

A UNIQUE FEMALE SPECIMEN FROM UPPER BURMA: A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF MICRELYTRINAE (HEMIPTERA : ALYDIDAE)

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A new genus of Micrelytrinae is erected for a new species described from a unique female specimen taken in upper Burma. Its resemblance with *Slateria granti* Ahmad² also taken from upper Burma and its relationship within Micrelytrinae are discussed.

Ahmad² erected a new genus for one new species *Slateria granti* taken from Nam Tamai Valley, upper Burma. This description was based on a single unique male specimen. From the same locality (on a different date) the present female specimen has been collected. Both these specimens have elongate form of body (*Slateria granti* 19.14 mm the present female specimen 19.58 mm), both are pale yellow in colour and both have relatively a short labium which reaches only up to mesocoxae. Both have a strong upright spine before the apex of the scutellum and in both the basal segment of the labium barely reaches the posterior margin of the compound eyes. In spite of these resemblances both strongly differ in the following characteristics.

(1) In *S. granti* the clypeus is strongly developed and is extended in front of paraclypeae in a beak like fashion, whereas in the present species the clypeus and the paraclypeae are equally developed (Fig. 2).

(2) In *S. granti* the basal antennal segment is slightly enlarged beyond middle with a strong dorsolaterally directed spine at the apex, whereas the present species possesses the basal antennal segment which is wide throughout its length and is widest in the middle (Fig. 1). without a spine.

(3) In *S. granti* the metathoracic scent gland ostioles open into the coxal-cavities whereas in the present species the ostioles open into visible openings located anterad to coxal cavities (Fig. 3).

(4) In *S. granti* the second labial segment is slightly shorter than the posterior two together and the fourth segment is not quite twice as long as the third where as the present species in this character represents an usual micrelytrine with a long second labial segment which is of about the same length as the posterior two together and the fourth segment is distinctly twice as long as the third.

(5) In *S. granti* the length of pronotum is only a fourth again of the width whereas the present

species possesses an elongated pronotum, the length of which is distinctly half again the width.

The differences of the above nature have never been observed by the present author representing the case of sexual dimorphism or even in any two species belonging to the same genus during his studies on the closely related subfamily Leptocorisinae of the world¹ and on the Micrelytrinae of the world (this work is under active investigation and will be reported on separately). In addition to the short beak in both species with short basal segment which barely reaches the posterior margin of compound eyes, the elongated robustly linear body and the pale yellow coloration suggest that both species probably live on the same habitat (the host plant is not mentioned in the locality data). The above view is strengthened because of the fact that both species have been taken from exactly identical locality by the same collector. The present case might well be representing an example of parallelism. Two species of another genus *Acestra*, *A. sinica* Dallas⁵ and *A. malayana* Distant⁶ of the same subfamily and two species of the genus *Mutusca*, *M. brevicornis* Dallas⁵ and *M. proluxa* Stal,⁸ belonging to a different subfamily Leptocorisinae also share the above characters. In addition these species possess a thick basal antennal segment which is distinctly wider beyond the middle. (*A. malayana* Distant lacks this character). *Mutusca brevicornis* is taken from a leguminous Australian plant of the genus *Daviesia*, and *A. malayana* from bamboo. Several of the species of Leptocorisinae are reported living on grasses. These habitats are common, almost everywhere. On the other hand the outer elevation of scent gland ostioles shows a similar pattern in *Acestra*, *Slateria granti*, in the present species and in the species of two other genera *Babaranus* and *Tuberculiformia* (Ahmad³). Although there is a clear trend of elongation and narrowness in the stem which joins the anterior and posterior lobes, in the above sequence of species. The spermatheca of the present species resembles those found in the species of *Acestra*, *Babaranus* and *Tuberculiformia* in the character of the possession of the apical bulb

