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Namiocerus – a New Genus for *Bythoscopus cephalotes* WALKER, 1857

(Homoptera, Cicadelloidea, Idioceridae)

With 15 Figures

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Abstract. Based on the hitherto unrevised and unstudied, according to the modern techniques, ♂ type of *Bythoscopus cephalotes* WALKER, collected and described more than 125 years ago, from Malaysia, Sarawak, a new genus, *Namiocerus*, is described and compared with other closely related genera. The species now known as *Namiocerus cephalotes* (WALKER) is redescribed and illustrated in greater detail than before.

Introduction

While working through a collection of leafhoppers received from Malaysia for identification, the writer with the help of Mr. M. D. WEBB of the British Museum (Natural History), London, came across several undescribed, as well as described species of Idioceridae with wide based clypeus. Amongst them was the male type specimen of *Bythoscopus cephalotes* WALKER described in 1857 from Sarawak. This species was transferred to *Iassus* (Iassidae) by METCALF (1966) in his catalogue, perhaps because he did not have an opportunity to examine the specimen. If he had done so, he would have, like many other species, transferred it to the family Idioceridae. *B. cephalotes* WALKER apparently seems to belong to the genus *Busonia* DISTANT (1908), but in spite of many similarities, the main difference is the presence of lateral sutures of frons in *B. cephalotes*. In *Busonia amentata* DISTANT, the type species of the genus *Busonia*, these sutures are absent. On dissecting the ♂ genitalia and comparing them with the recently described genus *Muinocerus* GH A U R I (1984–85, in press), which has the lateral frontal sutures present, it was seen to be different in several characters: the pygofers (unlike those of *Muinocerus*) are devoid of apical spur, the anal tube is much shorter than in *Muinocerus*, relative to the size of pygofers, on the other hand the anal tube process is much longer and extended beyond the posterior margin of pygofers and is situated on the location of pygofers' spur of *Muinocerus* (c. f. fig. 6 with fig. 8, GH A U R I, 1984–85, in press). In addition, the vertex of *B. cephalotes* WALKER is one and a half times wider than an eye, whereas in *Muinocerus* it is much less than that, the pronotum is shorter in length but much wider, the scutellum is larger, the lorae are closed and in common with *Busonia amentata* DISTANT, the middle of fronto-clypeal suture is virtually reduced. These considerations do not allow *B. cephalotes* to be placed either in *Busonia* or in *Muinocerus*. A new genus, *Namiocerus* therefore, needs to be created to receive *B. cephalotes* WALKER.

Namiocerus gen. n.

Surface of vertex, frons and pronotum finely shagreen; head across eyes wider than pronotum, eyes not wide, a little wider than half width of vertex, vertex a little longer in

