

**A new species of the thread-legged assassin bug genus
Ischnobaenella WYGODZINSKY, 1966 from Vietnam
(Insecta: Heteroptera: Reduviidae: Emesinae)**

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Abstract

The thread-legged assassin bug genus *Ischnobaenella* WYGODZINSKY, 1966 (Heteroptera: Reduviidae: Emesinae: Metapterini) is reported from Vietnam for the first time and a new species, *Ischnobaenella hypocrita* sp.n. is described. This new species is sharply different from all other species of the genus by its conspicuously bicoloured body.

Key words: Heteroptera, Reduviidae, Emesinae, *Ischnobaenella*, Vietnam, new species.

Zusammenfassung

Die Raubwanzen-Gattung *Ischnobaenella* WYGODZINSKY, 1966 (Heteroptera: Reduviidae: Emesinae: Metapterini) wird das erste Mal für Vietnam gemeldet, und eine neue Art, *Ischnobaenella hypocrita* sp.n. wird beschrieben. Diese neue Art unterscheidet sich deutlich von allen anderen Arten der Gattung durch ihren zweifarbigen Körper.

Introduction

Ischnobaenella WYGODZINSKY, 1966 is a relatively small genus in the thread-legged assassin bug tribe Metapterini, occurring exclusively in the Oriental Region. The genus can be easily distinguished from all other genera of the tribe by the combination of the following two characters: (1) male abdominal sternite VIII with spiracle-bearing lateral part completely separated from the rest of the sternite (autapomorphy), and (2) fore tarsi two-segmented (occurring within Metapterini only in the monotypic Mediterranean genus *Ischnonyctes* STÅL, 1874, in the Australian *Pseudobargylia* WYGODZINSKY, 1951 and in one single species of the Afrotropical genus *Jamesa* VILLIERS, 1948). Differences of the genus from the related or similar genera were discussed in detail by WYGODZINSKY (1966).

Ischnobaenella was proposed to accommodate six species by WYGODZINSKY (1966). Later, *Ischnobaena hainana* HSIAO, 1965 was transferred to *Ischnobaenella* by HSIAO & REN (1981). Subsequently, CAI & XIONG (1996) synonymized *I. gressitti* WYGODZINSKY, 1966 with *I. hainana* and described a new species from southwestern China. Therefore, seven species are currently recognized in *Ischnobaenella*: four species distributed in India and/or Sri Lanka, two species occurring in southern China (one of them known only from Hainan Island so far), and one occurring in Malaya and Sumatra.

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During a visit to the Naturhistorisches Museum in Wien, Vienna, Austria (NHMW), a single specimen of an *Ischnobaenella* species collected in Vietnam was found. This is the first representative of the genus to be recorded from Vietnam. Moreover, examination of the specimen revealed that it represents an undescribed species, which is described herein as new.

Material and methods

External structures were examined using a stereoscopic microscope (Opton 47 50 52 - 9901). Drawings were made using a camera lucida. Measurements were taken using a micrometer eyepiece. Male genitalia were studied with an optical microscope (XSZ-N107) after short boiling in 10 % KOH solution.

Taxonomy

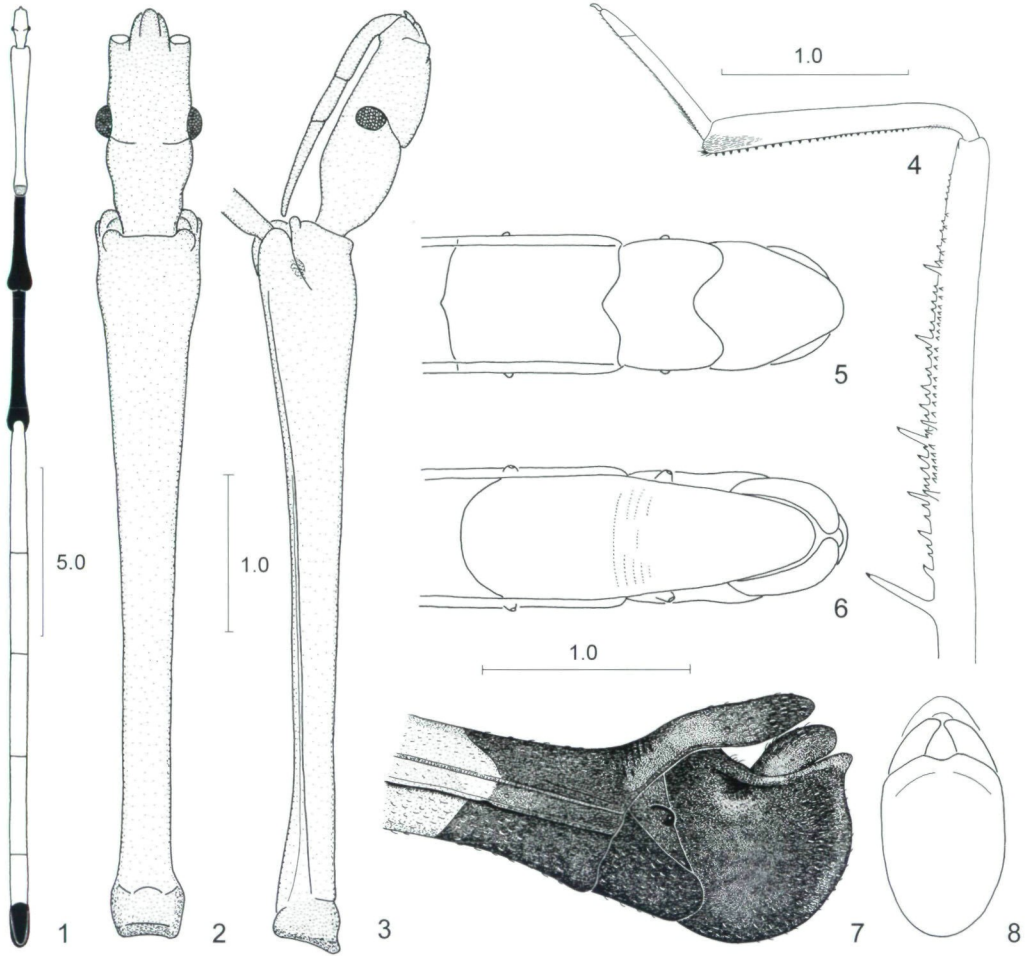
Ischnobaenella hypocrita sp.n. (Figs. 1 - 15)

