

***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.

Zusammenfassung

Baptista hoedli sp.n. aus Zentral-Laos wird beschrieben und abgebildet. Die neue Art ist mit *B. collaris* (ANDERSEN, 1989) von der Malayischen Halbinsel nahe verwandt und unterscheidet sich von dieser vor allem in den Genitalstrukturen des Männchens. Die *Baptista collaris*-Artengruppe wird auf diesen zwei Arten begründet.

Introduction

The Oriental genus *Baptista* DISTANT, 1903 was taxonomically revised by ANDERSEN (1989). In the same paper, an apparently closely related genus, *Lathriovelgia* 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 *Lathriovelgia* 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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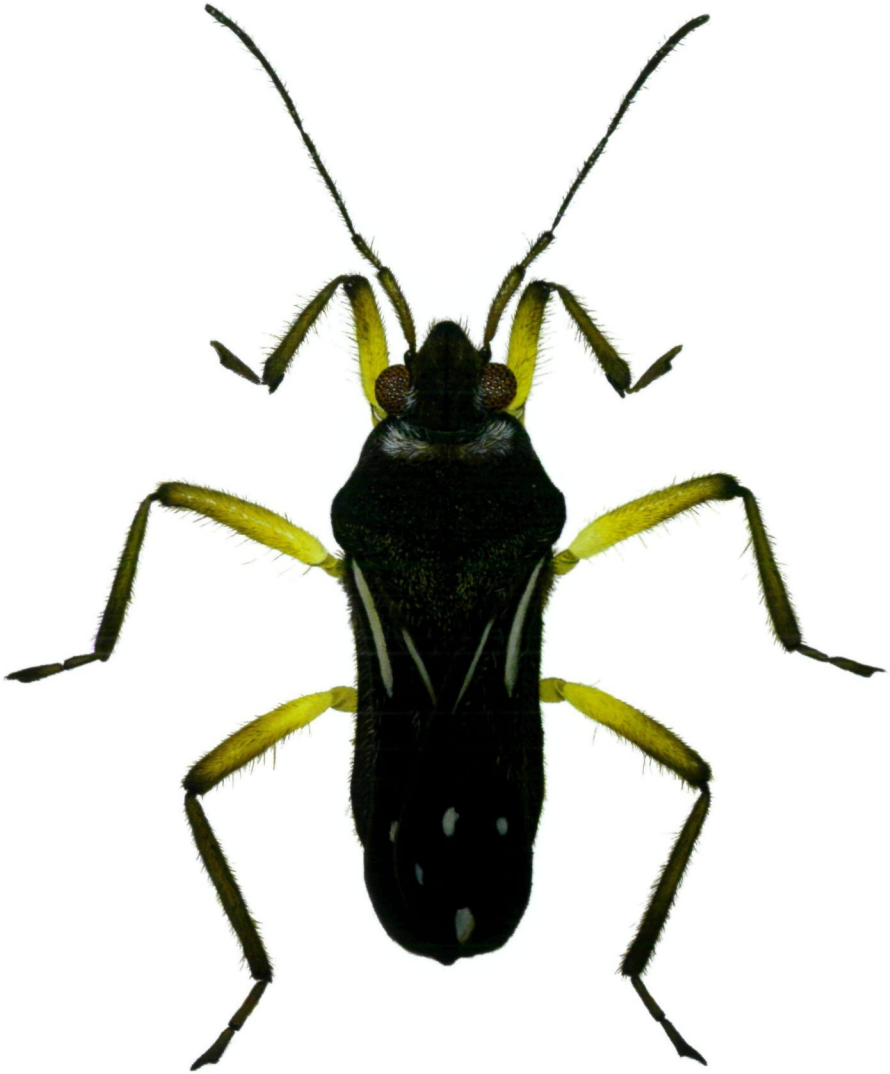
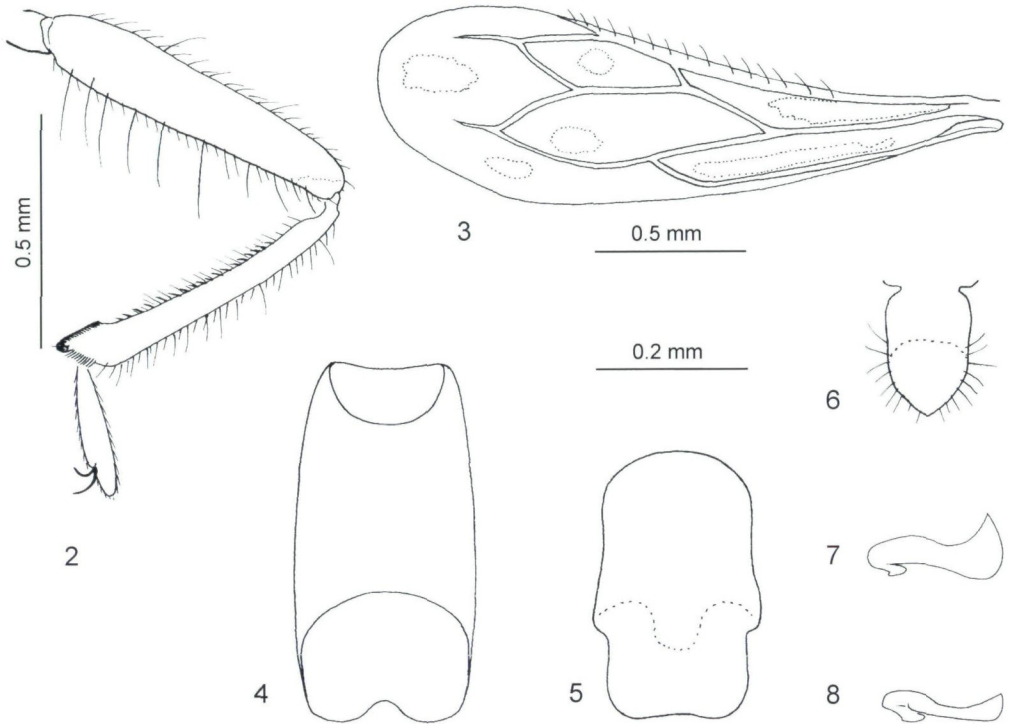


Fig. 1: *Baptista hoedli* sp.n., habitus of macropterous male (Matthias Buch, pxt.).

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, pro-tarsus - 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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