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A new species of genus *Plectropodoides* SCHOUTEDEN from Africa (Insecta: Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Coreidae)

With 9 Figures

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Abstract. *Plectropodoides dallastai* spec. nov. collected in Cameroon (West Africa) is described, and a key for the known taxa is included. Drawings of pronotum, posterior tibiae, and abdominal sterna III to V are provided.

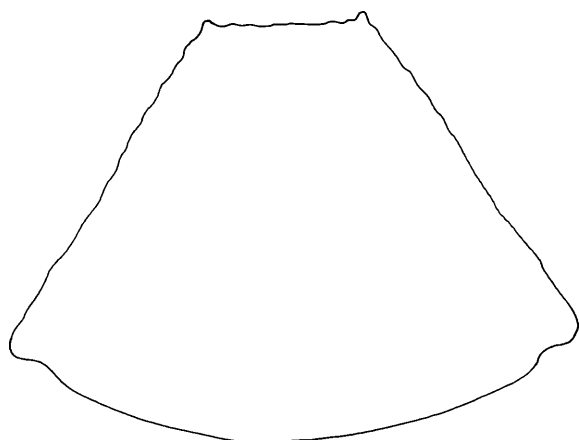
Introduction

The African genus *Plectropodoides* SCHOUTEDEN (1938) (Tribe Mictini) is characterized by the two pairs of tubercles emerged on abdominal sternite III and on the junction of III and IV, on which the lateral tubercles of abdominal sterna are closer than those on sternite III (Figs. 7–9).

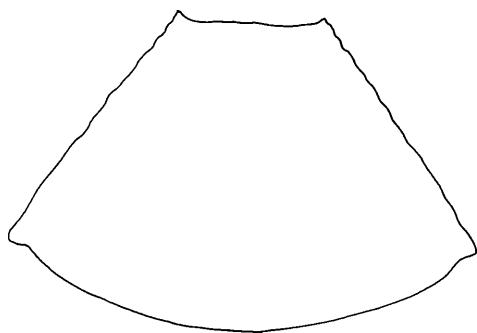
Plectropodoides is somewhat similar to *Plectropoda* BERGROTH (1894) but the humeral angles are less produced laterally, the posterior tibiae are much less dilated, and the abdominal sternite VII without postlateral lobes (O'SHEA, 1980). Previously only two species from Zaire (Central Africa) were known: *P. medjensis* and *P. sandoaensis*, each described by SCHOUTEDEN (1938). On this contribution we add the third species collected in Cameroon (West Africa).

Plectropodoides dallastai spec. nov.

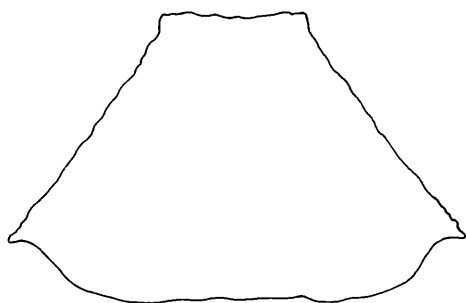
Head wider than long (across eyes), nearly quadrate and dorsally flat; tylus unarmed, apically globose, extending anterior to jugae and more raised when viewed laterally; jugae unarmed, thickened; mandibular plate absent; antenniferous tubercles unarmed, with internal face thickened; antennal segment I little stouter than others and cylindrical; segments II and III cylindrical, slender, IV fusiform; antennal segment IV the longest, III the shortest and I longer than II; ocelli nearly tuberculate; preocellar pit deep; eyes large, globose; postocular tubercles small; frons with deep longitudinal incision; bucculae rounded, short, elevated, not projecting beyond antenniferous tubercles; rostrum reaching anterior margin of mesosternum. Thorax. Pronotum wider than long, trapeziform, slightly declivent; collar well developed, frontal angles projected forward as conical tooth; anterolateral borders straight, slightly nodulose; humeral angles sharply projecting laterally; posterolateral borders sinuate, slightly nodulose; posterior border smooth, sinuate; collar region narrow, flat (Fig. 1); anterior lobe of metathoracic peritreme globose, posterior lobe sharp, small. Legs. Posterior trochanters unarmed; all femora armed subdistally on the ventral surface with a spine; posterior femora markedly incrassate, especially in distal two thirds, armed with small spines ventrally and dorsally; posterior tibiae internally dilated, with spine at widest point, and externally not dilated, sulcate, with small but distinct apical spine (Fig. 4). Scutellum. Triangular, flat, slightly longer than wide, with apex acute. Hemelytra. Macropterous, reaching the apex of the last abdominal segment; apical margin obliquely straight, with a long apical angle, extending beyond the middle third of the hemelytral membrane; costal margin slightly emarginate. Abdomen. Abdominal sternite III armed laterally with a pair of blunt