Holotype (♂): "S VIETNAM, 40 km NW An Khe \ Buon Luoi, 14°10'N, 108°30'E \ 620-750 m, 28. 3. - 12. 4. 1995 \ leg. Pach[ó]látko & Dembicky" (NHMW). Specimen mounted on card, pygophore removed from the body and glued on the card separately, phallus preserved in plastic microvial with glycerol pinned with the specimen.

Description: Apterous male.

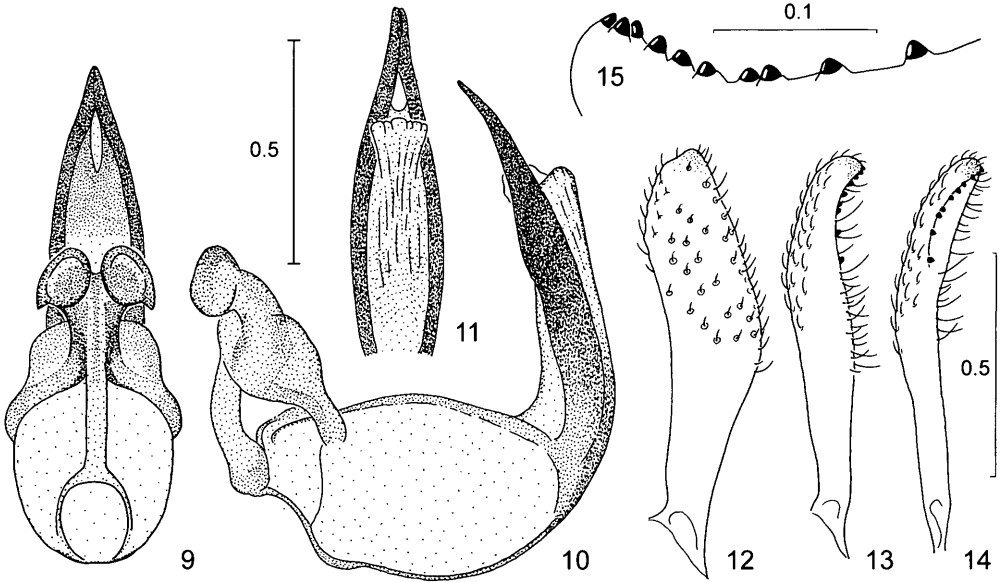
Colour: Body distinctly bicolorous (Fig. 1). Head, labium, prothorax and fore leg generally dirty reddish yellow. Antennal segment I brown, gradually lightened toward its base, with extreme base concolorous with head; segment II brown with distinct reddish suffusion basally. Posterior lobe of pronotum brown, extreme base with blackish suffusion. Meso- and metanota blackish brown. Abdomen light yellowish red, with extreme base and segments VII - IX blackish brown; laterotergites II - VI each with whitish yellowish spot at posterior margin, these spots hardly visible on laterotergites II - IV. Fore tibia brown on apical half, with a relatively wide, indistinct subbasal annulus brown; fore tarsus yellow on segment I and brown on segment II. Mid and hind legs light brown, concolorous with thoracic segments; femora distinctly darkening apically; mid tibia with four whitish annuli at basal 3 %, 7 %, 14 % and 30 %; hind tibia with two whitish annuli at basal 3 % and 5 % and one hardly visible annulus at basal 16 %.

Structure: Body (Fig. 1) extremely elongated and gracile as usual in the genus; head, thorax and fore legs virtually bare; tibiae and tarsi of mid and hind legs as well as abdomen covered with sparse, adpressed pilosity. **Head** (Figs. 2 - 3) elongate, about 3 times as long as width across eyes, rather flattened dorsoventrally, with preocular and postocular parts of subequal length; posterior lobe converging posteriorly and distinctly constricted at middle in dorsal aspect; eyes very small, diameter about 1.5 times as wide as interocular distance. **Labium** straight, with three visible segments; third (visible) segment longest, about 1.3 times as long as first (visible) segment, about 2.2 times as long as second (visible) segment, apex of first (visible) segment remote from anterior border of eye, apex of second (visible) segment surpassing posterior border of eye.



