



***Austrokatanga*, gen. nov., new genus of Ectrichodiinae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae) from Australia**

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Abstract

A new genus and one new species of Ectrichodiinae are described from Australia. *Austrokatanga monteithi*, **n.gen., n.sp.**, is distinct from other Ectrichodiinae by a combination of characters including the cylindrical shape of the head, aptery in both sexes, armature of legs, and armature of abdominal sternites in the male. The species is highly polymorphic and shows considerable sexual dimorphism. Digital macrophotographs, scanning electron micrographs, illustrations, and a distribution map are provided.

Key words: Reduviidae, Ectrichodiinae, systematics, new genus, new species, Australia

Introduction

With 111 genera and 643 species listed by Maldonado (1990) in his world catalog, Ectrichodiinae is among the most speciose subfamilies of Reduviidae. Five new genera have been described since completion of this catalog, *Synectrychotes* Livingstone & Murugan, 1987; *Echinocoris* Livingstone & Ravichandran, 1992 (a junior homonym of *Echinocoris* Miller, 1949); *Hemihaematorrhophus* Murugan & Livingstone, 1995; *Choucoris* Cai, 2000; and *Pseudozirta* Berenger & Gil-Santana, 2005. All together, there are 116 described genera. Comprehensive treatments of Ectrichodiinae are restricted to a generic key for the Asian fauna (Cook, 1977), a monographic treatment of the Chinese fauna (Hsiao & Ren, 1981) and of former French West Africa (Villiers, 1948), and the generic revisions conducted by Carpintero and Maldonado (1996) and Dougherty (1995) on the Neotropical fauna. Seven monotypic genera, described by Breddin, Bergroth, and Miller until the middle of the 20th century, are currently known from Australia (Cassis & Gross, 1995), but a modern treatment of and a key to the Australian fauna are unavailable. The described diversity of Australian Ectrichodiinae may indicate a depauperate fauna for this otherwise extremely diverse group of assassin bugs, but it more likely reflects the lack of targeted field collecting and revisionary studies.

Information on life habits and microhabitat of the often aposematically colored and sturdy Ectrichodiinae is limited, but individuals of several species have been recorded to feed on millipedes (Miller, 1953; Louis, 1974) and were found in proximity to these arthropods (CW, unpublished observation). Ectrichodiinae are most often collected in either pit fall traps or malaise traps, and many Ectrichodiinae may be nocturnal.

Some specimens of an apterous species of Ectrichodiinae from Australia came to our attention while sorting material in several collections. Coincidentally, Geoff Monteith brought several series of the same species to our attention that were collected at numerous localities in Queensland and New South Wales while