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A new species of *Ochrilidia* STÅL
(Orthoptera: Acrididae, Gomphocerinae) from Libya

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Ochrilidia alshatiensis, a new species of *Ochrilidia* STÅL, from the Al-Shati province of Libya is described and illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Ochrilidia* was erected by STÅL (1873). SALFI (1931) revised the genus and recognized 25 species. JAGO (1977) reviewed the species and reduced the number to 10. Recently, MISHCHENKO (1986) made a comparative study of the species of *Ochrilidia* and reestablished most of them placed in synonymy by JAGO (1977) as distinct species. One new species, *O. alshatiensis* is described on the basis of unidentified species of *Ochrilidia* STÅL reported by AJAILI *et al.* (1989) from Al-Shati, Libya. The genus now contains 25 species worldwide.

DESCRIPTION

Ochrilidia alshatiensis sp. n.
(Figs. 1 A, B; 2 A–H)

Male Type (Fig, 1A)

Head: Brownish, slightly shorter than pronotum; antennae ensiform, 25-segmented including scape and pedicel, segments 3–8 flattened and moderately expanded at base, longer than head and pronotum together; interocular distance about three-fourth width of vertex in front of eyes as seen from above; vertex in front of compound eyes with straight antero-lateral edges as seen from above, shorter than wide with acute apex; frons very strongly oblique; eyes elongate-oval, twice as long as wide; temporal foveolae well developed, lower edge of temporal foveolae wholly hidden from view above; frontal ridge narrow, sulcate, reaching clypeus; lateral frontal carinae well developed.

Thorax: Brownish; pronotum with flattened dorsum and well developed carinae, disc of pronotum stippled anterior to first transverse sulcus and on metazona, rest smooth, disc longer than wide, anterior margin straight, posterior margin obtuse-angular; median carina distinct throughout, lateral carinae straight; prozona less than twice as long as maximum width and slightly less than 1.5 times longer than pronotal metazona; mesosternal lobes about as long as wide, mesosternal interspace elongated, narrow, constricted; tegmina and wings fully developed, tips of folded tegmina surpassing apex of abdomen; hind femur

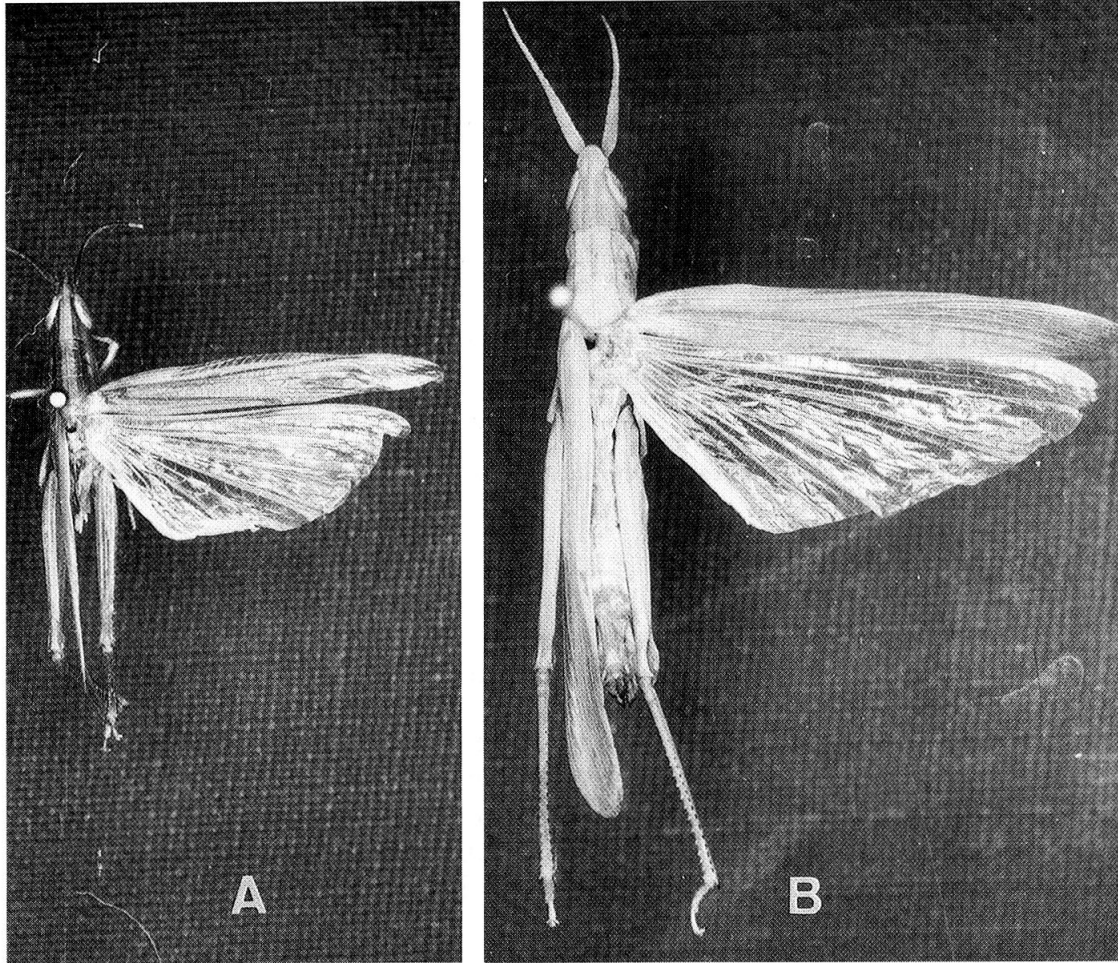


Fig. 1. *Ochrlidia alshatiensis* sp. n. (A) Male type; (B) Female.

