). In lateral view, basal portion of ventral wall receding, dorsal portion gibbous with pale, erect hairs and with shallow depression sublaterally. In caudal view, ventral rim narrow, separated from ventral wall by shallow depression, both parts connected only medially by weak vertical ridge. Ventral rim sharp, sublaterally with minute tooth on each side, regularly merging into highly raised, sharp lateral rim. In dorsal view, ventral rim wide, protruding posteriad, markedly separated from lateral rim; shallowly but widely concave medially, this part sharply delimited, laterally slightly concave, sloping towards lateral rim infolding. Ventral rim infolding steeply declining into genital chamber. Lateral rim infolding incised at the level of the parameres, then wide, proximally slightly, then strongly sloping into genital chamber. Lateral rim infolding with cluster of small black denticles and long black hairs near its dorsal margin. Ventral and lateral rim with pale hairs. Dorsal rim depressed, straight; anal tube wide, horizontally positioned. Parameres (Fig. 13) in caudal view markedly exceeding ventral rim (especially apically). Body of paramere vertical, produced into wide, flat structure with a proximal spine on its dorsal side, remaining part of paramere produced towards anal tube and widening to the spine on its dorsal side; upper margin of this part finely denticulate, black, with sensory hairs, then abruptly depressed and projecting into protracted spine. Several sensory hairs also present on inner side before the second spine (before the depressed part).

Outer female genitalia (Fig. 14). Both sides of valvifer I parallel basally, shortly above the base divergent and deeply concave; beyond this incision dorsal margin running obliquely towards laterotergite VIII. Valvifer II completely visible, in proximal part wider, distally narrowed, medially with deep, nearly round depression. Structure beyond valvifer II with one rounded depression on each side. Laterotergite IX markedly wide, encircling the anal tube. Junction of tergite VIII and laterotergite VIII roof-like.