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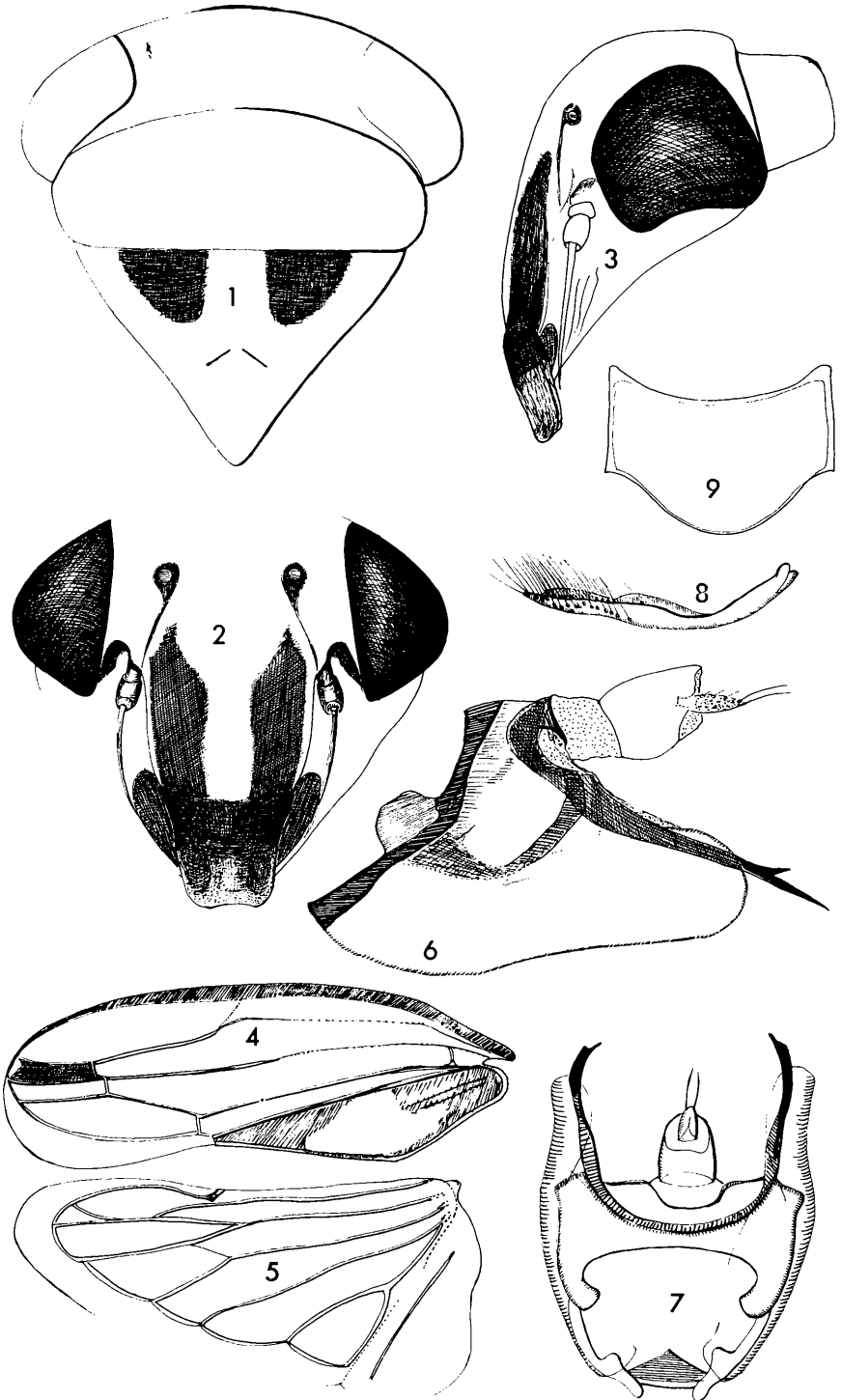


Fig. 1—9. *Namiocerus cephalotes* (WALKER) ♂.
 1, head and thorax, dorsal view; 2, face; 3, head and part of thorax, lateral view; 4, tegmen; 5, hindwing; 6, pygofers and anal tube, lateral view; 7, the same, dorsoventral view; 8, subgenital plate, lateral view; 9, valve.

