

***Glossopelta laotica* sp.n. (Insecta: Heteroptera: Reduviidae: Phymatinae), a new ambush bug from Laos**

W. Rabitsch*

Abstract

Glossopelta laotica sp.n. is described from Laos. The new species is similar to *G. harmandi* HANDLIRSCH, 1897, sharing the shape of the pronotum without angles on the posterior lobe, but differs in general outline, sculpture of pronotum, length of antennal segments, and colouration.

Key words: Heteroptera, Reduviidae, Phymatinae, *Glossopelta*, new species, Laos.

Zusammenfassung

Glossopelta laotica sp.n. wird aus Laos beschrieben. Die neue Art ist *G. harmandi* HANDLIRSCH, 1897 ähnlich und besitzt wie diese ein einfach gebautes Pronotum ohne Ecken im hinteren Teil des Pronotums. Sie unterscheidet sich durch den Körpermitmaß, die Skulpturierung am Pronotum, die Länge der Antennenglieder und die Färbung.

Introduction

According to FROESCHNER & KORMILEV (1989), the genus *Glossopelta* HANDLIRSCH, 1897 includes nine species, distributed from India to China and Borneo. *Glossopelta* was erected by HANDLIRSCH (1897) based on its wide rostral groove on the venter of the head behind the eyes, which is almost unique within Macrocephalini (shared only by the Neotropical monotypic *Extraneza nasuta* BARBER, 1939), the long scutellum, and antennal segment II originating subapically from segment I.

Among undetermined Phymatinae at the Natural History Museum Vienna, a male and a female (Fig. 1) of a new species of *Glossopelta* from Laos were discovered. This new species runs to *G. harmandi* HANDLIRSCH, 1897 in both keys to species provided by MAA & LIN (1956) and FROESCHNER & KORMILEV (1989). *Glossopelta harmandi* is distinguished by the posterior pronotal lobe having only a single apical angle, whereas all other species of *Glossopelta* possess two or three small angles on the margin of the posterior pronotal lobe (Figs. 2 - 4). The original description of *Glossopelta harmandi* was based on a single male from Vietnam. Through the kindness of Dr. D. Pluot-Sigwalt (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris) it was possible to study the holotype of *G. harmandi*, which allowed me to determine that the specimens from Laos represent a distinct new species described below.

* Dr. Wolfgang Rabitsch, Institute of Zoology, University of Vienna, Althanstraße 14, A - 1090 Wien, Austria – wolfgang.rabitsch@univie.ac.at.

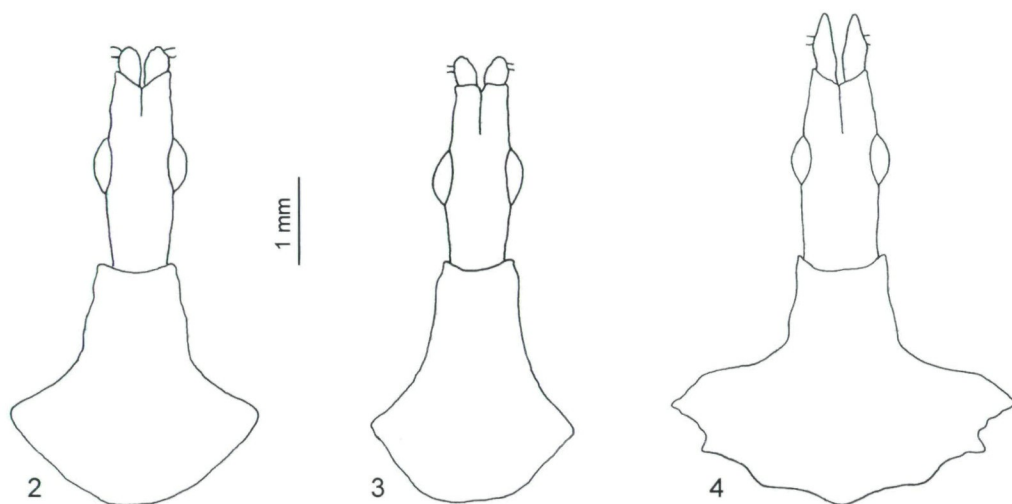


Fig. 1: *Glossopelta laotica* sp.n., female habitus, dorsal aspect (illustration: M. Buch).

Glossopelta laotica sp.n. (Figs. 1, 2, 5 - 10)

Holotype (♂) and **paratype** (♀): Laos north, 13.-24.V.1997, 15 km NW Louang Namtha, N 21°07,5 E 101°21,0, alt 750±100m, E. Jendek & O. Šausa leg.; deposited in the Natural History Museum Vienna.