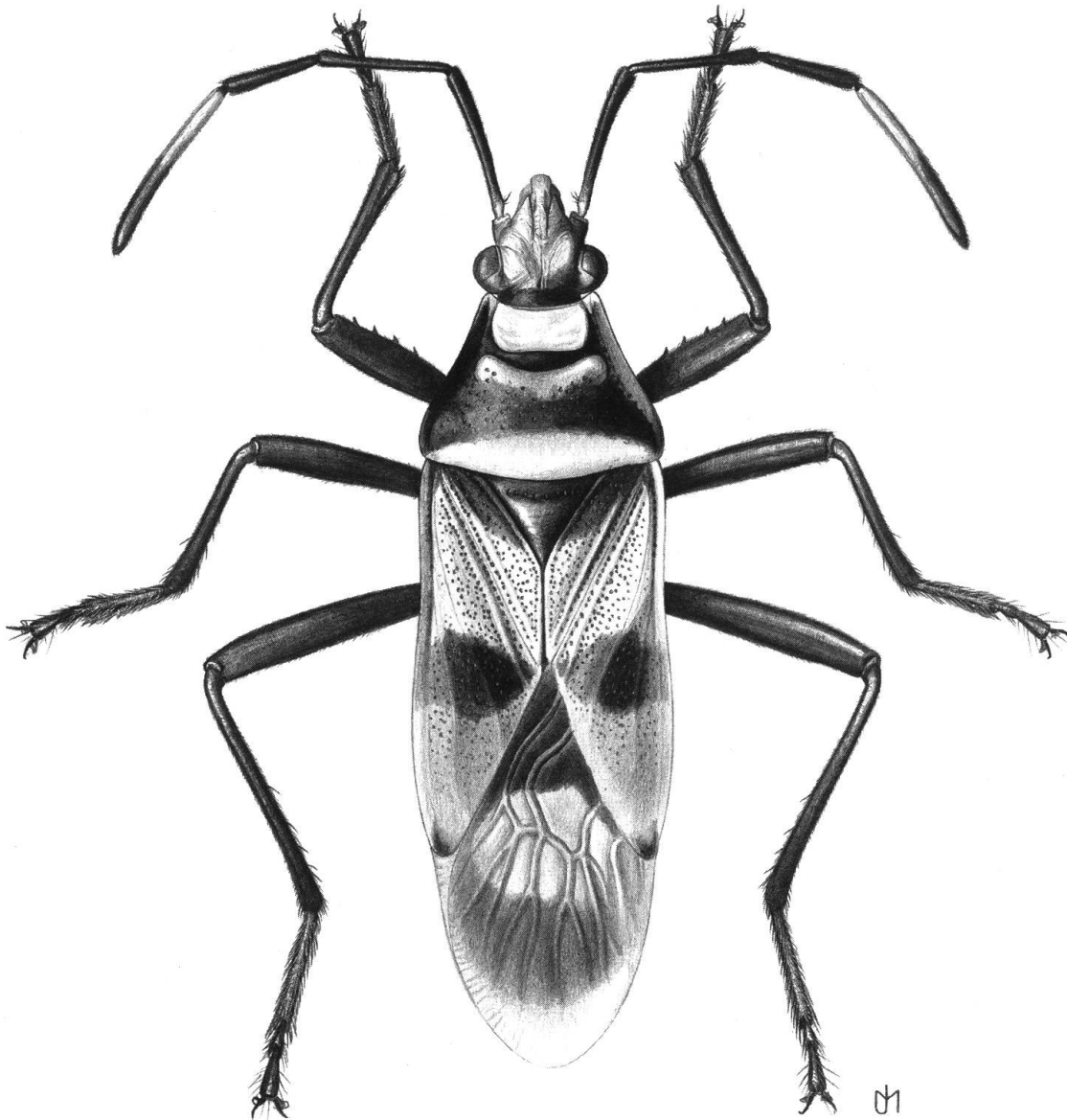


Fig. 9. *Schaeferiana mirabilis* sp.nov. (Meduna del.)

Distribution. Currently monotypic genus, distributed in central Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo).

Derivatio nominis. I dedicate this remarkable new genus to Prof. Carl W. Schaefer (University of Connecticut, Storrs, USA), an outstanding heteropterist and author of many papers covering a wide range of entomological and heteropterological topics. The gender is feminine.

Differential diagnosis. *Schaeferiana* gen. nov. differs from all known genera of Pyrrhocoridae in the unique structure of its pronotal collar and callar lobe.

***Schaeferiana mirabilis* sp.nov.**

(Figs 9–14)

Type material. Holotype ♂, Democratic Republic of Congo: “Kivu [Nord-Kivu province], Beni, 31.vii.1937, J. Guesquière” (MRAC). Paratypes: 1 ♀, Democratic Republic of Congo: “Kivu [Maniema province], Kindu, 2.iii.1957, Meurillon” (MRAC); 1 ♂ 1 ♀, “Kasika (Riv. Ngombo) [Sud-Kivu province], 115 m, 8.–10.vi.1949, Dr. R. Laurent” (MRAC); 1 ♀, “Gazi (Stanleyville) [Tshopo province], 1947, P. Henrard” (MRAC).

Description. Colouration. Red: head (both dorsally and ventrally), (usually) antennomere 3 basally, labial segment 1, zygosternites III–V proximally (in form of stripes), zygosternites VI and VII entire including genitalia, and ventral and dorsal laterotergites. Black: antennomere 1 (sometimes not base), antennomeres 2 and 3 entire, and *ca.* distal half of antennomere 4, lateral pronotal margins, depression on the callar lobe, wide stripe (its posterior margin somewhat arcuate) on anterior of pronotal lobe, extending onto posterolateral pronotal angles, clavus basally (nearly to scutellar apex), large median spot on corium, apex of corium narrowly, pronotal epipleuron, pleura I–III, basisterna I–III, and legs including coxae. Median black spot on corium nearly triangular, widest at its lateral margin, reaching costal margin, narrowed mesad, leaving only pale, narrow distal margin of corium. Approximately basal half of antennomere 4,

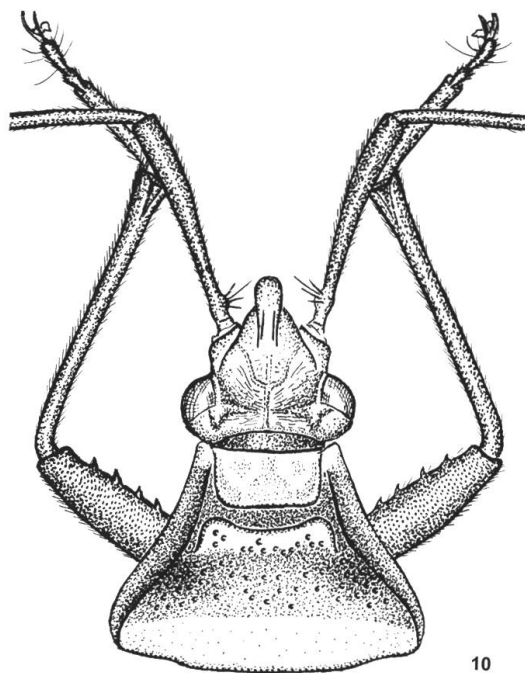
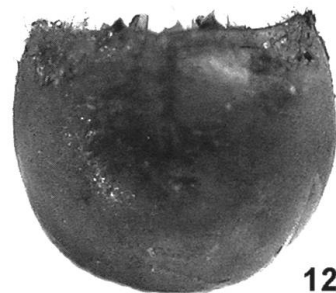
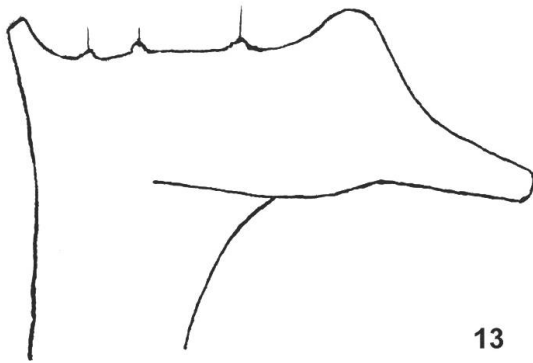


Fig. 10. *Schaeferiana mirabilis* sp.nov., head and pronotum.



Figs 11–12. *Schaeferiana mirabilis* sp.nov., pygophor of holotype: 11 – dorsal view, 12 – posterior view.



13

Fig. 13. *Schaeferiana mirabilis* sp.nov., paramere.

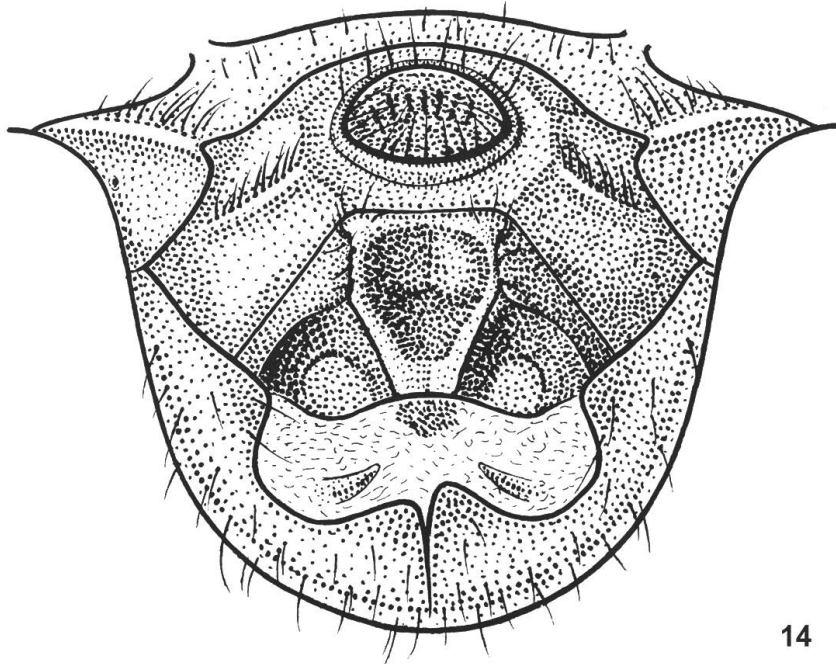
pronotal collar including the rectangular plate, prosternal collar posterior pleural flanges I–III, epicoxal lobes I–III, entire zygosternite II, and wide distal stripes on zygosternites III–V, white. Membrane black, at level of apices of coria and on its apex with pale, wide stripes, not sharply delimited from remaining dark parts.