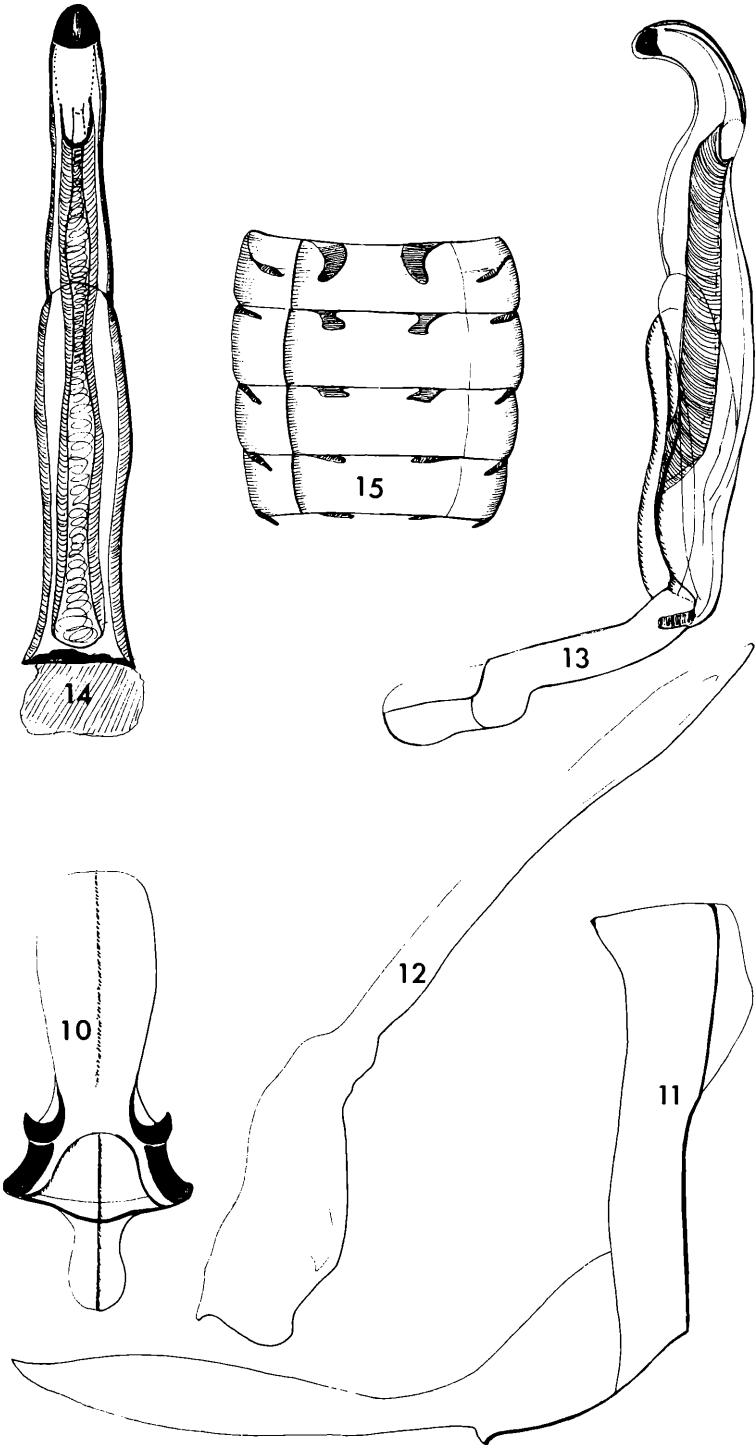


Fig. 10–15. *Namiocerus cephalotes* (WALKER) ♂.
10, basal plate (connective), dorso-ventral view; 11, paramere (style), lateral view; 12, the same, dorso-ventral view; 13, aedeagus + basal plate, lateral view; 14, aedeagus, dorso-ventral view; 15, abdominal apodemes.

middle than next to eye, frons very little convex; vertex, pronotum and scutellum not tumid; upper lateral sutures of frons well developed, and each seems virtually to encircle the ocellus; ocellus not as close to eye as in *Muinocerus* although the space between an ocellus and eye is less than half the space between ocelli, low on frons, invisible in dorsal view; ledges of antennae absent; clypeus (anteclypeus and clypellus of others) in two levels, basal half raised, apical half depressed, base wide, slightly wider than long, lateral margin slightly insinuate, fronto-clypeal suture in middle reduced, genae narrow, depressed below eyes and deeply so near antennophores; lorae not elevated, narrow, closed, their suture joining margin of frons, starting below mid-point of clypeus and extending less than half this space towards frons; spine on genae below eye absent; eyes not much protruding beyond genae in facial view, genae not sharply incurred below eyes, face slightly wider than long; antennae fine and moderately long; pronotum very wide and much shorter, median length one third of its width, anterior margin slightly convex, base straight; scutellum large, base much wider than median length which is equal to length of pronotum and length of vertex together; hind femoral apical spines formula $0 + 2$ (1 large + 1 small), similar to that of *Busonia* and *Muinocerus*.

Tegmina with wide appendix, middle of clavus opaque, being coriaceous, four apical cells, second apical cell quadrate, second subapical cell open, third subapical cell with a cross vein very much close to its base; some veins in clavus replaced by granular lines, some veins in corium evanescent. Pygofers without apical spurs, basal membranous suture absent, anal tube of normal size but with a pair of very long apodemal appendages; apodeme of anal tube not hinged with that of pygofers (c. f. fig. 6 and fig. 8 of *Muinocerus* GHURI, in press); valve as in fig. 9, roundedly produced posteriorly; paramere (style), apophysis of paramere non-setose, margins smooth, elongate; aedeagus without spines or filaments, with a dorsal apodeme, gonopore subapical; basal plate (connective) long and narrow; subgenital plate elongate, wider in middle, with setae as in fig. 8.

