

ON SOME LYGAEIDAE OF THE GENUS
ASTACOPS AND ALLIES

by

H. C. BLÖTE

Wilgenlaan 14, Voorschoten, Netherlands

With two text-figures

In "Pacific Insects" vol. 5, no. 2 (1963), G. C. E. Scudder published a "Revision of the Genus *Astacops* sensu lat.". It is an important contribution to the knowledge of this group, the paper containing a.o. the descriptions of no less than 66 new species and subspecies, for the greater part from the Australo-malayan region.

Though I highly appreciate this work in general, and the clear way in which the differences between forms are exposed, I must lodge an objection as to the way the analysis of the genera is exposed. In Scudder's "Key to genera in the *Astacops* complex" hardly any of the characters used by the authors of the genera is mentioned; most characters are invented by Scudder.

I don't think this to be a useful manner. Of course it can be of interest to add characters to a description to make identification easier. In the cases of subgenera and higher groups, however, we have to be cautious not to create doubtful species, which would belong into the genus when tested by the original description only, but not answering the requirements of our newly added criteria, the more so as it is generally to be expected that new species will be found, the characters of which are hitherto unknown.

In face of these circumstances I think it useful to reconstruct the "classic" synopsis of genera, that can be put in exchange of Scudder's key after paragraph 2:

2. Ocelli about as distant from each other as from the eyes, or less distant from each other than from the eyes 3
- Ocelli about two times more distant from each other than from the eyes.
Pronotum punctulate *Aethalotus* Stål
3. Head with the eyes much narrower than the base of the pronotum. Pronotum not or faintly punctate, trapezoidal, rather strongly narrowed towards the anterior edge; anterior lobe at least $\frac{2}{3}$ shorter than the posterior lobe. Sides of the abdomen more or less curved about the middle, usually protruding beyond the costal edge of the hemielytra. First joint of hind tarsi about two times as long as the apical joints together. Antennae slender *Astacops* Boisduval

- Head with the eyes not or hardly narrower than the base of the pronotum, pronotum subquadrate, hardly or not narrowed towards the anterior edge. Anterior lobe only $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ shorter than the posterior lobe. Sides of the abdomen parallel, entirely covered by the hemielytra. Basal joint of posterior tarsi only a little, at most $\frac{2}{5}$ longer than the two apical joints together. Antennae less slender *Scopiastes* Stål 4
4. Posterior lobe of the pronotum strongly punctate
 Subgenus *Scopiastes* Stål s. str.
- Posterior lobe of the pronotum smooth, impunctate, rarely (*S. sarasinorum* Bredd.) very finely punctate.
 Subgenus *Scopiastella* Slater (= *Xestonotellus* Horv.)

Still doubtful is the genus *Abgarus* Distant. The only species, *A. typicus* Distant is placed into *Scopiastes* by Scudder. From Distant's description it seems to me somewhat more likely that it belongs to *Aethalotes* Stål. As the type specimen seems to be badly damaged, only new material can give a solution.

It would be of interest now to have a re-examination of Scudder's new species to determine their generic positions, as from their descriptions this is not always clear. The only suggestions I can do now is that *Astacops bougainvillensis* Scudder perhaps would fit better into the genus *Scopiastes*, and *Scopiastes penigrus* Scudder into *Astacops*.

In the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie at Leiden there are a few species of the group still new to science.

***Astacops brongersmai* spec. nov. (figs. 1 a-b)**

Probably allied to *A. mysticus* Scudder and *A. similis* Scudder, but distinct by the colour pattern. The head above, the legs and the antennae reddish orange. Anteriorly the head is more yellowish, as are the rostrum, the anterior part of the prothorax, and the greater part of the hemielytra, of which only the apical costal area is blackish. The posterior part of the prothorax, the scutellum, the meso- and metasternum and nearly the whole abdomen, the penultimate and ultimate ventral segments excepted, black. Pronotum and scutellum dull, somewhat velvety, only the transverse furrows on the anterior lobe of the pronotum and a short keel on the posterior part of the scutellum shiny.