Sculpture and pubescence. Punctuation limited to pronotal lobe, rudimental basal part of callar lobe (punctures sometimes absent from this part), clavus and corium. Pronotal lobe with sparse, irregular punctures (in size as

well as depth) at a certain distance from its proximal margin; anterolateral depressions irregularly punctate; distal part impunctate. Clavus and corium (except costal margin) with distinct punctures; distal part of corium less distinctly punctate.

Basisterna I–III, coxae and genitalia with pale yellow hairs. Zygosterna medially and legs with adpressed golden yellow pilosity; hairs on tibiae denser and more distinct than on femora. Antennae (except antennomere 3) with fine pale pubescence; antennomere 3 with dense, short black pubescence.

Structure. See the generic description.



14

Fig. 14. *Schaeferiana mirabilis* sp.nov., outer female genitalia.

Distribution. North-western, north-central, and eastern areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Maniema, Nord-Kivu, Sud-Kivu, Tshopo provinces).

Derivatio nominis. The species epithet is the Latin adjective *mirabilis* (= wonderful, extraordinary, unusual).

Discussion

Sericocoris and *Schaeferiana* gen.nov. appear to be closely related taxa, sharing parameres not crossing one another, which is an important difference from *Cenaeus* Stål, 1861 and *Neodindymus* Stehlík, 1965, in which all species included have crossed parameres.

Depressoculus subgen.nov. differs from all other subgenera in particular apomorphic characters— eyes small, dorsoventrally flattened, frons next to the eye with dish-like depression, and gena ventrally with a gibbosity under temple and a pit-like depression under the eye. These characters are also shared by *Schaeferiana* gen.nov.; however, the dish-like depression next to the eye is larger (Fig. 10), frons flatter and more rugulose, medially slightly depressed, with a fine longitudinal furrow bifurcated before the base of clypeus. Moreover, *Depressoculus* subgen.nov. and *Schaeferiana* gen.nov. share long and slender legs, profemur not markedly thickened compared with meso- and metafemur, ventral face of profemur with four equidistant teeth. The body outline of both taxa, with the lateral margins nearly parallel, is also similar, as well as colour pattern sharing the black transversal stripe on the pronotal lobe, a median black spot on the corium, and a white median spot on the membrane (most similar to *S. (D.) albomaculatus* sp.nov.). However, the remaining characters of *Depressoculus* subgen.nov. fit well into the current generic concept of *Sericocoris* (see STEHLÍK 1965), while *Schaeferiana* gen.nov. is clearly defined by the peculiar structure of its pronotum, with anterior two-thirds of the callar lobe cavernous, covered by pronotal collar produced into a horizontal rectangular plate. This character is unique within Heteroptera. While the plate-like projection of the pronotal collar appears to shelter the cavernous depression against falling dirt and drops of water, the function of the cavernous depression of the callar lobe remains an enigma.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Ursula Göllner-Scheiding (ZMHB, Berlin, Germany), Ernst Heiss (Innsbruck, Austria), Dominique Pluot-Sigwalt (MNHN, Paris, France), Guy Schmitz (MRAC, Tervuren, Belgium), and Mick D. Webb (BMNH, London, United Kingdom), for the loans of specimens from collections under their care. I also extend my gratitude to the late J. Meduna (Brno) for the illustrations, Luboš Dembický (MMBC, Brno, Czech Republic) for taking the photographs, Petr Stehlík (Brno) for technical assistance, and Petr Kment (National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic) for translation and comments on the manuscript.