Type species *Bythoscopus cephalotes* WALKER, 1857

***Namiocerus cephalotes* (WALKER) (Figs: 1–15)**

As WALKER's original description of *N. cephalotes* is very brief and in some respect a little misleading (E. G. "with two minute black dots in front" which, in fact, are ocelli on the frons), it is best to redescribe the species in some detail.

Colour Ground colour of body yellow testaceous; head, vertex with two evanescent dot-like markings on disc, each near inner margins of eye, which might be mistaken as an ocellus, eyes blackish brown, frons top half (basal half) yellowish, anterior half lighter yellow with reddish brown ocelli surrounded by black frontal sutures almost joining two lateral wide dark streaks which join black base of clypeus whose apex is testaceous brown, genae yellowish testaceous, lorae and antennae testaceous brown; pronotum yellowish; scutellum bright yellow with basal brown triangles and oblique black fine discal lines; tegmen brown with costal margin broadly, second apical cell and veins and clavus margin much darker, clavus with a bright yellow opaque patch in middle, hind wing veins also dark brown; ventral surface of thorax and legs except front and middle tibiae, which are with elongate brown streaks, testaceous; abdomen testaceous

Measurements (mm). Width of head across eyes 1.48, width of vertex between eyes 0.75, width of an eye 0.31, median length of vertex 0.31, length of vertex next to eye 0.30; space between eyes on face 0.77, space between ocelli 0.40, space between eye and ocellus 0.14, space between bases of antennae 0.68, maximum width of frons 0.93, length of frons 1.08, length of clypeus 0.39, width of clypeus at base 0.44, the same at apex 0.24; width of pronotum 1.20, median length of pronotum 0.46; width of scutellum at base 1.08, median length of scutellum 0.70, length of side of scutellum 0.93; length of clavus 1.32, length of tegmen 3.57 total body length 4.81.

Table 1. Tabulation of closely related generic characters.

	<i>Philipposcopus</i> (MALDONADO-CAPRILES, 1972)	<i>Angusticella</i> (CHAURI, in press)	<i>Muinocerus</i> (CHAURI, in press)	<i>Namiocerus</i> gen. n.
vertex	shagreen	shagreen	finely shagreen	finely shagreen
membranous suture of pygofers	absent	absent	absent	absent
anteclypeus	subrectangular	subrectangular	subrectangular	subrectangular
second apical cell	quadrangular	pedunculate	quadrangular	quadrangular
filaments on aedeagus	none	none or two short, subapical	none	none
apophysis of style-apex	barc	bare	sparingly spinose	bare
apophysis of style-lower margin	smooth	smooth	smooth	smooth
anal tube of tenth segment	well developed	not developed	well developed, longer than pygofers	normal, shorter than pygofers
anal tube apodemal appendages	absent	present	well developed, though shorter than pygofers	well developed, longer than pygofers
pygofers, apical margin	with strong spine	entire	with strong spur	entire
upper apodeme of genital capsule-origin	no apodeme	from tenth segment	from tenth segment	from tenth segment
coloration of pronotum	unicolorous	unicolorous	disc brown, laterally pale creamy	unicolorous
clavus	unicolorous	basal half opaque yellow	anterior basal half of corium and basal half of clavus opaque and smoky	middle one-third of clavus opaque, bright yellow

Structure Most of the structural detail the same as in generic description, anal tube or tenth segment shorter than length of pygofers, basal half membranous, apical half sclerotised, eleventh segment with fine long setae; abdominal apodemes (Fig. 15) small.

Material examined ♂ type of *Bythoscopus cephalotes* WALKER, with the following data: one green margined circular label printed "Type", one hand-written circular label "SAR" (Sarawak), one printed label "Wallace", one printed label 68.4 and one hand-written label, "*cephalotes* Walk. here designated as Lectotype in B.M. (N.H.), London.

Comments *Namiocerus* is closely related to *Muinocerus*, although it superficially resembles *Busonia*. The relationship of *Namiocerus* with some of the other genera can be seen in Table 1.

Acknowledgements

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The new genus, *Namiocerus*, is named in honour of Mirza Abid Ali NAMI, a distinguished poet and a scientific inventor of shorthand system and typing machines for alphabets other than that of Latin. Mr. NAMI shows a rare combination of scientific enquiry and inventiveness, and literary acumen.

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