Figs. 1 - 8: *Ischnobaenella hypocrita* sp.n., male: (1) colour pattern of body, schematical; (2) head and prothorax, dorsal view; (3) same, lateral view; (4) apical part of femur, tibia and tarsus of fore leg; (5) apical part of abdomen, ventral view; (6) same, dorsal view; (7) same, lateral view; (8) same, posterior view. Measurements in mm.

Antenna extremely long and gracile; segment I about 1.55 times longer than segment II. **Thorax:** Pronotum (Figs. 2 - 3) extremely elongate, about 3.15 times as long as head, about 7 times longer than its greatest width, slightly widened anteriorly; posterior lobe extremely reduced, collar-like, separated from anterior lobe by distinct constriction. Mesonotum about 0.6 times as long as metanotum and about 0.9 times as long as pronotum along meson. **Legs:** Fore leg delicate. Coxa subcylindrical, slightly longer than pronotum along meson, very slightly widening apically. Femur long, about 1.25 times as long as coxa, armed ventrally with two rows of short spines inserted on more or less long basal processes (Fig. 4); posteroventral series composed of one very long basal, three or four long and about 35 short spiniferous processes; long basal process situated



Figs. 9 - 15: *Ischnobaenella hypocrita* sp.n., male: (9) phallus, anterior view; (10) same, lateral view; (11) apical part of phallosoma, posterior view; (12 - 14) right paramere, three different orientations; (15) dorsal margin of apical part of right paramere (setae omitted). Measurements in mm.

at about 52 % from ventral base of femur; anteroventral series composed of three long and about 28 short spiniferous processes. Tibia very short, about 0.25 times as long as femur, almost straight, distinctly widened apically, armed with single series of about 28 stout, peg-like denticles. Tarsus about 0.55 times as long as tibia, strongly sclerotized, two-segmented; segment I about 2.15 times longer than segment II, with two rows of small deflexed spiniform setae on ventral surface; pretarsus with two claws of subequal size. Mid and hind legs extremely elongate and delicate; hind femora slightly surpassing apex of abdomen. **Abdomen** extremely elongate, parallel-sided; segment VII (Figs. 5 - 8) distinctly narrowed posteriad, rounded posteriorly, leaving parameres and lateral and apical part of pygophore exposed in dorsal aspect. **Male genitalia:** Pygophore (Figs. 5 - 8), rounded, laterally somewhat compressed, with superoposterior border widely emarginated. Parameres (Figs. 12 - 14) covered with simple bristles, and with a single row of ten small sensory cones along dorsal margin (Fig. 15). Phallus as in Figs. 9 - 11.

Measurements (in mm): Body length 28.5. Length of head 1.40, preocular part 0.60, postocular part 0.61, width across eyes 0.68, interocular distance 0.46; lengths of antennal segments I and II 14.9 and 9.6 (remaining segments missing); length of labium 10.7, lengths of (visible) labial segments I, II and III 0.55, 0.32 and 0.71. Length of pronotum along meson 4.39, greatest width 0.63; length of posterior lobe along meson 0.28, greatest width 0.49; lengths of mesonotum and metanotum along meson 2.70 and 4.05. Length of abdomen 17.5. Lengths of coxa, femur, tibia and tarsus (segment I and II) of

fore leg 4.60, 5.80, 1.47 and 0.84 (0.60 and 0.28), greatest widths of femur and tibia of fore leg 0.20 and 0.17; lengths of femur, tibia and tarsus (segments I, II and III) of mid leg 15.1, 17.7 and 0.48 (0.25, 0.12 and 0.18); of hind leg 16.8, 22.8 and 0.45 (0.20, 0.12 and 0.18).

Etymology: From Greek *υποκριτης*, latinized as *hypocritus*, meaning “actor, pretender, hypocrite”, referring to the distinctly bicoloured body of the species which is unique among the other members of *Ischnobaenella* and resembles certain species belonging to another emesine genus.

Comparative notes: *Ischnobaenella hypocrita* sp.n. shares all diagnostic characters of *Ischnobaenella*; the male pygophore, paramere and phallus leaves no doubt about its generic place as well. However, all other known species of *Ischnobaenella* are more or less uniformly concolorous (generally piceous, but flavous in the Southeastern Asian species *I. polymela* (KIRKALDY, 1901)). As for abdomen, the colour is entirely flavous in *I. polymela*, is dark with the segments VII - IX light-coloured in *I. invisibilis* (DOHRN, 1860), and is uniformly dark, sometimes with a few pale spots on some apical segments in all other congeners. The contrasting reddish yellow and blackish brown colouration, especially in the abdomen sharply differentiates this new species from its congeners, and is rather similar to certain species of the genus *Leptinoschidium* WYGODZINSKY, 1966, which is strikingly different in many structural characters from *Ischnobaenella*.

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