References

- BERGROTH E. (1912): *Ueber einige afrikanische Pyrrhocoriden*. Wiener Entomologische Zeitung **31**: 313–317.
- BERGROTH E. (1913): *Supplementum Catalogi Heteropterorum Bruxellensis. II*. Memoires de la Société Entomologique de Belgique **22**: 125–183.
- BERGROTH E. (1920): *Hemiptera from British East Africa collected by Prof. E. Lunnberg*. Arkiv för Zoologi **12(17)**: 1–30.
- BLÖTE H. C. (1931): *Catalogue of the Pyrrhocoridae in s' Rijks Museum van Natuurlijke Historie*. Zoologische Mededelingen **14**: 97–136.
- DISTANT W. L. (1881): *Additions to the Rhynchotal fauna of the Ethiopian Region*. Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London **1881**: 270–276.
- DISTANT W. L. (1919): *Some new species of the Homopterous family Pyrrhocoridae*. Annals and Magazine of Natural History, Series 9 **3**: 218–222.
- DOESBURG P. H., Jr., VAN (1968): *A revision of New World species of Dysdercus Guérin Méneville (Heteroptera, Pyrrhocoridae)*. Zoologische Verhandelingen (Leiden) **97**: 1–215.
- HAGLUND J. C. E. (1895): *Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Insektenfauna von Kamerun. 4. Verzeichniss der von Yngve Sjöstedt in nord-westlichen Kamerungebiete eingesammelten Hemipteren*. Öfversigt af Kongliga Svenska Vetenskaps-Akademiens Förhandlingar **1895(7)**: 445–479.
- HUSSEY R. (1929): *Fascicle III. Pyrrhocoridae*. In: HORVÁTH G. & PARSHLEY H. M. (eds): *General Catalogue of the Hemiptera*. Smith College, Northampton, 144 pp.
- KARSCH F. (1892): *Kurze Charakteristik neuer Wanzen aus Kamerun gesammelt durch Herrn Dr. Paul Preuss*. Entomologische Nachrichten **18**: 129–144.
- KARSCH F. (1894): *Verzeichniss der von Herrn Dr. Paul Preuss in Kamerun gesammelten Schnabelkerfe nebst Beschreibung der neuen Arten*. Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung **55**: 99–116.
- KIRKALDY G. W. & EDWARDS S. (1902): *Anmerkungen über Bemerkenswerte Pyrrhocoriden. (Rhynchota)*. Wiener Entomologische Zeitung **21**: 161–173.
- LETHIERRY L. & SEVERIN G. (1894): *Pyrrhocoridae*. pp. 237–255. In: LETHIERRY L. & SEVERIN G.: *Catalogue Generale des Hémiptères. Vol. 2*. Musée Royal d'Histoire Naturelle de Belgique, Bruxelles, 277 pp.
- LINNAVUORI R. (1988): *Berytidae and Pyrrhocoridae (Heteroptera) from Nigeria and the Ivory Coast, with remarks on the occurrence in the adjacent countries*. Annales Entomologici Fennici **54**: 11–18.
- ROBERTSON I. A. D. (2004): *The Pyrrhocoroidea (Hemiptera – Heteroptera) of the Ethiopian region*. Journal of Insect Science **4**: 14–44.
- SCHAEFER C. W. (1977): *Genital capsule of the Trichophoran male (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Geocorisae)*. International Journal of Insect Morphology and Embryology **6**: 277–301.
- SCHMIDT E. (1932): *Zur Kenntnis der Familie Pyrrhocoridae Fieber. (Hemiptera – Heteroptera)*. Teil II. Wiener Entomologische Zeitung **49**: 236–281.
- STEHLÍK J. L. (1965): *Mission Zoologique de l'I.R.S.A.C. en Afrique orientale (P. Basilewsky – N. Leleup 1957). Pyrrhocoridae (Het.)*. Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae Naturales **50**: 211–252.
- VILLIERS A. (1950): *Hémiptères récoltés au Liberia par P. L. Dekeyser et B. Holas*. Bulletin de l'Institut Français de l'Afrique Noire **12**: 930–939.
- VILLIERS A. (1967): *Contribution à la faune du Congo (Brazzaville). Mission A. Villiers et A. Descarpentries. XLVIII. Hémiptères Pyrrhocoridae*. Bulletin de l'Institut Français de l'Afrique Noire, Séries A **29**: 370–374.

Author's address:

dr. Jaroslav L. Stehlík
 Moravian Museum
 Department of Entomology
 Hviezdoslavova 29a
 CZ-627 00 Brno-Slatina
 CZECH REPUBLIC