



***Parapiromis* nom. nov., a new name for *Piromis* Fennah (Hemiptera: Fulgoromorpha: Ricaniidae), with descriptions of three new species**

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Abstract

Parapiromis Bu, Larivière & Liang is created as a new name for *Piromis* Fennah (Hemiptera: Fulgoromorpha: Ricaniidae), which is preoccupied by *Piromis* Kinberg, 1869 (Annelida), and three new species of the genus are described and illustrated from the Pacific region: *P. guadalcanalensis* Bu & Liang **sp. nov.** (Solomon Islands), *P. kiungaensis* Bu & Liang **sp. nov.** (Papua New Guinea), *P. santacruzensis* Bu & Liang **sp. nov.** (Solomon Islands). *P. translucida* (Montrouzier) is redescribed and illustrated, including the external morphology of adult and the structure of the male and female genitalia. A key and a distribution map to the species of *Parapiromis* are provided.

Key words: Fulgoroidea, planthopper, taxonomy

Introduction

The Ricaniidae (Hemiptera, Fulgoromorpha) is one of 21 planthopper families with approximately 450 species in over 45 genera, and with a broad host range including herbaceous and woody dicotyledons (Melichar, 1923; Metcalf, 1955; Fennah, 1969; Fletcher, 2008). The genus is distributed primarily around the tropics with a number of species in the south Pacific islands where many endemic planthoppers are distributed. The ricaniid faunas of the south Pacific islands remain inadequately studied and there is still much basic taxonomic work to be done on the group in this region.

The ricaniid planthopper genus *Piromis* was established by Fennah (1969) for *Ricania translucida* Montrouzier, 1861 from New Caledonia, which was the type species and the only known species of the genus. Montrouzier (1861) had described *R. translucida* from Lifu Island and the species was transferred to *Euricania* Melichar by Melichar (1898b).

Unfortunately, *Piromis* Fennah is preoccupied by *Piromis* Kinberg, 1867 (Annelida) and a new name, *Parapiromis* is created below for Fennah's genus.

While sorting and identifying Ricaniidae from material in the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA and elsewhere, we found three new species of *Parapiromis* from Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Four species are very similar in appearance and can be distinguished only by the structure of the aedeagus. In this paper, we redescribe the genus, including first published details of the male and female genitalia, describe and illustrate the three new species and provide a key and a distribution map (Fig. 43) to the separation of the known species in the genus.