

ON *RAGMUS SRILANKENSIS* N. SP. FOUND IN WASP NEST IN SRI LANKA (HEMIPTERA, MIRIDAE)¹

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(With 8 text-figures)

Through the courtesy of Doctor Richard C. Froeschner, Associate Curator, Hemiptera, Department of Entomology, National Museum Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. the author was able to study a curious species of Miridae found by Doctor Karl V. Krombein in wasp nests during his studies of wasp biologies, at Colombo, Sri Lanka. These insects were collected with the aid of Smithsonian Research Foundation Grant SFG-0-6955, "Bio-systematic Studies of the Insects of Ceylon".

This new mirid is the prey of a small ground-nesting crabronid wasp (4,5 mm long), apparently an undescribed species of *Encopognatus* Ashmead. The wasp stores 20 or more mirids per cell. This is the first prey record for a species of the subgenus to which the wasp belongs. Krombein swept the grassy lawn adjacent to the nesting site but did not collect any mirids, so the wasps

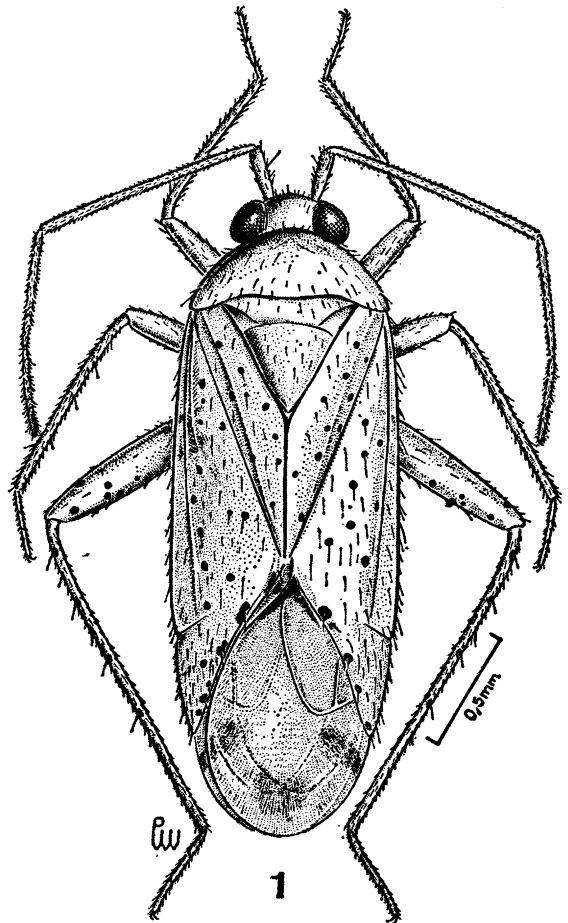
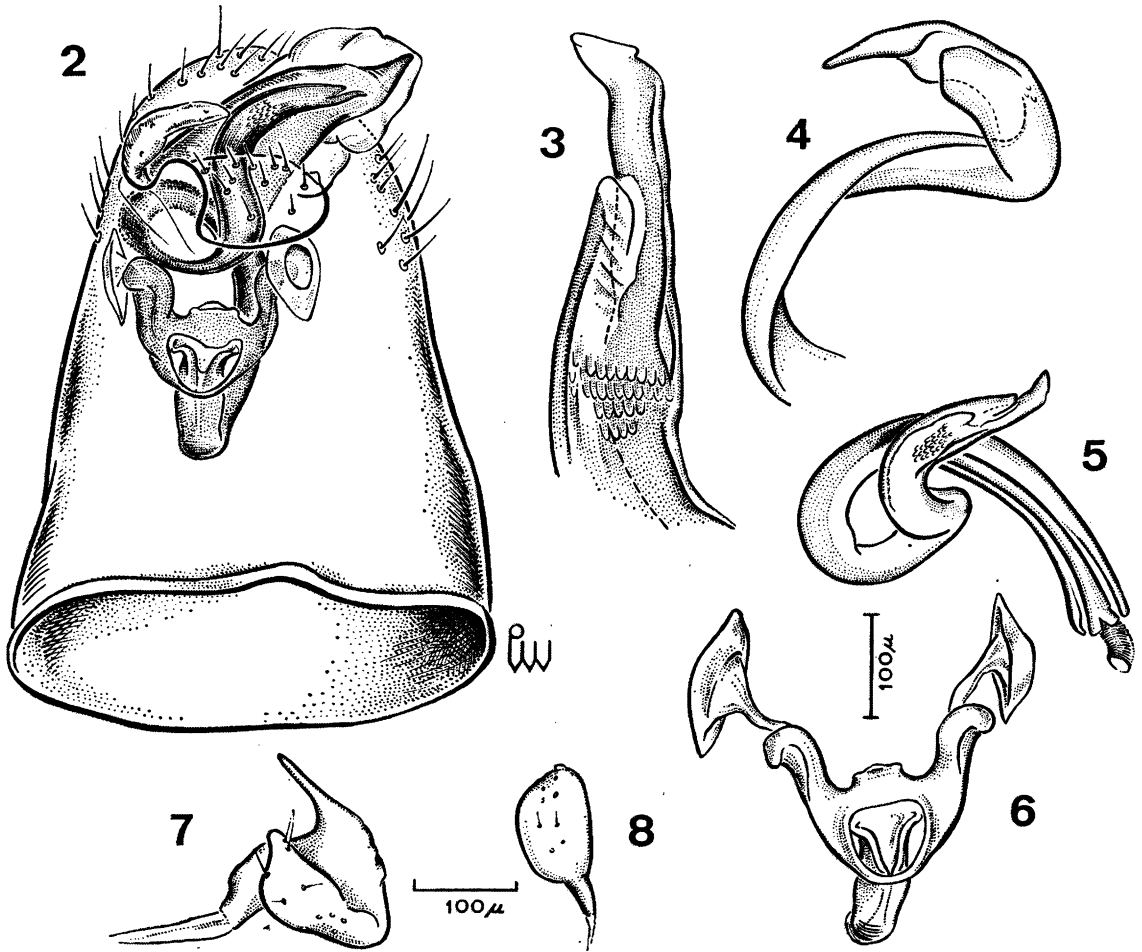