Description: Body: elongate, with moderately dilated abdomen (Fig. 1); total length 9.75 mm (♂), 10.75 mm (♀); maximum width of pronotum 2.50 mm (♂), 2.75 mm (♀);

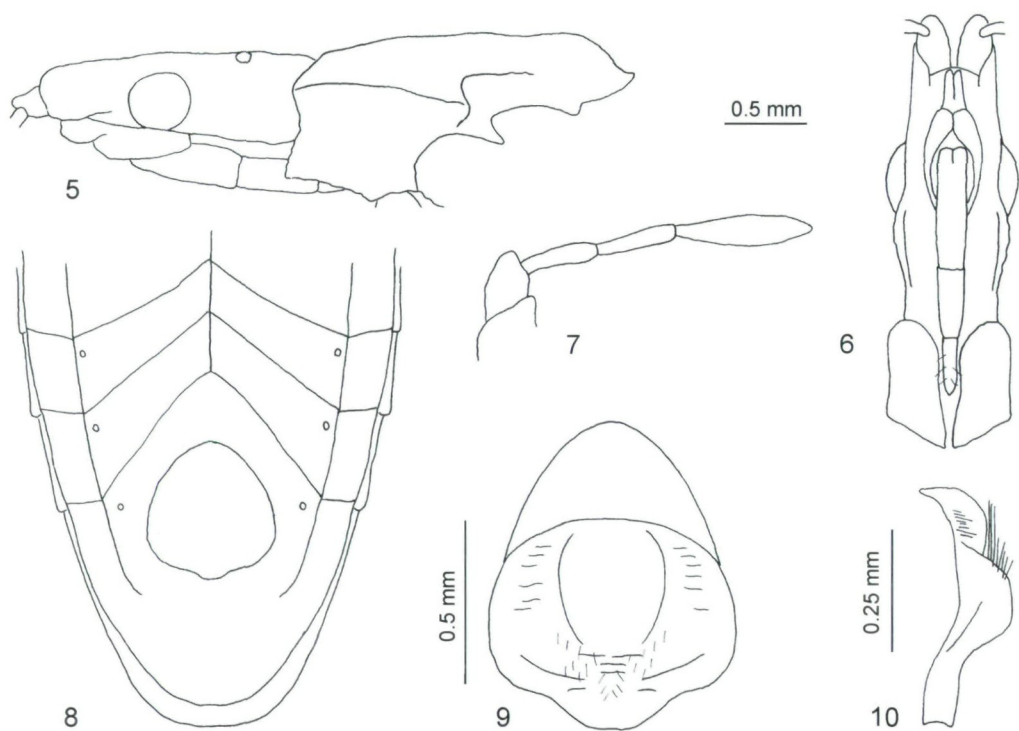


Figs. 2 - 4: First antennal segment, head, and pronotum of (2) *Glossopelta laotica* sp.n. (holotype, ♂), (3) *Glossopelta harmandi* HANDLIRSCH, 1897 (holotype, ♂), (4) *Glossopelta acuta* HANDLIRSCH, 1897 (syntype, ♂), dorsal aspect.

maximum width of abdomen at segment III 2.75 mm (♂), 3.25 mm (♀); ratio of maximum width of abdomen at segment III to pronotum width 110 : 100 (♂) and 130 : 110 (♀).

Head: cylindrical, twice as long as width through eyes: 85 : 41 (♂) and 90 : 45 (♀); coarsely granulose, particularly in postocular part, more developed in male; tylus with single series of granulae; eyes large; preocular part of head little shorter than postocular part: 28 : 31 (♂) and 30 : 35 (♀); ocelli in middle of postocular part, separated from each other by three times their width; head black, granulae brownish, ocelli surrounded by yellow, rectangular (♂) or reddish colouration, reaching anteriorly to eyes (♀, Fig. 1); bucculae strongly produced ventrally, reaching posteriorly to hind border of eyes, posterior margin truncate (Fig. 5); inferior margin of postocular lobe with granulae; rostral furrow outlined by granulose laminae; rostral segments I and II pale yellow, segment III brownish; second rostral segment reaching to end of head, third segment reaching to middle of prothorax (Fig. 6); antenna: segment I not pointed, rounded apically, sparsely granulose; segment II inserted subapically, segment II 3.5 times as long as wide, segment III 4.5 (♂) or 5 (♀) times as long as wide, segment IV 4.5 times as long as wide, segments II-IV a little conical apically, length of segments as 5 : 10 : 12 : 21, segment IV almost equal in length as II and III combined (Fig. 7); segment IV with dense, tight, silvery hairs and several fine, short but erect bristles; segment I black, segment II and III pale yellow, with narrow black apex, segment IV black, basal quarter pale yellow (♂) or completely pale yellow (♀).