slender, lobes of hind knee rounded, knees not reaching apex of abdomen, inner area of hind femur without spots; hind tibia light brown.

Abdomen: Yellowish brown, tympanum well developed; genitalia: supra-anal plate elongate-angular, cerci long, narrow-conical, with subacute apices (Fig. 2H); subgenital plate broadly conical with obtuse apex (Fig. 2E); epiphallus (Fig. 2F): bridge narrow, undivided medially, ancorae large, curved inwards with blunt apex, lophi trilobate and sculptured; aedeagus (Fig. 2G): apical valve curved upwards, pointed, narrower and shorter than basal valve.

Female (Fig. 1B)

Similar to male but larger. Antennae with segments 3–9 flattened, as long as or slightly shorter than head and pronotum together; interocular distance more than three-fourth width of vertex in front of eyes as seen from above; genitalia: supra-anal plate subtriangular, cerci short, narrowing apically with rounded apices (Fig. 2A); subgenital plate (Fig. 2B): posterior margin slightly convex in middle, without setae; spermatheca (Fig. 2C) with apical diverticulum short, apex truncated, pre-apical diverticulum long, bearing a small protuberance basally, apex broadly rounded; ovipositor short, moderately robust, valves

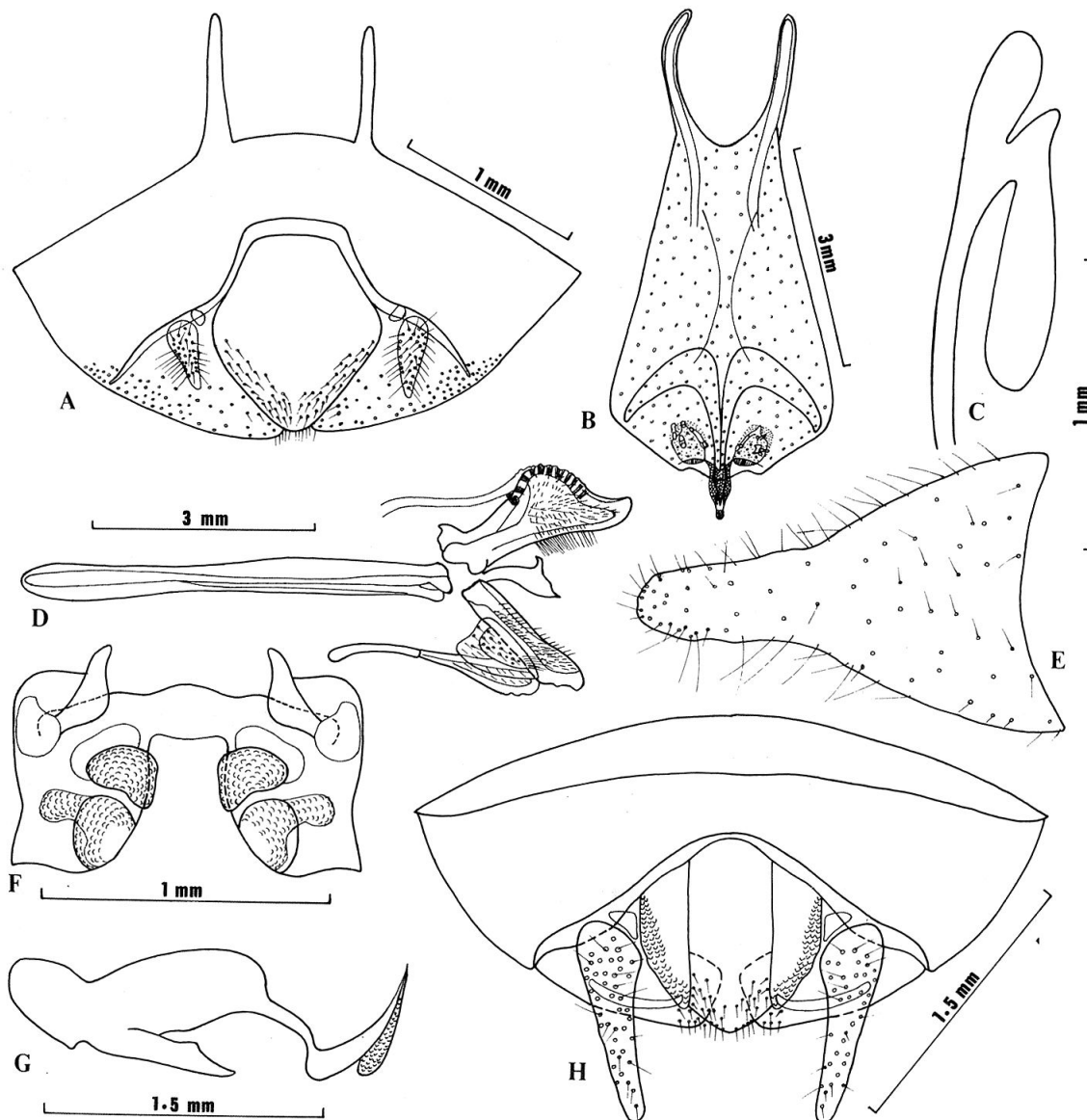


Fig. 2. *Ochrilidia alshatiensis* sp. n.: (A) supra-anal plate and cerci, ♀; subgenital plate, ♀; (C) spermatheca, ♀; (D) ovipositor ♀; subgenital plate, ♂; (F) epiphallus, ♂; (G) aedeagus, ♂; (H) supra-anal plate and cerci, ♂.

curved with blunt apices, much shorter than lateral apodeme, ventral valve toothed with rounded, external lateral projection (Fig. 2D).

Measurements (length in mm): Body, ♂ 24, ♀ 32; antennae, ♂ 8.5, ♀ 10; head, ♂ 3.7, ♀ 4.8; pronotum, ♂ 4, ♀ 5.5; tegmen, ♂ 20, ♀ 29; hind femur, ♂ 11.5, ♀ 17.

Holotype ♂. Libya: Al-Shati, Brack, H.I.T. on grass, 15.VI.86 (M. Kamil Usmani). Paratype 1 ♂, Allotype ♀, same dates as above. Depository: Zoology Museum of the Higher Institute of Technology, Brack, Libya.

Other material examined, all from Al-Shati province of Libya: Brack, H.I.T. 4 ♀, on grass, 15.VI.86; Girah, 1 ♂, on alfalfa, 12.XI.86; Tamzawah, 1 ♂, on vine, 4.XI.86; Tarut 1 ♂, on alfalfa, 8.VIII.86 (M. Kamil Usmani). Depository: as before.

VARIATION IN SPECIMENS

The general colour varies from brown to yellowish brown (holotype) to pale yellowish. In a single female from Brack the general colour is green. Brownish forms with hind tibiae light brown, in pale or greenish forms straw coloured or pale-grey. In males, antennae with segments 3–8 flattened and longer than head and pronotum; in females, antennae with segments 3–9 flattened and as long as or slightly shorter than head and pronotum together.