Measurements. Head width: 2.5 mm; pronotal width: 3 mm; pronotal length: 1.3 mm; antennal measurements: 0.65-2.00-2.10-?; total length: 8.8 mm.

One ♂ specimen, Katem, Star range, 200 m, Netherlands New Guinea

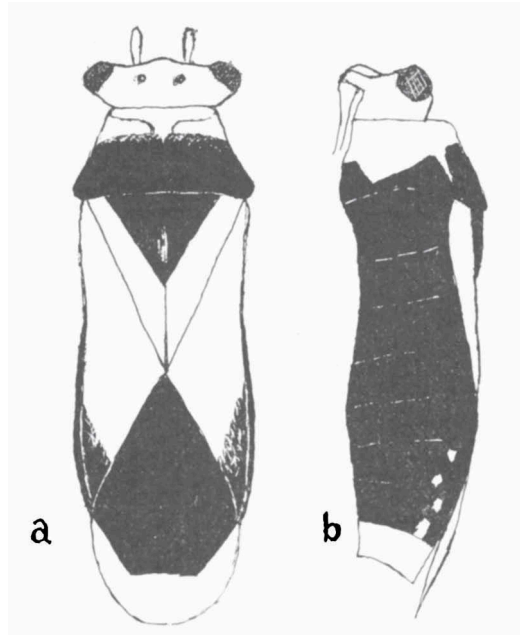


Fig. 1. *Astacops brongersmai* spec. nov. Colour pattern. a, dorsal view; b, lateral view.

expedition, to the leader of which, with most friendly regards, I dedicate this species. — Holotype, in Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden.

***Astacops seminiger* spec. nov.**

Head, pronotum, scutellum, thoracal sternae and pleura, greater part of the rostrum, a narrow basal and apical ventral edge and basal dorsal part of the abdomen, and the base of the hemelytra, red. Antennae, eyes, legs, the coxae and trochanters excepted, the greater part of the abdomen, the apical part of the corium and clavus, the basal part of the membrane, the apical dorsal segments, the apical joint of the rostrum, and some streaks on the second and third joints of it, black. Abdominal venter with a very slight greenish tinge. Apex of membrane transparent. Colour pattern ventrally not unlike that of *Astacops abdominalis* Distant, dorsally more or less that of "*Scopiastes*" *penigrus* Scudder.

Rostrum not reaching beyond the intermediate coxae. Upper surface smooth, rather shiny.

Measurements. Head width: 2.35 mm; antennal joints: 1.0-2.1-2.55-3.4 mm; pronotal width: 3.3 mm; pronotal length: 1.9 mm; total length: 11.8 mm.

One ♀ specimen, Tigibi, native gardens, Tara subdistrict, 1600 m, Eastern New Guinea, May-June 1966, W. Vink collector. — Holotype, in Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden.

Scopiastes (Scopiastes) ruficeps spec. nov. (fig. 2)

Head red; antennae, eyes and rostrum, basal joints excepted, black (fourth antennal joints missing in our specimen). Pronotum, scutellum and hemielytra black, membrane pitchy. Coxae black, legs for the rest red. Abdominal venter red. Thoracal pleura (fig. 2) black for the greater part, the propleurae with yellow edges, mesopleurae with yellow hind border, metapleurae with yellow anterior border and yellow osteolar peritremes. Pronotum posteriorly and corium slightly bluish.



Fig. 2. *Scopiastes (S.) ruficeps* spec. nov. Colour pattern of thorax, lateral view.

Measurements. Head width: 2.7 mm; antennal joints: 0.47-1.26-1.48-?; pronotal width: 2.5 mm; pronotal length: 1.25 mm; total length: 8.5 mm.

One ♀ specimen, Bernhard camp, 50 m, Netherlands-Indian-American New Guinea expedition, August 1938, J. Olthof collector. — Holotype, in Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden.