

A new species of Mecomma Fieber, 1858, from the Jebel Marra Mountains in the Sudan
(Heteroptera: Miridae, Orthotylinae)

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Abstract: A new species of Mecomma, M.stuebeni sp.n., is described from the Sudan.

INTRODUCTION

The genus Mecomma Fieber, 1858 (type species: Capsus ambulans Fallén), has a Holarctic and Palaetropical distribution. The eight known African species were revised by Linnavuori 1994: 56--64. These species are known from restricted mountain areas, since a wider distribution has undoubtedly been prevented by the brachypterism of females. From the Sudan only one species, M.juno Linnavuori, 1994, has been known from the Imatong Mountains in the South--East of the Equatoria province. A new species found by Dr. Marcus Stüben in 1995 from the Jebel Marra Mountains in the Darfur province is described below.

TAXONOMY

Mecomma stuebeni sp.n.

Fig. 1 A--F.

Types: The Sudan: Darfur, Jebel Marra, Murtagalla--Resthouse, alt. 1160 m, male holotype, 25.IX.1995, M. Stüben, in the Zoological Museum of the Philipps--University, in Marburg--Lahnberge.

Description: Length 4.5 mm. Subopaque. Head, pronotum and scutellum blackish brown. Eyes reddish brown. Antennae uniformly black. Hemelytra, including membranes, dark brown. Under surface blackish brown. Legs yellow--brown.

Body parallel--sided, 3.3 times as long as broad in middle of hemelytra. Hair covering on upper surface yellowish brown, smooth. Head relatively small, 0.65 times as broad as basal

width of pronotum; frons strongly sloping ventrad, vertex flattish, without a median sulcus, basal margin bluntly keeled; eyes small, ocular index 1.70. Antennae gracile, with short hair covering, proportions between segments 31: 108: 55: 55 (1 unit = 0.015 mm), 1st segment 0.65 times as long as diatone, 2nd 2.25 times as long as diatone, 1.44 times as long as basal width of pronotum. Rostrum extending to middle coxae. Pronotum 2.1 times as broad basally as long in middle, lateral margins shallowly insinuated. Hemelytra much longer than abdomen, cuneus relatively short, 1.6 times as long as broad. Legs gracile. Proportions between hind tarsomeres 9: 16: 15. -

Male genitalia (Fig. 1 B--F): Pygofer bluntly conical. Right style provided with a coarsely dentate subapical lamella. Left style shallowly curved, apex bilobate. Vesica with 6 falcate spiculi.

