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Studies on African Aradidae IV. New Generic Assignment for *Pictinus varicolor* DISTANT 1913

(Heteroptera, Aradidae)

by

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Studien an Afrikanischen Aradidae IV. Neue Gattungszuordnung von *Pictinus varicolor* DISTANT 1913
(Heteroptera, Aradidae)

Synopsis: The 16 species currently placed in the genus *Pictinus* STAL 1873 (KORMILEV & FROESCHNER 1987) are all from the Neotropical Region. Investigation of the holotype of *P. varicolor* DISTANT 1913 described from Seychelles proved, that it really belongs to the Oriental genus *Chiastoplonia* USINGER & MATSUDA, 1959. Therefore: *Chiastoplonia varicolor* (DISTANT 1913) nov. comb. The species is redescribed and figured.

1. Introduction:

The basic work "Classification of the Aradidae" by USINGER & MATSUDA (1959) brought to light, that most of the numerous species described as *Pictinus* really belong to other genera. These authors found that the true *Pictinus* STAL 1873 are characterised by a unique type of stridulatory apparatus on sternite III and hind femur and most of the species were transferred by them to their proper place, leaving a few in question until the types were studied.

Among them were the three species of *"Pictinus"* described from the Ethiopian Region:

varicolor DISTANT 1913 (Mahé, Sechelles)
pauliani CHINA 1955 (Tromelin Island east of Madagascar)
congoensis HOBERLANDT 1956 (Congo now Zaire).

For the latter has later been erected the new genus *Afropictinus* HEISS 1986 and investigation of the holotype of *varicolor* revealed that also this species is not a *Pictinus* but belongs to the Oriental genus *Chiastoplonia* US. & MATS. 1959 reaching herewith its westernmost point of distribution. A redescription is given below. Measurements: 40 units = 1 mm.

The single type specimen of *pauliani*, which should be in the collection of the Institute Scientifique Madagascar could not be traced yet. Due to the fact, that all 16 species listed under *Pictinus* STAL 1873 by KORMILEV & FROESCHNER (1987) are from the Neotropical Region it can practically be excluded that *pauliani* belongs to this genus but can be proved only after the type or new material is available for study.

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2. *Chiastoplonia varicolor* (DISTANT 1913) comb. nov.:

Pictinus varicolor DISTANT (1913: 160, pl. 11, fig. 17)
Pictinus varicolor USINGER & MATSUDA 1959: 360 (listed with?)
Pictinus varicolor KORMILEV & FROESCHNER 1987: 187 (listed)

Holotype (by original designation), male, glued on a card numbered "59" at base, labelled: "type" (round label with red border)/ "*Pictinus varicolor*" (DISTANTs handwriting)/"Seychelles Mahé"/ "Percy Sladen Trust Expedition 1911 - 497"/ "*Chiastoplonia varicolor* DIST. 1913, det. Heiss 1986". Deposited in the Natural History Museum London.

Redescription:

Body elongate with subparallel sides, finely granulate.

Head. Distinctly wider than long (18:14); clypeus conical not exceeding level of the short antenniferous tubercles, the latter with blunt apices, lateral borders forming a ridge. Postocular tubercles not reaching outer border of eyes, rounded. Vertex with a double row of tubercles forming a longitudinal elevation, depressed laterally. Antennae 2.25 x as long as width of head across eyes; relative length of antennal segments I:II:III:IV = 10:8.5:13:9. Rostrum reaching hind border of rostral groove which is open posteriorly; rostral atrium open.

Pronotum. 2.15 x as wide as long. Collar distinct, separated by a deep sulcus from pronotum. Its anterior portion with subparallel sides constricted anteriorly, forming blunt angles. Lateral borders carinate, extending from anterior angles to humeri, the latter rounded but not carinate. Posterior border weakly sinuate. Anterior disk with a deep longitudinal sulcus at middle, flanked by 2(1 + 1) oblique carinate elevations, converging posteriorly, laterad with 2(1 + 1) smaller elevations. Interlobal depression distinct with 2(1 + 1) small round depressions. Posterior disk coarsely granular with dense granulation at middle, elevated along posterior margin.