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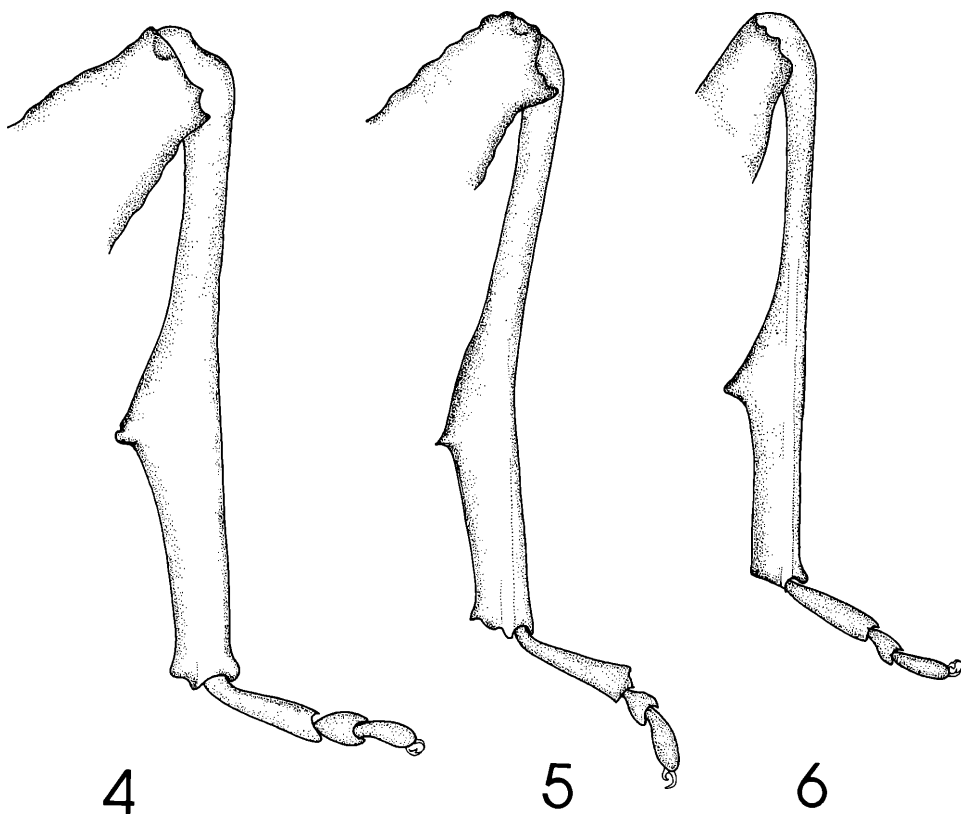


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Figs. 1–3: Pronotum of *Plectropodoides* spp.: 1 – *P. dallastai* spec. nov.; 2 – *P. sandoaensis* SCHOUTEDEN; 3 – *P. medjensis* SCHOUTEDEN.

spines; ventral junction of sterna III and IV produced on remarkable large, bifurcate tubercle, with apex reaching the anterior margin of sternite V; posterior angle of connexival segments IV–VI armed with a pair of blunt spines (Fig. 7). Genitalia. Genital capsule. Posteroventral edge complete, slightly thickened.

Dorsal coloration. Head pale orange yellow, with ocellar tubercle, and two longitudinal bands running lateral to midline from antenniferous tubercles to postocellar pit black; antennal segment I red brown, segments II and III orange hazel with apical join red brown, and segment IV pale yellow, with basal join red brown; pronotum, scutellum, clavus and corium red brown, with anterolateral margins of pronotum black; apex of scutellum yellow; costal borders of corium pale orange; hemelytral membrane dark brown; connexival segments dark red brown, with anterior angle yellow; abdominal segments black, with yellow spot on the middle of anterior margin. Ventral coloration. Bright orange, with hazel reflections; following areas creamy yellow: anterior and posterior lobe of metathoracic peritreme, the tubercle produced of the ventral junction of sterna III and IV, the midline of sternite IV, and posterior border of sterna IV–VI; following areas black to dark red brown: external face of rostral segments II and III, apex of rostral segment IV, mesosternum, metasternum, and midline and lateral tubercle of



Figs. 4–6: Posterior tibiae of *Plectropodoides* spp.: 4 – *P. dallastai* spec. nov.; 5 – *P. sandoaensis* SCHOUTEDEN; 6 – *P. medjensis* SCHOUTEDEN.