Measurements of five males and five females gave the following ranges and means:

Males: Body, 22.5–24 mm (mean 23.4); antennae, 8–8.8 mm (mean 8.5); head, 3.5–3.8 (mean 3.7); pronotum, 3.8–4 (mean 4); tegmen, 18–20 mm (mean 18.8); hind femur, 10–11.5 mm (mean 10.8).

Females: Body, 32–36.5 mm (mean 33.7); antennae, 10.2–10.8 mm (mean 10.5); head, 4.8–5.2 mm (mean 5); pronotum, 5.7–6.5 mm (mean 6); tegmen, 26.8–30.6 mm (mean 28.7); hind femur, 16.4–17.8 mm (mean 17).

DISCUSSION

The new species runs near *O. popovi* JAGO in the key to the species of *Ochrilidia* given by JAGO (1977) but differs in several respects: temporal foveolae well developed, 4–5 times longer than deep; interocular distance in males three-fourth width of fronto-vertical part of head in front of eyes as seen from above; in females, former more than three-fourth of latter; lateral pronotal carinae straight; prozona slightly less than 1.5 times longer than pronotal metazona; folded tegminal apices surpassing apex of abdomen; posterior tibiae light brown to straw colour or pale-greyish; aedeagal valves without spinose lobes, curved upwards, pointed; ancorae curved inwards with blunt apices.

A careful study on the key characters and descriptions of species in the genus *Platypterna* FIEBER (now *Ochrilidia* STÅL) given by SALFI (1931) and differentiating characters of species given by MISHCHENKO (1986) do give an impression that the new species is closest to *O. acuta* (I. BOLIVAR) which superficially resembles *O. gracilis gracilis* (KRAUSS). Nearly the same characters which differentiate *O. acuta* from *O. gracilis gracilis* hold also for *O. alshatiensis* but the latter differs in the following features: antennae in females flattened for basal half, cylindrical segments 2–2.5 times as long as wide; maximum width of vertex in front of compound eyes as seen from above greater than length of vertex measured from a line joining front edge of compound eyes; temporal foveolae 4–5 times longer than wide; interocular distance in males three-fourth width of fronto-vertical part of head in front of eyes as seen from above, in females former more than three-fourth width of the latter; prozona about 1.5 times longer than pronotal metazona; disc with area anterior to first transverse sulcus and metazona finely stippled, rest smooth. Furthermore, the ♂ of *O. alshatiensis* differs sharply from the 2 other species in the shape of its epiphallus (Fig. 2 F).

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