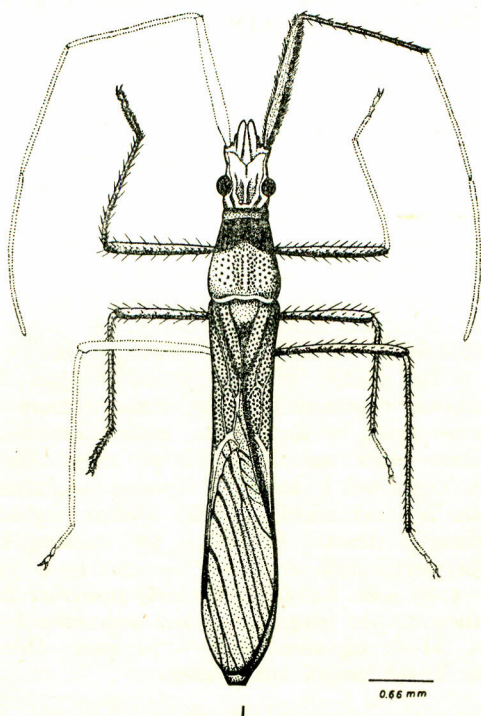
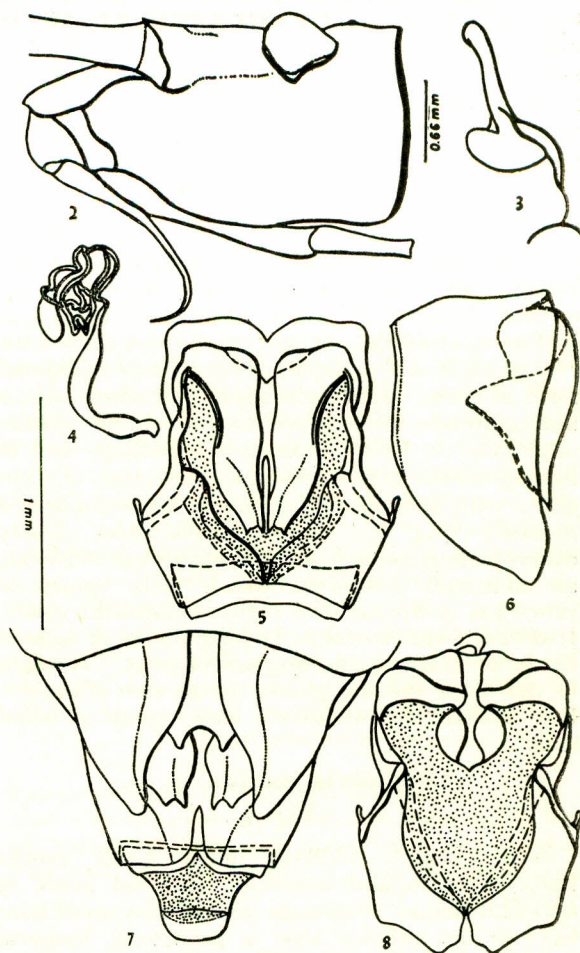


Fig. 1.—Dorsal view of *Longicoris pallida*.

(Fig. 4). This character is also shared by the species of *Mutusca*. This might suggest a rather close relationship between *Ascestra*, *Slateria*, the present species, *Babaranus* and *Tuberculiformia* and that ancestral micrelytrines resembling these forms possibly have given rise to ancestral leptocorisines resembling species of *Mutusca* in this character. This view that from the ancestral micrelytrines independently arose the leptocorisines is also held by Schaffer⁷ and by Ahmad.⁴

Longicoris gen. n.

Body robustly linear. Head elongate but shorter than pronotum, parallel-sided; juga well developed, slightly raised upward, separated from one another by equally developed tylus, beak absent; ocelli small close together, pits in front of each ocellus conspicuous, occipital sulcus incomplete, only present behind ocelli. Pronotum sub-rectangular, sides very slightly converging anteriorly, width equal to two thirds of length ($2.21/3.3$ mm), unarmed; Scutellum with a large upright spine before the apex. Metathoracic scent gland opening apparent, outer elevations bilobed, ovate (Fig. 3), both the lobes oriented transversely; clavus and corium with very small punctures placed near veins. Trichobothria on fifth ventral abdominal segment with two fused anterad and a single posterad bases. First antennal segment swollen throughout but widest in the middle,



Figs. 2-8.—*Longicoris pallida*, spn (2) head, lateral view; (3) scent gland ostiole; (4) spermatheca; (5) male ovipositor, dorsal view with 1st gonocoxae and gonopophyses removed; (6) 1st gonocoxa attached with first gonopophyses, dorsal view; (7) male terminalia dorsal view; (8) female ovipositor, ventral view.

dorso-lateral spine at apices lacking. Labium reaching posterior margin of mesocoxae, second segment about the same length as posterior two together, fourth segment distinctly twice as long as third.

Female genitalia.—Seventh abdominal sternum posteriorly emarginated, first gonocoxae elongated, somewhat conical. Spermatheca with an apical bulb (Fig. 4).

Type Species: ***Longicoris pallida*** sp. n.

