

A NEW SPECIES OF "MELANOTRICHUS" REUTER FROM AUSTRALIA (Hemiptera, Miridae)¹

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(With 5 text-figures)

Through the courtesy of Drs. M. R. McLellan and P. W. Geier of the Division of Entomology, National Insect Collection, Canberra City, Australia, the author was able to study some specimens of a new species of *Melanotrichus* Reuter collected on Acacia, herewith described and illustrated. The drawings were prepared by the author's assistant Mr. Almir Fonseca Rosas.

Melanotrichus australianus sp. n.

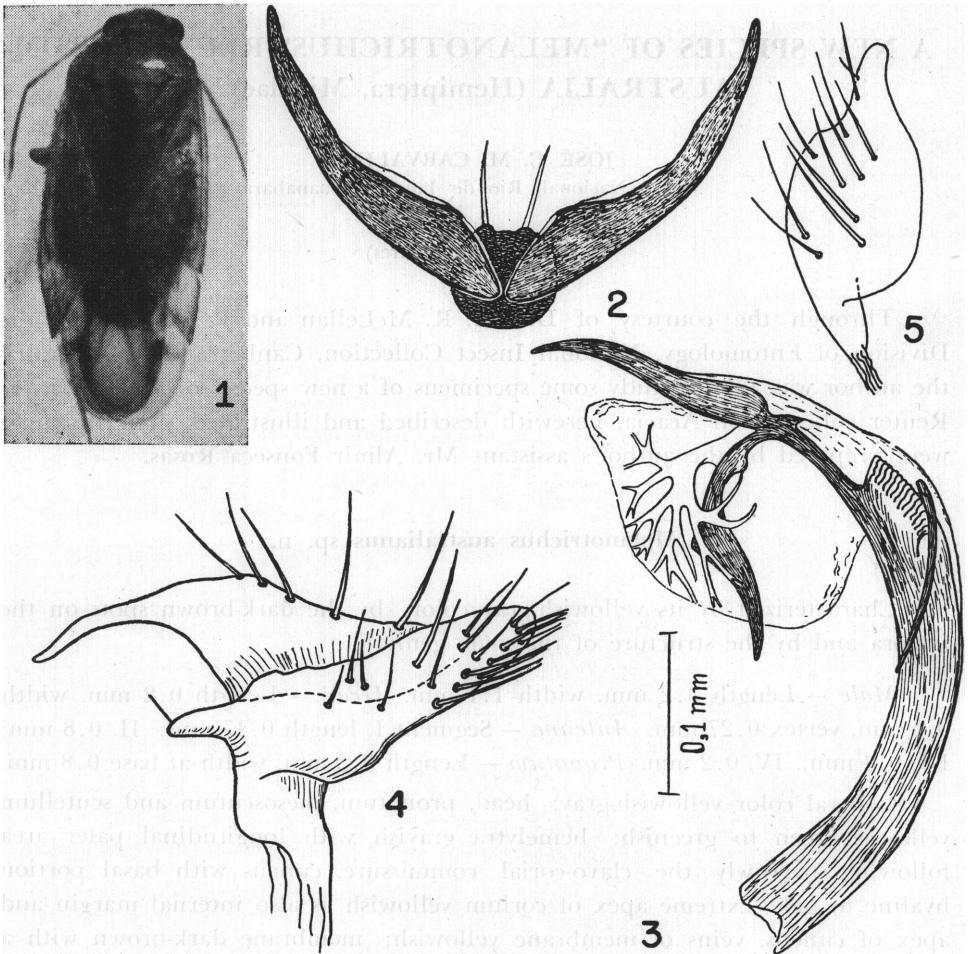
Characterized by its yellowish-gray color, by the dark-brown spots on the femora and by the structure of the male genitalia.

Male — Length 3.2 mm, width 1.1 mm. *Head* — Length 0.2 mm, width 0.6 mm, vertex 0.27 mm. *Antenna* — Segment I, length 0.17 mm; II, 0.8 mm; III, 0.4 mm; IV, 0.2 mm. *Pronotum* — Length 0.3 mm, width at base 0.8 mm.

General color yellowish-gray; head, pronotum, mesoscutum and scutellum yellowish-green to greenish; hemelytra grayish with longitudinal paler area following narrowly the clavo-corial commissure, cuneus with basal portion hyaline to pale, extreme apex of corium yellowish as also internal margin and apex of cuneus, veins of membrane yellowish; membrane dark-brown with a large central paler spot and two smaller lateral spots one of which is contiguous to cuneus; antenna yellowish, segments III and IV slightly darker. Underside of body greenish, more intensely so on the gena, lateral portion of sternum and abdomen; femora yellowish with dark-brown spots, the posterior pair with two longitudinal rows with about 10 to 12 spots on its external face intermixed with others smaller in size; tibiae yellowish with black spines having dark spots at base; tarsi and claws dark.

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Body covered by black bristly hairs intermixed with pale silky glossy pubescence, segment I of antenna with two erect bristles, rostrum reaching between middle and hind coxae, claws very long, with parallel arolia which are not quite the true orthotylini type but can be included in the Orthotylinae (fig. 2).



Melanotrichus australianus sp. n. — Fig. 1: Female, allotype; fig. 2: claws and arolia; fig. 3: vesica of male; fig. 4: left clasper; fig. 5: right clasper.

Genitalia — Aedeagus (fig. 3) very characteristic, the vesica as illustrated. Left clasper (fig. 4) curved, very similar the Phylini type. Right clasper (fig. 5) small, pointed, setose.

Female — Similar to male in color, slightly more robust. Length 3.5 mm, width 1.4 mm. **Head:** Length 0.2 mm, width 0.6 mm, vertex 0.27 mm.

Antenna: Segment I, length 0.2 mm; II, 0.9 mm; III, 0.4 mm; IV, 0.2 mm.
Pronotum: Length 0.4 mm, width at base 1.0 mm.

Holotype — Male, Ginninderra, Canberra, A.C.T., Acacia, 27 Nov., 1963, C. R. McLellan col., in the Australian National Collection (C.S.I.R.O.), Canberra. *Allotype*: Female. *Paratypes*: 3 males and 3 females, same data as types and 10 females and 5 males, Ginninderra, Canberra, A.C.T., Acacia, 6.I.1964, C. R. McLellan col., *ibid.* 27.I.1964; *ibid.* 27.Nov., 1963, in the Collection of the Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro and of the Author.

This species is very close to *Melanotrichus flavosparsus* Sahlberg but can be readily separated from it by the presence of brown spots on the femora and by the peculiar male genitalia. *Melanotrichus australianus* shows vesica and claws intermediate between the Orthotylini and the Pilophorini. External characters are not enough to warrant its exclusion from the genus *Melanotrichus* Reuter.