

A new species of *Vannius* DISTANT, 1883 from Madagascar
(*Heteroptera: Miridae*)

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ABSTRACT. *Vannius schmitzi* n. sp. is described from Madagascar. It is the second species of the genus described from this island.

Key words: Entomology, taxonomy, *Vannius*, *Miridae*, *Heteroptera*, new species, Madagascar.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Vannius* (DISTANT, 1883) was described on the basis of specimens collected in Guatemala and Panama. Four of the six known species of this genus occur in Central and South America. One species is known from the Seychelles and another from Madagascar (CARVALHO 1957). The allied genus *Vanniusoides* was described from Papua New Guinea (CARVALHO, LORENZATO 1978).

In the material borrowed from the Zoological Museum in St. Petersburg and Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale there were specimens identified as *Vannius perineti* n. sp. Holotype and paratypes were designated by Dr. Guy SCHMITZ but the description of this species was not published. Dr. SCHMITZ is retired; he allowed me to describe and publish the article on this species. I decided not to remove his labels from the specimens and only add my own. The description of a new species is given below.

Vannius schmitzi n. sp.

ETYMOLOGY

The name is proposed in honour of Dr Guy SCHMITZ, a well known heteropterist who first recognized the species.

DIAGNOSIS

The new species can be recognized by its size and colour pattern as well as the strong, enlarged metafemora. All the remaining members of *Vannius* DISTANT have a similar colour pattern on the hemelytra - red spots sharply contrasting with the generally pale body. In *Vannius annulicornis* POPP. red areas are separated by distinct, pale and dark bands. The new species is generally dull yellowish and reddish but the reddish areas are not distinctly separated. It is also the largest species among all known representatives of the genus.

DESCRIPTION

Length: 4.4-4.8 mm., width: 1.6-1.8 mm.

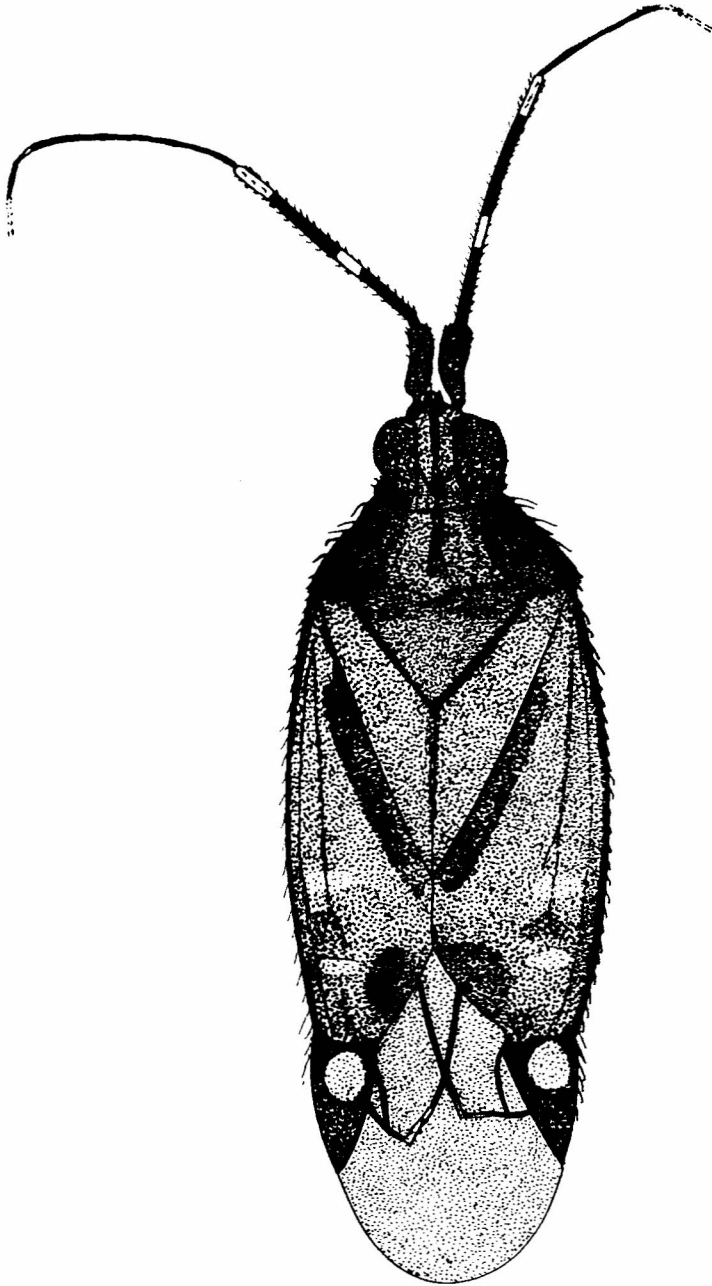
Body reddish and dark yellow to brown, bearing long setae. Head wider than long, width 0.57-0.60 mm; length 0.35-0.40 mm; height 0.7-0.8 mm; width of vertex 0.18-0.2 mm; eyes large, occupying nearly one-half height of head, contiguous with pronotal collar; vertex flat, yellowish with dark strip in middle crossing vertex, pronotal collar and the anterior part of pronotum (fig. 1); frons reddish. Antennal fossae contiguous with anterior margins of eyes. First antennal segment reddish dark, thick, second segment reddish or reddish black at base, with pale ring separating next reddish or black part, apex pale (fig. 1). Clothed with short dense setae, third and fourth segments slender; third almost black with pale ring at apex covered with very short setae; fourth black at base. In all examined specimens fourth segments are broken; length of antennal segments (in mm): 0.35-0.40: 1.3-1.43: 1.0-1.17. Rostrum rather short, not reaching or hardly reaching metacoxae.

