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Geopeltus neocaledonicus n. sp. from New Caledonia
(Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Cydnidae)

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ABSTRACT. *Geopeltus neocaledonicus* from New Caledonia, the second representative of the genus (after *G. tuberculatus* LIS from Sri Lanka), is described and compared with the type species. A key to the species is given.

Key words: entomology, *Hemiptera*, *Heteroptera*, *Cydnidae*, *Geopeltus*, taxonomy, new species, New Caledonia.

The genus *Geopeltus* was described for a single species, *G. tuberculatus* from Sri Lanka (LIS 1990). The present paper contains a description of another, closely allied species of the genus from New Caledonia.

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***Geopeltus neocaledonicus* n. sp.**

ETYMOLOGY

Named after the type locality, New Caledonia.

TYPE MATERIAL

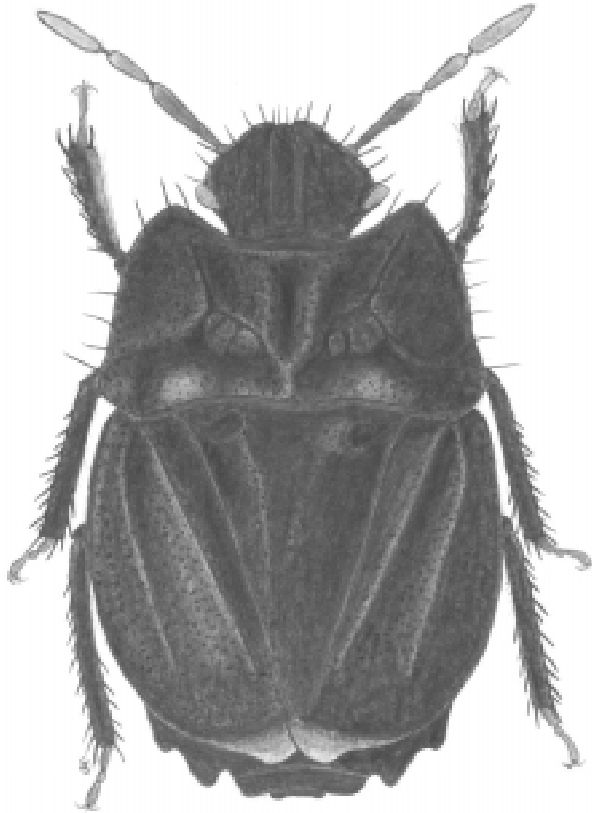
Holotype female: New Caledonia, Mt. Koghis, 22°11'S/166°31' E, 500m, 23-30 May 1987, RAVEN & PLATNIK, Rainforest Pitfalls (Queensland Museum, Brisbane).

DIAGNOSIS

The new species is very similar to *G. tuberculatus* LIS in the body outline and sculpture. Nevertheless, it can easily be separated from the latter by its smaller and narrower eyes (ocular index: 4.6 in *G. neocaledonicus*, 3.9 in *G. tuberculatus*; eye length/width ratio: 2.1 in *G. neocaledonicus*, 1.7 in *G. tuberculatus*), better developed abdominal tubercles, and its different body vestiture (*G. tuberculatus* – dorsal surface with a few short hairs on body margins and on abdomen, *G. neocaledonicus* – almost entire dorsal surface covered with numerous short light hairs).

DESCRIPTION

Body (fig. 1) black, distinctly punctate, covered with numerous short light hairs, its dorsal sculpture typical of the genus.



1. *Geopeltus neocaledonicus* n. sp.: general habitus

Head coarsely punctate, and covered with short light hairs, especially well visible in its lateral and posterior parts; clypeus shorter than paraclypei, with two apical setae; each paraclypeus with a submarginal row of 7 hair-like setae; eyes small and narrow, about 2.1 times longer than broad, ocular index 4.6; ocelli absent; antennae slender, 4-segmented, 1st and 2nd segment brown, 3rd segment yellowish brown, the 4th yellow; rostrum yellowish brown, reaching hind coxae.

Pronotum subrectangular, medially narrower than that of *G. tuberculatus*, its disc densely punctate and covered with numerous short light hairs, discal sculpture as in *G. tuberculatus*, but better visible; anterior margin broadly and deeply concave, the posterior slightly insinuated; lateral margins with 6-7 distinct submarginal hair-like setae.

Scutellum very long, triangular, with distinct tuberosities in its antero-lateral angles; puncturation well visible, especially dense in the basal third; short light hairs well visible.

Corium as in *G. tuberculatus*, not specifically modified, except for well visible hair covering; membrane very short, reduced, milky white, embrowned basally.

Dorsum punctate and covered with numerous light hair-like bristles; lateral tubercles well developed and distinctly projecting out; venter alutaceous, laterally punctate and covered with short brownish hair-like bristles.

Evaporatoria and legs as in *G. tuberculatus*.

Measurements (in mm): body length 6.39; body width 3.81; head length 1.24; head width 1.82; pronotum length 1.83; pronotum width 3.61; scutellum length 2.93; scutellum width 2.10; antennal segments: 0.42 : 0.76 : 0.53 : 0.64.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *GEOPELTUS*

1. Body dorsally with a few hairs on margins and on abdomen; eyes larger, ocular index about 3.9, eye length/width ratio about 1.7..... *tuberculatus*
- . Body dorsally with well visible hair covering; eyes smaller, ocular index about 4.6, eye length/width ratio about 2.1 *neocaledonicus*

REFERENCE

- LIS, J.A. 1990. Studies on the Oriental *Cydnidae* (*Heteroptera*) II. Three new genera and species. Bonn. zool. Beitr., **41**: 223-229.