

A NEW ANT-MIMICKING MIRID BUG  
(HEMIPTERA—HETEROPTERA) FROM VICTORIA.

*By Gordon F. Gross, Curator of Insects,  
South Australian Museum.*

Ant mimicry is not uncommon amongst Heteroptera and occurs in several distinct families, but especially in Lygaeidae, Pyrrhocoridae and Miridae. Amongst the Miridae the bulk of the ant mimics and near ant mimics belong to the tribe Pilophorini in the subfamily Orthohylinae as now characterized by Carvalho (1952–1955).

From the Pacific area we have four genera and five species of the tribe. These are *Leucophoroptera* Poppius, 1921 (2 species), *Kirkaldiella* Poppius, 1921 and *Myrmecoridea* Poppius, 1921 from Australia, and *Anthropophagiotes* Kirkaldy, 1908 from Fiji. The only one of these which has any really close resemblance to an ant is *Myrmecoridea gracillima* Poppius.

Amongst a small consignment of Heteroptera sent recently to the author for identification were two specimens of a new genus and species of Mirid which is a very convincing ant mimic. The species belongs to the Orthotylinae as there are arolia present, free, and arising from between the claws; these are strongly convergent towards their apices. There is no pronotal collar. The ant like habitus places the species in the Pilophorini.

*MYRMECOROIDES* gen. nov.

Strongly myrmecomorphic genus. Eyes medium sized, not projecting. Posterior portion of head including eyes subglobular, but postclypeus (vertex), antclypeus (frons) and labrum formed into a prominent high semicircular keel which runs longitudinally along the mid-line of the head from the level of the hind margins of the eyes above to the insertion of the rostrum anteriorly. Clypeal keel and labial keel separate structures but contiguous along an obliquely downward directed line. Antennae long and slender, first segment surpassing apex of head, second segment longest, third shorter than second but longer than first and fourth, fourth a little longer than first. Rostrum robust, reaching to about mid coxae.