Baptista hoedli sp.n. (Insecta: Heteroptera: Veliidae) from Laos, and definition of the B. collaris species group

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Abstract

Baptista hoedli sp.n. from Central Laos is described and illustrated. The new species is closely related to B. collaris (ANDERSEN, 1989) from the Malay Peninsula, from which it differs mainly in the genital structures of the male. Based on these two species, the Baptista collaris species group is defined.

Key words: Heteroptera, Veliidae, Baptista, new species, Baptista collaris group, Laos.

Introduction

The Oriental genus Baptista DISTANT, 1903 was taxonomically revised by ANDERSEN (1989). In the same paper, an apparently closely related genus, Lathriovelia ANDERSEN, 1989 was described as new, which then contained two species from the Malay Peninsula, L. capitata ANDERSEN, 1989 (type species) and L. collaris ANDERSEN, 1989. Later, KOVAC & YANG (2000) added L. rickmersi, revised the genus Lathriovelia and transferred L. collaris to Baptista; they also defined the Baptista femoralis species group, containing all species except B. gestroi DISTANT, 1903. However, based on the subsequently described and illustrated male of B. collaris (see ANDERSEN & al. 2002a), this species does not fit the characteristics of the B. femoralis group as described by KOVAC & YANG (2000: tab. 1). Baptista collaris is very aberrant from all other species of Baptista by lacking of modifications of the forefemur and abdominal sternites. In the present paper, I describe Baptista hoedli sp.n. from Laos, which is closely related to B. collaris, and define the Baptista collaris species group based on these two species. For the identification of the Southeast Asian genera of the Veliidae see ANDERSEN & al. (2002b).

Baptista hoedli sp.n. (Figs. 1 - 7)

Etymology: The new species is dedicated to my dear friend, the renowned herpetologist Prof. Dr. Walter Hödl of the Institute of Zoology, University of Vienna.

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Fig. 1: *Baptista hoedli* sp.n., habitus of macropterous male (Matthias Buch, pxt.).

**Type material:** holotype (macropterous male) and paratypes (5 macropterous males, 5 macropterous females) labelled "LAOS centr., Khammouan prov. 4.-16.XI., 25-30.XI.2000; BAN KHOUN NGEUN env. N 18°07', E 104°29', alt. 250m; E. Jendek & P. Pacholatko leg.", deposited in the Natural History Museum Vienna, one pair of paratypes deposited in the Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen.

**Type locality:** Laos, Khammouan Province, near Ban Khoun Ngeun, N 18°07', E 104°29'.

**Description of macropterous male:** size: body length: 2.6 - 2.9 mm (holotype: 2.7 mm); pronotum width: 0.87 - 0.93 mm (holotype: 0.92 mm); length of antennomere 2 of holotype: 0.23 mm; length of mesofemur of holotype: 0.78 mm.
Figs. 2 – 8: (2 - 7:) *Baptista hoedli* sp.n., macropterous male: (2) right foreleg, pilosity partly omitted; (3) left forewing; (4) segment 8, ventral aspect, pilosity omitted; (5) pygophore, ventral aspect, pilosity omitted; (6) proctiger, dorsal aspect, pilosity partly omitted; (7) left paramere, aspect perpendicular to distal dilatation; (8) *Baptista collaris*, left paramere of male, aspect perpendicular to distal dilatation.

Colour: head dark brown, anteriorly light brown, with bucculae yellowish; antennomeres 1 - 2 yellowish, 3 - 4 brown; rostrum yellow with black apex; pronotum blackish, behind head along anterior margin with narrow pruinose mark, covered by silverish toment patches (except medially); thorax and abdomen mainly blackish brown; lateral parts of laterotergites and sternites orange; medial parts of sternites varying from orange to brown; blackish stripes laterally on abdomen present in all specimens; posterior tergites more or less orange brown; segment 8, pygophore and proctiger yellowish, each of them apically strongly infuscated; legs yellow with apex of tarsi weakly infuscated; forewing dark brown with six white spots arranged as in Figure 3.

Pilosity: body mainly with short, greyish or golden shining, appressed pubescence; head along inner eye margin and pronotum close to anterior margin with pairs of patches consisting of dense silverish pilosity; forewing with relatively long, erect setae along basal longitudinal veins, with some golden, decumbent setae on transverse veins delimiting basal cells; legs mainly with decumbent setae; femora ventrally with few long, erect setae.
Structural characteristics: head 1.4 times as wide as long, posteriorly inserted in medially concave anterior margin of pronotum; antenna ca 0.6 times as long as body, relative lengths of antennomeres 1 - 4 as 1.5 : 1 : 2.1 : 2.4 (Fig. 1); pronotum 1.2 times as wide as long, with anterior margin medially concave for insertion of head; relative lengths of leg segments (in relation with mesofemur = 100): profemur - 90, protibia - 83, protarsus - 35, mesofemur - 100, mesotibia - 95, mesotarsus - 20+31, metafemur - 120, metatibia - 132; metatarsus - 25+32; profemur not curved, weakly thickened, without teeth or special modifications of pilosity except large patch of slightly thickened short setae ventrally; protibia on inner side with conspicuous row of short, stout, blackish spines variably reduced in proximal third, and with grasping comb 0.17 - 0.20 times tibia length (Fig. 2); forewing with four large cells (Fig. 3); abdomen without special modifications, except sternite 7 with deep, angular, medial incision; dorsal abdominal carinae distinct, reaching hind margin of tergite 4, then more or less confluent with lateral margin of following tergites.

Genital segments: segment 8 long and slender, distinctly protruded behind segment 7, ventrally without impression, with dorsocaudal margin conspicuously emarginate (Fig. 4); pygophore squared, with posterior margin slightly concave (Fig. 5); proctiger small, narrow, and elongate, with apex acute (Fig. 6); parameres long, symmetrical, distally strongly widened, with curved apex (Fig. 7).

Description of macropterous female: similar to male, but slightly larger, body length 2.7 - 2.9 mm, pronotum width 0.99 - 1.06 mm; protibia without grasping comb, but with same long row of stout black spines as in male; abdomen without special modifications; connexivum dorsocaudally approximately rectangular; gonocoxa and proctiger relatively small, set with whitish, suberect hairs; gonocoxa in lateral view with ventral margin straight; proctiger with acute apex.

Apterous morphs unknown.

Comparative notes and discussion: Baptista hoedli sp.n. differs from B. collaris in larger size (of males), darker colouration of head and sides of thorax, more deeply emarginate posterior margin of segment 8 of the male (Fig. 4), and, most distinctly, in the wide distal dilatation of the paramere of the male (compare Figs. 7 and 8). These two species are very distinct from other species of Baptista, and may represent an undescribed genus after a phylogenetic analysis. Here, based on some important characteristics, I define the Baptista collaris species group as follows: protibia in both sexes with row of stout, spine-like setae. – Male: profemur not modified; abdominal sternites without processes; sternite 7 medially angularly incised; segment 8 posterodorsally distinctly emarginate; paramere distally more or less strongly dilated.

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References