This genus resembles *Slateria* Ahmad² in its elongated form of body, pallid coloration, relatively short beak which reaches intermediate coxae, strong upright spine on scutellum before the apex and an unarmed pronotum but strongly differs in lacking dorso-laterally directed spine on the basal

antennal segment and a beak formed by remarkably developed anteclypeus. On top of these two striking differences it possesses basal antennal segment which is wide throughout its length and is widest in the middle, a distinct scent gland opening and its fourth labial segment is distinctly twice as long as third.

The spermatheca of this genus is very similar to that found in *Tuberculiformia* Ahmad,³ *Babaranus* Distant⁶ and *Acestra* Dallas⁵ (Fig. 4), in having a wide basal tube which convulates and ends into an apical bulb. These genera also share with this genus and *Slateria* the characters of elongated form of body, pallid coloration, Scutellum with a strong upright spine before the apex (in one species of *Acestra*, *A. Sinica* Dallas this is lacking) and in having similar pattern of outer elevation of scent gland with anterior and posterior lobes connected medially (Fig. 3). *Longicoris* however clearly differs from *Babaranus* and *Tuberculiformia* in having an unarmed pronotum which lacks spines or tubercles, in the anterior region behind the collar. It differs from *Acestra* in lacking the beak formed by the anteriorly projecting anteclypeus. It might be that these oriental genera (in the west of wallace line) constitute a relatively closer group of tribal rank.

***Longicoris pallida* sp. n.**

(Fig. 1).

Body elongate, robustly linear; head (except bases of ocelli and anteriorly directed arms, of occipital sulcus) pronotum (except two small faint lines in the anterior lobe of pronotum, humeral angles and the line joining them), scutellum (except the spine), entire hemelytra, sides of dorsum of abdomen and sides of venter, first and second antennal segments (only first and second antennal segments of one side being present in the holotype), all the legs (except apices of tibiae) (only tarsi of one fore leg being present in the holotype) pale yellow; bases of ocelli and anteriorly directed arms of occipital suture, two small faint lines in the anterior lobe of pronotum, humeral angles and the line joining them, lateral line running from antenniferous tubercles to mid of propleuron, mid portion of dorsum of abdomen and entire mid portion of venter including elevation of metathoracic scent glands, trichobothria brownish black; head, anterior lobe of pronotum and scutellum obscurely and inconspicuously punctured, clothed above and sides with decumbent sericeous hairs; posterior lobe of pronotum and sides of corium and near veins with large punctures.

Head anterior to compound eyes only slightly more than a fourth again the length of posterior of head including compound eyes, median longi-

tudinal sulcus about thalf again distance between compound eyes; length of head 3.08 mm, width 2.01 mm, inter-ocular distance 1.26 mm. Pronotum sinuately only slightly narrowed from humeral to anterior margins, posterior lobe markedly convex; length of pronotum 3.31 mm, width 2.21 mm. Scutellum anterior to apex with a strong outwardly curved upright spine, anterior to spine slightly convex, posterior to spine concave; length scutellum 1.30 mm, width 0.84 mm; bilobed elevation in area of scent gland (Fig. 3) ovate, both elevations oriented transversely. Membrane of hemelytra extending on passing posterior margin of last visible (9th) abdominal tergum; length of claval commissure 1.95 mm, distance apex clavus—apex corium 7.21 mm, distance apex corium—apex membrane 2.73 mm. Antennae with segment I swollen throughout, distinctly wider beyond middle, spines absent, segment II uniformly slender (III and IV missing in the holotype); length antennal segment I—4.74 mm, II—4.87 mm. Labium reaching posterior margin of mesocoxae; length of labial segments I—1.95 mm, II—2.04 mm. III—0.71 mm, IV—1.43 mm. Total length 19.58 mm.

Seventh abdominal sterum emarginated (Fig. 7) first gonocoxae with inner margin sinuately emarginated, outer margins convex, second gonopophyses distinctly bilobed at apices (Fig. 5). Spermatheca with an apical bulb (Fig. 4).

Holotype Female Upper Burma.—Nam Tamai Valley, alt. 3000 ft, lat. N 27°42', long. E 97°54', 4th September 1938 (R. Kaulback) in British Museum (Natural History). This species is at the moment the only member of the genus *Longicoris*. Its basal antennal segment which is swollen throughout and widest in the middle, absence of beak in the head region and elongated robust body make this species unique in the subfamily Micrelytrinae.

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