Thorax: Pronotum median length little shorter than width (across lateral angles) (50 : 55), anterior pronotal lobe 0.7 times shorter than posterior lobe; posterior pronotal lobe with one angle, only slightly turned upward and pronotum almost even viewed laterally, lateral borders sinuate (Figs. 2, 5); anterior lobe coarsely granulose with brownish granules (♂); punctuation of posterior lobe regular and shallow, but not dense, medially



Figs. 5 - 10: *Glossopelta laotica* sp.n. (holotype, ♂): (5) head and prothorax, lateral aspect; (6) head and prothorax, ventral aspect; (7) antennae; (8) abdomen, ventral aspect; (9) genital capsule; (10) paramere

fine (♂) or reticulate (♀); median furrow distinct in anterior part of posterior lobe, diminishing forward and backward; carinae without granules or punctures, less well developed, divergent backward; propleura granulate on fore lobe, punctured on hind lobe; anterior pronotal lobe with rectangular black spot apically, bordered by pale yellow stripes laterally; posterior part of anterior pronotal lobe pale yellow (♂) or reddish (♀); posterior pronotal lobe with darkened angles, with a clear, pale stripe along edge in front of angles, medially pale yellow (♂) or reddish (♀); scutellum long, more than 2.5 as long as maximal width (105 : 39), reaching end of abdomen, tongue shaped with coarse punctures at base and fine punctures from narrowest part to apex, with few, dispersed, brownish granules in posterior part; dark, with prominent median yellow stripe slightly pointed toward apex; stripe bordered by narrow reddish lines (♀); all pleura coarsely granulate; inferior part of propleura black, superior part of propleura, meso-, and metapleura yellow (♂) or reddish (♀); stridulatory furrow straight, well developed, approximately 1/10 as wide as prosternum; mesosternal furrow for reception of coxae I laterally with row of large granules, anteriorly broader than posteriorly; anterior half of median mesosternal carina broad and weak, posterior half small and sharp (knife-like); fore leg pale yellow, mid and hind legs brownish; coxa I three times as long as wide; trochanters, femora, and tibiae of middle and hind leg with long, silver hairs, dense on middle leg and sparse on hind leg; femora and tibiae of middle and hind leg sparsely granulate.

Abdomen: little wider than pronotum, maximal width at segment III; visible terga and connexiva slightly wrinkled and sparsely granulose; terga and connexiva pale yellow; connexiva slightly contracted basally and dilated apically (Fig. 8); ventrally pale yellow, posterior half of segment VI to apex black. Male genital capsule with posterior convexity and dispersed silver hairs (Fig. 9), paramere as in Fig. 10.

Biology: unknown.

Etymology: named for the country of Laos, where this species was found.

**Addition to the key of *Glossopelta* species
by FROESCHNER & KORMILEV (1989: 26)**

- 1 Lateral expansion of posterior pronotal lobe apically subtruncate or triangular and bearing two or three small angles on margin.
..... Continue to couplet 2 in the key by FROESCHNER & KORMILEV (1989: 26)
- Lateral expansion of posterior pronotal lobe acutely triangular, with single apical angle and without small angles on the posterior margin. 2
- 2 Posterior lobe of pronotum without distinct median sulcus and carinae, antennal segment III three times as long as wide; and abdomen as wide as pronotum.
..... *Glossopelta harmandi*
- Posterior lobe of pronotum with small and distinct median sulcus and carinae; antennal segment III five times as long as wide; and abdomen wider than pronotum.
..... *Glossopelta laotica* sp.n.

Acknowledgments

I thank Dr. H. Zettel (Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien) for providing generous access and working facilities at the NHMW, Dr. D. Pluot-Sigwalt (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris) for making available the type of *G. harmandi*, M. Buch (Wien) for the excellent habitus drawing and Dr. T.J. Henry (Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.) for a linguistic review.

References

FROESCHNER R.C. & KORMILEV N.A., 1989: Phymatidae or ambush bugs of the world: A synonymic list with keys to species, except *Lophoscutus* and *Phymata* (Hemiptera). – Entomography 6: 1-76.

HANDLIRSCH A., 1897: Monographie der Phymatiden. – Annalen des k.k. Naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 12(2): 127-230, Taf. IV-IX.

MAA T.-C. & LIN K.-S., 1956: A synopsis of the Old World Phymatidae (Hem.). – Quarterly Journal of the Taiwan Museum 9: 109-154, pl. I-IV.