Fig. 1: *Ragmus srilankensis* n. sp., male, holotype.

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Ragmus srilankensis n. sp.: fig. 2 — pygophore; figs. 3-5, vesica of aedeagus; fig. 6 — basal plate; fig. 7 — left paramere; fig. 8 — right paramere.

apparently were obtaining their prey from other vegetation.

Illustrations in the text were prepared by Paulo Wallerstein.

Ragmus srilankensis n. sp.

(Figs. 1-8)

Characterized by the color of hemelytra and by the structure of the vesica of aedeagus.

Male: length 2.4 mm, width 1.0 mm. *Head*: length 0.08 mm, width 0.4 mm, vertex 0.16 mm. *Antenna*: segment I, length 0.01 mm; II, 0.7 mm; III, 0.3 mm; IV, 0.4

mm. *Pronotum*: length 0.2 mm, width at base 0.7 mm. *Cuneus*: length 0.40 mm, width at base 0.24 mm.

General coloration pale to pale yellow; eyes reddish-brown; hemelytra (except embolium) translucent, with several brown to fuscous roundish small spots; paracuneus with two larger fuscous spots; membrane translucent, nervures and basal portion of areolae fuscous, an obsolete spot contiguous with apex of cuneus and another median subapically, fuscous.

Underside of body and legs pale yellow, terebra fuscous, hind femora with six black to brown spots on external surface and two on internal surface, tibiae with rows of

minute sclerotized teeth and black spines with fuscous spots at base. The fore and hind legs are mostly pale yellow.

Nymphs pale yellow; eyes reddish, body above (including segments I and II of antenna, head, pronotum, scutellum, hemelytra and upper surface of abdomen) with sparse brownish spots. Nymphs of first instar totally pale yellow with reddish eyes. Second instar nymphs with spots only on hemelytral bottom and dorsal part of abdomen.

Rostrum reaching middle coxae, hemelytra covered with erect pubescence, segment II of antenna five times longer than I, segment I about as long as width of vertex.

Genitalia: pygophore (fig. 2) longer than wide, aedeagus with typical Phylini vesica with a characteristic loop, as shown in illustration. Apical portion (figs. 3-5) also characteristic. Basal plate (fig. 6) with long lateral branches. Left paramere (fig. 7) typical Phylini. Right paramere (fig. 8), small, somewhat rounded.

Female: similar to male in coloration and general aspect.

Holotype: male, Sri Lanka: Colombo, Col. Dist., West. Prov. 28 Jan. 75, K. V. Krombein, 12875 A, cell 2, in the Collection of the United States National Museum, Washington, D. C. *Allotype*: female. *Paratypes*: 39 males, females and nymphs, same data as holotype, 4 specimens in the Carvalho Collection.

The species approaches *Ragmus importunitas* Distant, 1910 but differs by the color of the body and by the structure of male genitalia.

ABSTRACT

The author describes *Ragmus srilankensis* n. sp. from Sri Lanka (Hemiptera, Miridae). Illustrations of the insect and male genitalia are included.

REFERENCES

- DISTANT, W. L., 1910, Descriptions of Oriental Capsidae. *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (8): 5: 10-22.
- DISTANT, W. L., 1910, The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Rhynchota, vol. 5: 288, fig. 159.