Pronotum broader than long, length 0.6-0.65 mm, width 1.17-1.30 mm. Pronotum and pronotal collar reddish with large pale part in middle with dark vertical strip, posterior margin noticeably bisinuate; pronotum, collar and thorax in lateral view reddish dark or entirely black; scutellum and mesoscutum yellowish dark or dark framed with reddish strips, mesoscutum exposed, swollen, with small red spots in anterior angles. Ostiolar peritreme very small.

Hemelytra pale yellow to yellowish brown with more or less distinct reddish spots and bands. Claval suture, commissure of hemelytra, edge of embolium and veins of hemelytra reddish. Corium with two transverse, weakly contrasted, pale spots and with two large red patches above cuneus, contiguous with membrane. Cuneal fracture distinct; cuneus almost twice as long as broad, red with a large, more or less regular, pale spot in the middle. Membrane reaching well beyond apex of abdomen, pale grey to greyish black, veins reddish with white distal part, primary cell of membrane large, secondary cell small but well visible.

Legs reddish or reddish pale, covered with short setae, metafemora distinctly enlarged at base, long, tibiae long with short setae and a row of few, pale spines (11-13), tarsi bisegmented.

Male unknown.



1. *Vannius schmitzi*, holotype, dorsal habitus

TYPES

Holotype and 13 paratypes: Madagascar, Perinet; holotype: "Perinet, Madagascar, OLSUF'EV [Олсуфьев], XII. 932; *Vannius perineti* sp. n. G. SCHMITZ det. 1970"

5 paratypes: "Perinet, Madagascar, OLSUF'EV [Олсуфьев], 5 III. 935; *Vannius perineti* sp. n. G. SCHMITZ det. 1970"; 7 paratypes: "Perinet, Madagascar, ROBINSON, 26 XII. 933; *Vannius perineti* sp. n. G. SCHMITZ det. 1970"; 1 paratype: Perinet, Madagascar, ROBINSON, 10. I. 935; *Vannius perineti* sp. n., G. SCHMITZ det. 1970.

Holotype and 11 paratypes in ZIN, St. Petersburg, , two paratypes in MRAC, Tervuren.

REMARKS

The genus *Vannius* DIST. and related genera *Vannusoides* CARV. & LOR. and *Vaniopsis* POPP. were traditionally placed within the subfamily *Cylapinae* (SCHUH, 1995). Current studies revealed several characters indicating another subfamily placement of the genus. A preliminary study of the other representatives of the genus *Vannius* confirms that the subfamily placement should be changed (GORCZYCA in preparation).

Abbreviations: CLBRR - Centre for Land and Biological Resources Research, Ottawa, Canada; MRAC - Musee Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium; ULB - Universite Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium; ZIN - Zoological Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia.

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