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Shujaocoris khawari, New Genus and New Species of Anthocoridae from Papua New Guinea (Insecta, Heteroptera)

With 6 Figures

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Abstract. Two male specimens of Anthocoridae, submitted by the Department of Plant Protection, Papua New Guinea, for identification, were found to represent a new genus and a new species. Since they were collected from sugarcane and superficially resemble mainly two other genera and species found on sugarcane which are known to be the predators of sugarcane pests, it was considered important to describe them as new genus and new species.

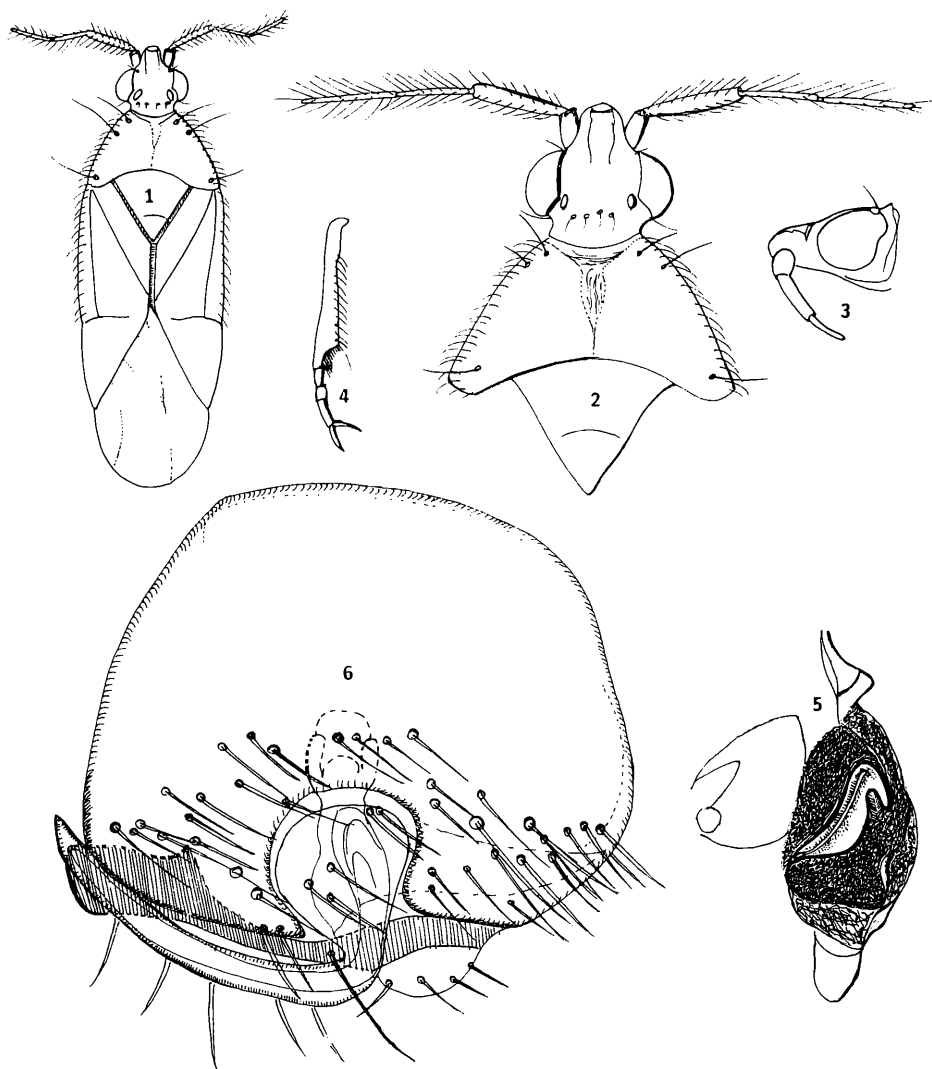
Introduction

Two male specimens belonging to the family Anthocoridae were received from the Department of Plant Protection, Papua New Guinea, for identification. They were collected from sugarcane on two different dates from two different localities of West Sepik. Their body being somewhat dorsoventrally flattened, they apparently looked like *Blaptostethoides pacificus* (HERRING) or *Blaptostethus pallescens* POPPIUS. On closer examination, however, it was discovered that unlike the above mentioned two genera, these males have their fore femora unarmed and also their spout of scent gland is directed posteriorly through an "S" bend (fig. 5). The writer tried to fit this new genus into existing subfamilies of Anthocoridae, defined by CARAYON (1972), but failed to do so. Similar attempts to place this in any tribe, ignoring some of the subfamilial characters, were not successful either, although this exercise yielded the result that by ignoring the absence of hamus and spines on fore femur, in the new genus, the latter comes very close to the tribe Blaptostethini (CARAYON, 1972) of the subfamily Anthocorinae (REUTER, 1884) as defined by CARAYON (1972). However, in the absence of female specimens and not knowing the female characters, it was considered unwise to describe a new subfamily or even a new tribe. But as the material originated from sugarcane, it is assumed that the species must be doing some good similar to the well known predators of the genera *Blaptostethus* and *Blaptostethoides* and therefore it is worthwhile to describe the new taxa.