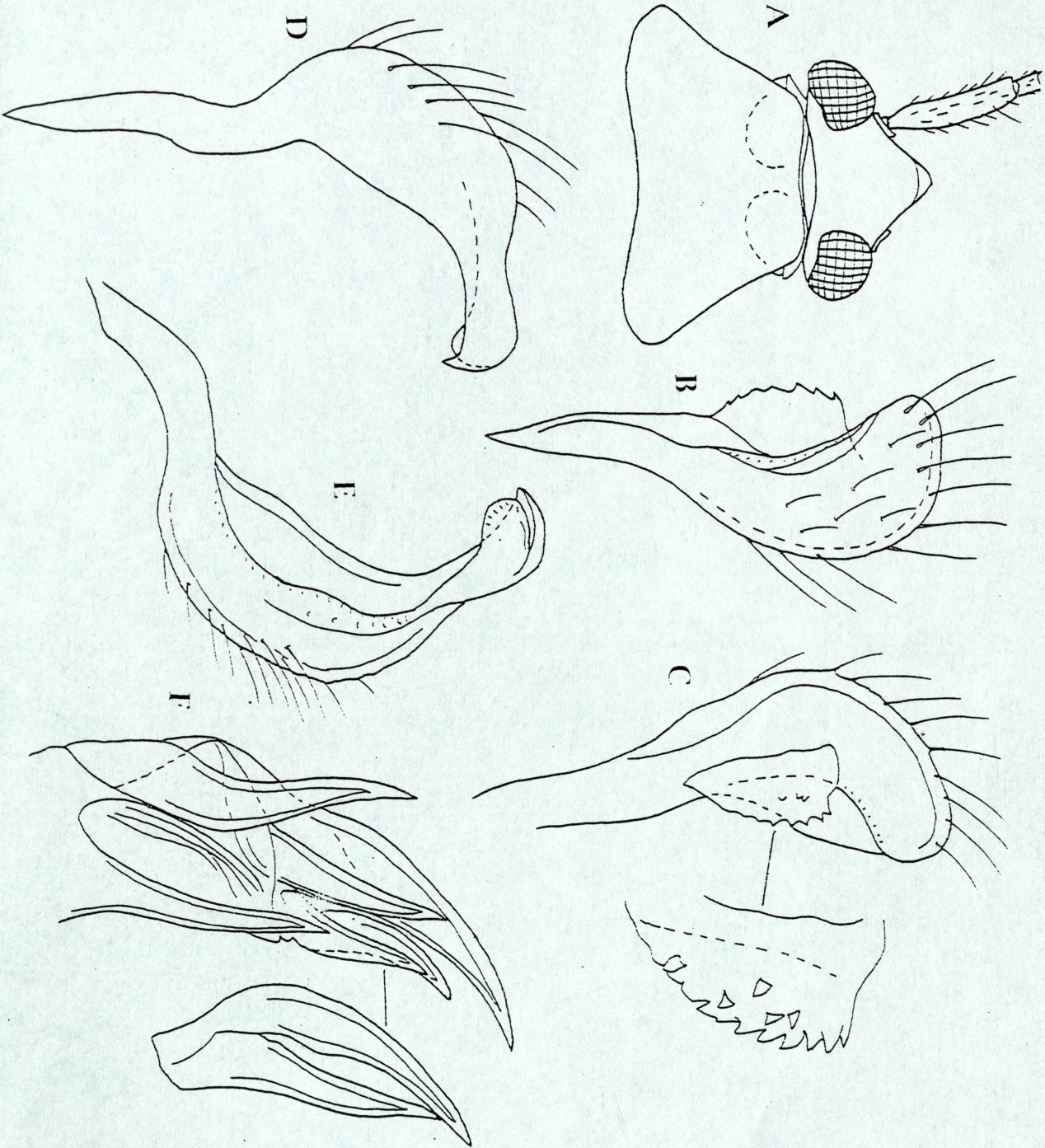
Biology: Collected at light trap near a waterfall.

Etymology: The new species is dedicated to Dr. Marcus Stüben for his interesting field work in the relatively little known Jebel Marra Mountains in the Darfur province in the Sudan.

Differential diagnosis: Mecomma stuebeni is readily distinguished from the previously known African species by the uniformly dark brown hemelytra and narrow head with relatively small eyes. Moreover, the structure of the vesica with 6 falcate spiculi is unique (two spiculi present in the other species). The structure of the vesica resembles that of the related genus Nycticapsus Poppius, 1914 (revision in Linnavuori 1994: 64--65). But the other characters, including the characteristic right style, resemble those of Mecomma. M.stuebeni represents a separate evolutionary line within this genus. Representatives of Nycticapsus are small, length > 4 mm, and gracile, the vertex and frons are distinctly convex, and the right style is spoon-shaped and edentate.

REFERENCE

Linnavuori, R.E. 1994: Orthotylinae of West, Central and North-East Africa (Heteroptera: Miridae). -- Acta Zool. Fennica. 193: 1--84.



Text of figure

Fig. 1. *Mecomma stuebeni* sp.n.: A) male head and pronotum; B--C) right style; D--E) left style; F) spiculi of vesica.

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Marburger Entomologische Publikationen](#)

Jahr/Year: 1997

Band/Volume: [3_1](#)

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