Scutellum. Shorter than its basal width (25:17); lateral margins carinate, the disk with a prominent longitudinal carina which is depressed at the apex and a transverse carina, both forming a cross.

Hemelytra. Complete, covering the abdominal tergal plate, without veins. Corium short, inner margin not reaching, outer margin reaching apex of scutellum. Apical margin sinuate. Membrane hyaline at base where the visible hind wings appear as whitish strokes.

Abdomen. Ovate with slightly convex lateral margins. Dorsal laterotergites (dltg) II and III fused, postero-exterior angles III to VI slightly protruding, VII truncate and reflexed. Dltg VIII small, not surpassing outer border of hypopygium which is globular with an elevated ridge along tergite VII. Spiracles II and III lateral, IV sublateral but visible from above, V and VI ventral, VII sublateral and slightly visible from above, VIII terminal. The only type has not been dissected for the study of genitalic structures.

Legs. With fine granulation; femora incrassate, tibiae tapering towards base, fore tibiae with apical comb. Tarsi with pseudopulvilli.

Colour. Yellow brown, vertex, posterior portion of pronotum, scutellum, corium and posterior half of hemelytra darker. Tarsi yellow. Membrane translucent at base with whitish hind wings visible.

Measurements. Length 2.8 mm, width of abdomen across tergite IV 1.15 mm; head w/l 18:14, pronotum w/l 43:20; scutellum w/l 25/17.

3. Discussion:

In the key to species of *Chiastoplonia* given by KORMILEV (1978: 245), which includes 13 of the 14 then known Oriental species (except *antennata* KORM. 1967 from Sumatra) *varicolor* runs to *pauperula* KORM. 1971 from Laos and *confusa* KORM. 1978 from Philippines.

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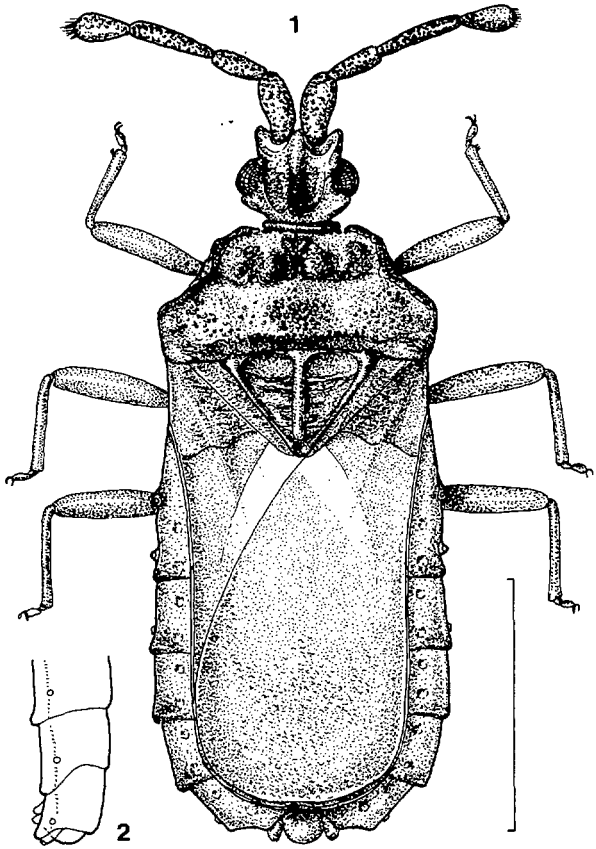

Figs. 1 - 2: *Chiastoplonia varicolor*, holotype male.
1 habitus dorsal; 2 abdomen lateral. Scale 1 mm.

Ch. pauperula differs by longer antennae (2.5 x as width across eyes), other relative length of antennal segments, membrane entirely brown, dltg VIII projecting beyond hypopygium.

Ch. confusa differs also by longer antennae (2.5 x as width across eyes), spiracles IV and V sublateral, VI and VII ventral but slightly visible from above and high reflexed carinate lateral margins of fore lobe of pronotum.

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