

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF CAPSIDAE (HETEROPTERA) FROM THE
FLOWERS OF *COLA ACUMINATA* IN SIERRA LEONE.

By W. E. CHINA.

Genus **Torma**, nov.

Very small, shining black, evenly, but rather sparsely covered with very regular, equally long, pale, short, depressed hairs.

Head very strongly deflexed, including the eyes more than three times as broad as long, seen from above, but actually only a little more than one and a third times as broad as long seen in full face; seen from the side (fig. 2, *a*) shorter than height at base; frons and vertex moderately convexly arched, the vertex between the eyes about twice as wide as the diameter of one of the eyes (which are feebly prominent); basal margin of vertex between the eyes distinctly carinate, and slightly overlapping the anterior margin of pronotum; clypeus flat, not at all prominent, and obscurely delimited from the frons; rostrum extending to the hind coxae, the basal joint incrassate and reaching the base of the front coxae; antennae moderately short, inserted close to the front margin of the eyes at about two-thirds of the distance from the base of the eye to its anterior apex, first joint slightly incrassate, cylindrical,

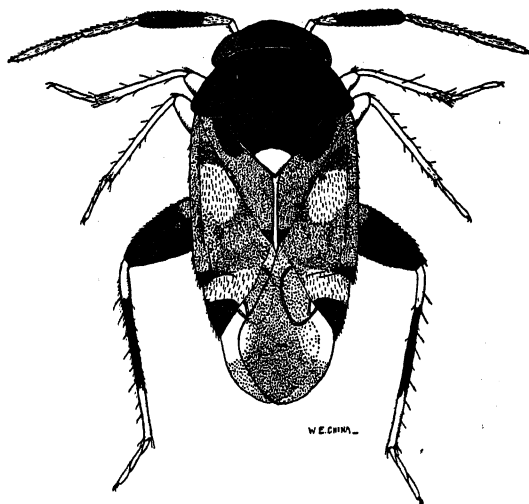


Fig. 1. *Torma colae*, gen. et sp. n.

extending to the apex of the clypeus, second joint incrassate more or less fusiform, the apex much thicker than the base, about three and a half times as long as the first joint, the third and fourth sub-equal, slightly thinner than, and about twice as long as, the first joint. *Pronotum* nearly three times as broad at base as long in middle, somewhat flattened, feebly convex, the sides straight and converging anteriorly, the basal margin very slightly, and very broadly emarginate, almost straight, no calli or pronotal collar present. *Scutellum* with sides equal in length to base, flat, the meso-scutum slightly swollen and uncovered by the posterior margin of the pronotum. *Hemelytra* with the membrane extending well beyond the apex of the abdomen, its hairs arising from minute punctures; embolium gradually widening from base to apex; large membrane cell short and broad, rounded at the apex. Hindwing-cell without a hamus. Metasternal orifices with well-developed posteriorly directed auriculate lobes. *Legs*: hind femora (fig. 2, *b*) strongly incrassate as in *Halticus*,

the hind tibiae with two rows of distinct spine-like bristles, the hind tarsi (fig. 2, *c*) linear, the second joint longer than the third; claws (fig. 2, *d*) very short, sub-parallel, feebly divergent, provided with large pseudoarolia extending beyond the middle of the claws, and two bristle-like arolia.

Genotype *Torma colae*, sp. nov.

In general appearance, especially in the shape of the vertex and pronotum, strongly resembling the genus *Halticus*, Hahn., in which, however, the claws are widely divergent with well developed membranous divergent arolia and the antennae are very long and filamentous. The structure of the claws and arolia is typical of the PHYLINAE, but the absence of a hindwing-cell hamus decides the relationship with the HETEROTOMINAE. *Torma* is one of those genera which break down the value of

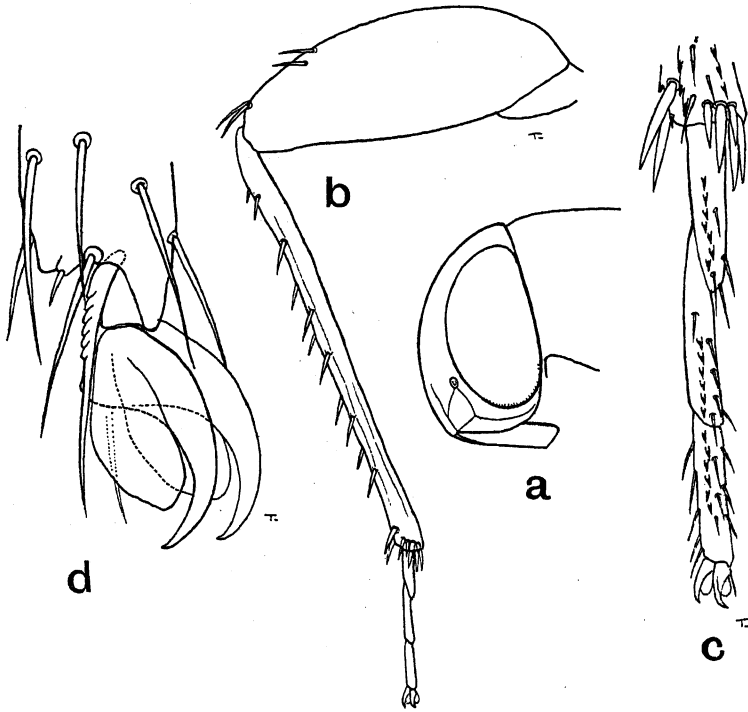


Fig. 2. *Torma colae*, gen. et. sp. n.: *a*, side view of head; *b*, hind leg, showing armature but not pilosity; *c*, hind tarsus; *d*, hind tarsal claws, showing arolia and pseudo-arolia.

the structure of the claws and arolia as a subfamily character in the CAPSIDAE. As more and more tropical genera become known, it will probably be found that these organs are too plastic to serve as a fundamental subfamily character, and there is no doubt that Reuter and Poppius have exaggerated their value as a guide to relationships of Capsid genera.

***Torma colae*, sp. nov. (fig. 1).**

♂, ♀. *Head* shining black, unpunctured, sparsely covered with very short, pale, depressed hairs; rostrum pale ochraceous, with the basal joint and the extreme apex dark brown; antennae pale ochraceous, with the second joint (except its base) dark brown or black; length of joints 8, 28, 17, 17 (63 = 1 mm.). *Pronotum*, basal two-thirds of scutellum, and the pro- meso- and metapleura shining black; the pro-

notum and scutellum sparsely covered with very regular, short pale depressed hairs, visible only at moderate magnification ($\times 15$); apex of scutellum yellowish white; lobe of odoriferous orifice and evaporative area dull black. *Hemelytra* more or less hyaline, a large elongate spot at base of clavus along edge of scutellum, the apices of the clavus and embolium, and the apical half of the cuneus dark brown or black; corium more or less marked with brown suffusions, but with a whitish hyaline area on the disc; basal half of cuneus also whitish hyaline; membrane infuscate, with a colourless area below the apex of the cuneus. *Abdomen* shining black, with rather long pale hairs, the basal two-thirds of the disc of the venter pale ochraceous. *Legs* pale ochraceous, the apical two-thirds of the hind femora and a wide annulation in the middle of the hind tibiae dark brown or shining black; the hind femora with a few long, fine bristles on the underside, the spines of the hind tibiae brown; the intermediate femora with a row of long pale bristles along the inner edge.

Total length, 1.8 mm. ; breadth across base of pronotum, 0.67 mm.

SIERRA LEONE : Torma, 4 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀ on kola flowers (*Cola acuminata*), 27. viii. 1926 (*E. Hargreaves*).
