

A new species of the genus *Afrovannius* Gorczyca from the Comory Islands (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae: Cylapinae)

J. GORCZYCA

Department of Zoology; University of Silesia; Bankowa 9; 40-007 Katowice; Poland; E-mail: jacek.gorczyca@us.edu.pl

Abstract

A new species of Cylapinae is described from Mayotte and it is the first report of this subfamily from the Comory Islands. A key of all the species of the genus *Afrovannius* is presented, the picture of the dorsal habitus of the new species is given.

Key words: *Afrovannius*, new species, Comory Islands, Cylapinae, Heteroptera.

Resumen

Una nueva especie del género *Afrovannius* Gorczyca de las Islas Comores (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae: Cylapinae)

Se describe una nueva especie de Cylapinae de Mayotte, siendo éste el primer registro de la subfamilia en las Islas Comores. Se presenta una clave para todas las especies del género *Afrovannius* y se ilustra el habitus dorsal de la nueva especie.

Palabras clave: *Afrovannius*, nueva especie, Islas Comores, Cylapinae, Heteroptera.

Laburpena

***Afrovannius* Gorczyca generoko espezie berri bat Komore Uharteetako (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae: Cylapinae)**

Cylapinae espezie berri bat deskribatzen da, Mayottekoa, subfamilia honen Komore Uharteetako lehenengo aipua delarik. *Afrovannius* generoko espezie guztietarako balio duen klabea aurkezten da eta espezie berriaren habitus irudizatzen da.

Gako-hitzak: *Afrovannius*, espezie berria, Komore Uharteak, Cylapinae, Heteroptera.

Introduction

The genus *Afrovannius* was established for a species of Cylapinae collected in Sierra Leone (Gorczyca, 1997). Simultaneously, a few other species from the Afro-tropical Region were transferred to this genus from *Vannius* Distant, 1883 (Gorczyca, 1997). The representatives of the new genus have the body flattened, long and thin antennae, longer than body, with the first segment short and thickened. Head is elongated, almost opisthognathous, hind femora thickened and

long, tarsi thin, two segmented (second segment divided). Claws with a distinct subapical tooth and with the relatively large, divergent, fleshy parempodia between them. Practically nothing is known on their life-cycle and feeding habits.

Only four species from the genus *Afrovannius* have been known so far: *A. annulicornis* (Poppius, 1909) and *A. schmitzi* (Gorczyca, 1996) from Madagascar, *A. mahensis* (Distant, 1913) from Seychelle Islands and *A. halinae* Gorczyca, 1997 from Sierra Leone and Congo (Gorczyca, 2006).

Among the material I have borrowed from the Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, I found one female collected from the Mayotte Island, which represented a new species of the genus *Afrovannius*. In the present paper I give a description of the new species and provide a key to the known species of the genus.

Taxonomy

Afrovannius jordi sp. nov.

Type material:

HOLOTYPE (♀): Mayotte, Coconi, 90 m. 18-1-1974, L. Matile Rec. Housed in the Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France.

Etymology:

This species is dedicated to my friend and eminent heteropterologist Jordi Ribes. An invariable noun in apposition.

Diagnosis:

This species is similar to *A. mahensis* (Distant, 1913) but can be easily distinguished by the size of the body and the colour pattern.

Description:

Female (male unknown). Body pale with pale red pattern, elongated oval (Fig. 1), covered with shining,

pale and brown setae. Length of the body 3.28 mm, width 1.32 mm. Vertex pale with a slightly darker stripe in the middle. Frons pale with small red patches, clypeus, mandibular, maxillary plates and buccula red. Length of the head 0.32 mm, width 0.62, diameter of eye 0.25 mm. The first antennal segment red, thin at base but rapidly thickened, second segment almost cylindrical, pale yellow, slightly darkened in the basal part and distinctly darkened in the apical part. The apex of the segment white. Third and fourth segments dark, thin, covered with dense, short setae. Length of the antennal segments in mm: 0.32: 1.45: 1.50: 1.12. Rostral segments unmeasurable in the specimen examined.

Pronotal collar pale, tinged with red on sides, pronotum pale with two red, broad, longitudinal stripes in the middle (Fig. 1). Humeral angles of pronotum slightly darkened. Length of pronotum 0.25 mm, length of the anterior margin 0.62 mm, lateral margins 0.37 mm, posterior margin 1.00 mm. Mesoscutum and scutellum pale with small, red patches on sides.

Hemelytra pale, shining, partly translucent, with large red patches. Embolium distinct, thin, clavus and corium with pale red pattern. Cuneus red with a large pale patch in the middle and a pale patch contiguous to costal fracture. Membrane pale grey, venation pall, well visible.

Body red with pale patches ventrally, coxae and trochanters not visible in the specimen examined, metafemora pale, red at base and in the apical part, pro- and mesofemora pale with red stripes, tibiae pale, pale brown, tinged with red in apical part, tarsi thin, darkened.