Shujaocoris gen. n.

Body dorsoventrally flattened, parallel-sided and straight, length of body three times maximum width of pronotum. Head, dorsal and ventral surface flat (fig. 3). Length of head less than width of head across eyes. Second antennal segment rounded, thick, length shorter than width of head across eyes; antennal segments third and fourth filiform with setae longer than diameter of these segments; first antennal segment not extended beyond apex of head. Rostrum short, not reaching beyond level of posterior margin of eye, first and second segments thick, third thin, in length subequal to second. In lateral view head form-

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Figs. 1–6. *Shujaocoris khawari* gen. et sp. n.

1, dorsal view of body, legs omitted; 2, head and thorax, dorsal view; 3, head, lateral view, minus antennae; 4, front tibia and tarsus; 5, scent gland spout; 6, ♂ genitalia.

ing a triangle (fig. 3). Pronotum with narrow collar, base concave, with three pairs of macrosetae and numerous marginal fine setae, anterior width equal to median length and much less than posterior of basal width which is two and a half times the former. Scutellum almost equilateral triangle, base slightly wider than length. Scent gland spout curved backward, formed like an "S" bend; anterior and posterior coxae close together, middle coxae spaced apart; all femora unarmed; front tibia with apical pad; claw without pseudarolia. Hindwing without hamus; cuneus longer than wide. Apex of abdomen with long setae; male paramere, flagellum gently curved, basal process (? parameroide) as long as flagellum with subquadrangular apex (fig. 6).

Type species *Shujaocoris khawari* gen. et sp. n.

Shujaocoris khawari sp. n. (Figs. 1–6)

Colour Brown except antennal segments II, III and IV, apices of femora, tibiae and tarsi whitish; surface of head, pronotum, scutellum and to some extent that of cuneus shining, corium dull; underside of body, legs, especially femora, less shining than dorsal surface.

Measurements (mm).

Length of head	0.38	Median length of scutellum	0.44
Width of head across eyes and	0.45	Width of scutellum at base	0.50
between eyes at posterior margin	0.34	Length of hair on IV antennal	
Width of head between eyes at		segment	0.068
anterior margins of eyes	0.19	Length of antennal segments	
Width of an eye	0.10	I, II, III & IV	0.10, 0.31, 0.21 & 0.25
Length of an eye	0.19	Width of antennal segments	
Space between ocelli	0.15	II, III & IV	0.038, 0.019 & 0.022
Width of an ocellus	0.05	Length of rostral	
Median length of pronotum	0.34	segments I, II & III	0.068, 0.18 & 0.13
Width of pronotum at		Width of rostral segments	
anterior margin	0.27	I, II & III	0.054, 0.054 & 0.038 to 0.015
Width of pronotum at base	0.81		

Total length of body 2.31 and maximum width at base of pronotum 0.81.

Male genitalia As described under generic definition.

Material examined Holotype ♂ (36731), Papua New Guinea, W. Sepik, P. Kambriap, 16. xi. 1985 (J. W. ISMAY), C.I.E. A.17763, on sugarcane. Paratype ♂ (36308), Papua New Guinea, W. Sepik, P. Lafar, 15. xi. 1985 (J. W. ISMAY), C.I.E. A.17682, on sugarcane. Both on permanent loan in B.M.(N.H.), London, until more specimens are found.

Comments The new genus and the new species were applied to various keys available in the literature on different local Anthocorid fauna, but failed to arrive at a conclusion. So far the most characteristic feature of the new taxa is the shape of the scent gland spout, but a combination of characters found on the head, i.e. its length and width, the shape and length of antennal segments, the short rostrum etc., and of the thorax, i.e. very fine pronotal collar, its concave base, the presence of three pairs of macrosetae, absence of spines on femora and the whole flattened body, does not allow it to fit into any known genus.

The new genus and species are dedicated to my nephew, Mr. Shujaoddin KHAWAR whom I discovered only recently, visiting my home town Delhi, India, after forty years. He is a well-known poet in India, who has published three literary works.

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