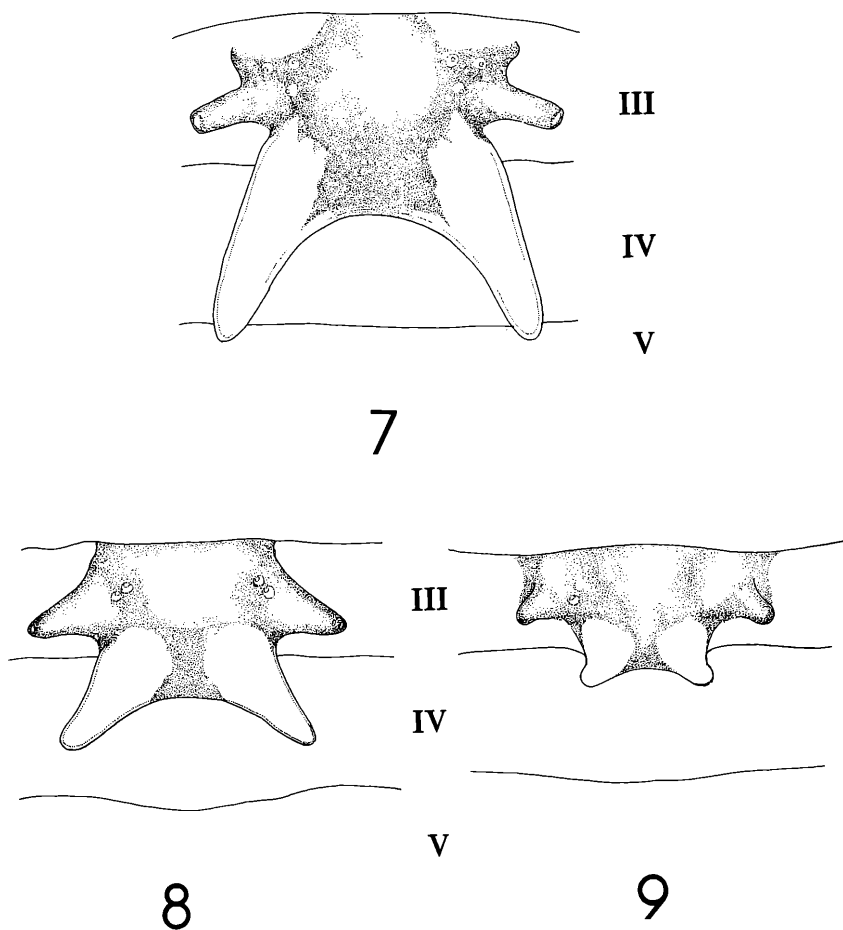
sternite III, middle third of posterior margin of sternite IV, and posteroventral margin of genital capsule; spiracle bright red brown. Legs. Fore and middle leg bright orange hazel, with bright red brown reflections on coxae; hind leg bright red brown, with black markings, and following areas pale yellow to creamy yellow: posterior third of tibiae and tarsi.

Head length: 1.73 mm; width across eyes: 2.66 mm; interocular space: 1.17 mm; interocellar space: 0.44 mm; length of antennal segments: I, 4.65 mm; II, 4.09 mm; III, 3.65 mm; IV, 6.20 mm. Pronotum: Total length: 4.77 mm; width across frontal angles: 2.23 mm; width across humeral angles: 6.80 mm. Scutellar length: 2.79 mm; width: 2.66 mm. Body length: 22.30 mm.

Holotype ♂ Africa: Cameroon, Edea, 1922. VIII. 3, J. A. REIS. Type material in Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pa., USA.

Remarks: Only males are known on this African genus, and each species had been described based only in one single specimen. The new species *P. dallastai* spec. nov. collected in Cameroon, is easily distinguished for the remarkable projection of the ventral tubercle produced in the junction of sterna III and IV, which apex reaching the anterior margin of the sternite V; antennal segment I longer than 4.50 mm; scutellum slightly longer than wide. In *P. medjensis* SCHOUTEDEN and *P. sandoaensis* SCHOUTEDEN described from Zaire, the projections of the ventral tubercle of the sterna III and IV are smaller, less than 1.40 mm (Figs. 7–9) (in *P. dallastai* longer than 2.50 mm), the antennal segment I is clearly shorter than 4.00 mm, and the scutellum is longer than wide. Other characteristics are given on the key.

Etymology Named for Dr. UGO DALL'ASTA, Curator of the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale.



Figs. 7–9: Abdominal sterna III to V of *Plectropodoides* spp.: 7 – *P. dallastai* spec. nov.; 8 – *P. sandoaensis* SCHOUTEDEN; 9 – *P. medjensis* SCHOUTEDEN.

Key to the known species of *Plectropodoides* SCHOUTEDEN

- 1 Ventral junction of sterna III and IV produced on remarkable tubercle, longer than 2.50 mm, which apex reaching the anterior margin of sternite V (Fig. 7); posterior tibiae with internal expansion, conspicuously expanded (Fig. 4); large species, more than 22 mm long.
P. dallastai spec. nov. (Cameroon)
- 1' Ventral junction of sterna III and IV produced on a short or median tubercle, less than 1.40 mm, never reaching the anterior margin of sternite V (Figs. 8–9); posterior tibiae with internal expansion more or less expanded (Figs. 5–6); smaller species, less than 20 mm long. 2
- 2 Ventral junction of sterna III and IV produced on a short tubercle, nearly reaching the anterior margin of sterna IV (Fig. 9); posterior femora red brown; dorsal surface of head black; humeral angles projected laterally on a large spine (Fig. 3).
P. medjensis SCHOUTEDEN (Zaire)
- 2' Ventral junction of sterna III and IV produced on a median tubercle, reaching the middle third of sterna IV (Fig. 8); posterior femora yellow; dorsal surface of head yellow; humeral angles almost rounded (Fig. 2).
P. sandoaensis SCHOUTEDEN (Zaire)

Acknowledgements

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