Key to the species of the genus *Afrovannius*

- (1) Pronotum, scutellum and mesoscutum darkened, reddish brown, second antennal segment relatively short, almost as long as the posterior margin of pronotum (Madagascar) *A. schmitzi* Gorczyca, 1996
 - Pronotum, scutellum and mesoscutum pale with red areas, second antennal segment much longer than the posterior margin of pronotum 2
- (2) Clavus red, hemelytra with distinct lines separating red and dark areas, cuneus pale with red patch in the middle (Madagascar) *A. annulicornis* (Poppius, 1909)
 - Clavus pale, hemelytra without lines separating red and dark areas, cuneus with red or pale patches . . . 3
- (3) Pronotum pale, only lateral margins with red bands, cuneus pale with a red patch in the middle (Seychelles Islands) *A. mahensis* (Distant, 1913)
 - Pronotum pale with wide, red, transversal bands in the middle 4
- (4) Cuneus red with two pale patches (Comory Islands) *A. jordi* sp. nov.
 - Cuneus pale only the apex and base red (Sierra Leone) *A. halinae* Gorczyca, 1997

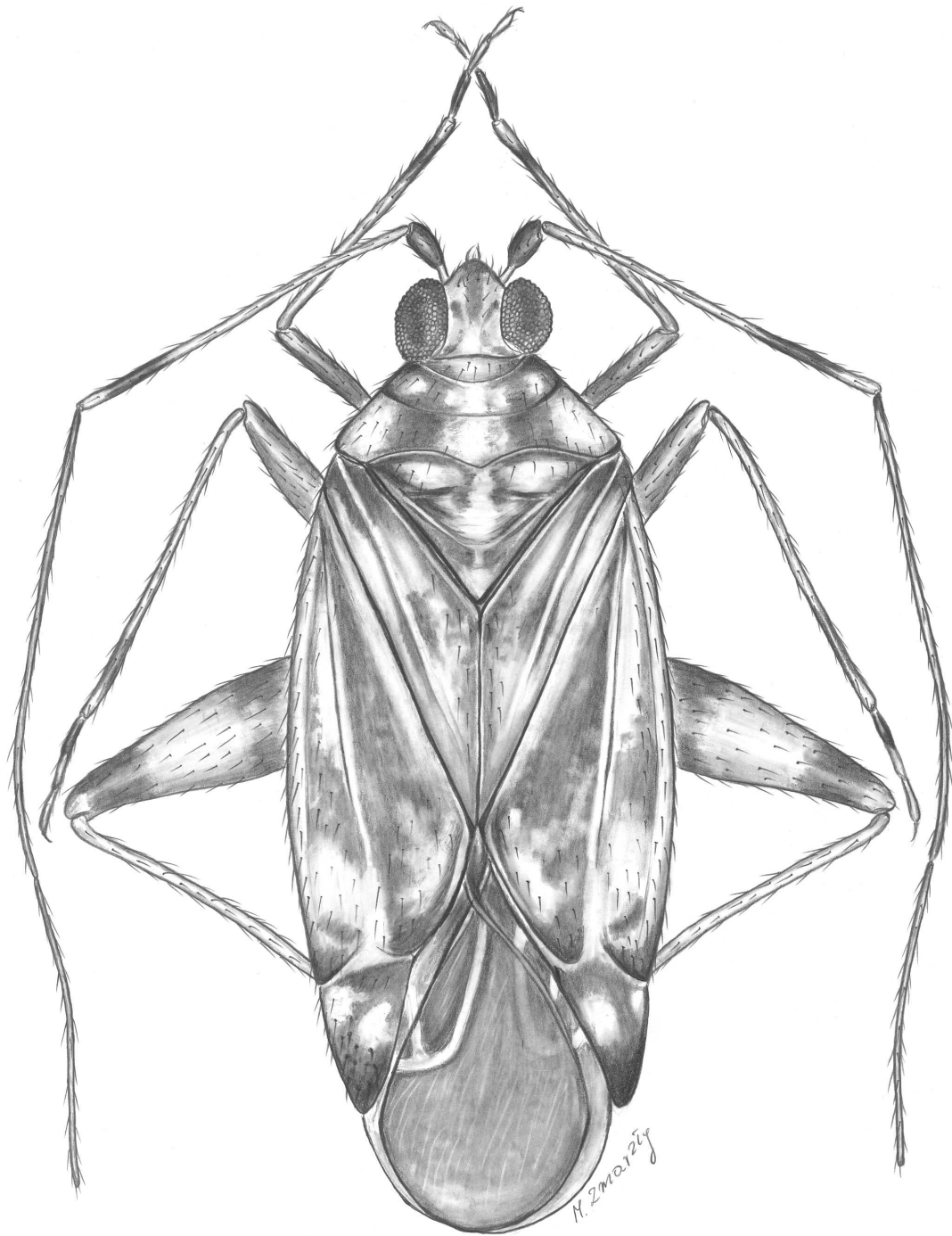


FIGURE 1. *Afrovannius jordi* sp. nov.: Habitus of the holotype (♀).

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