

A new species of *Mecomma* (Heteroptera : Miridae)
from Ruwenzori

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SYNOPSIS

A new species of *Mecomma* is described from a female taken in Uganda.

Mecomma is a small and interesting genus of Orthotyline Mirids, which inhabits either temperate forests or mountainous areas in tropical countries, e.g. India and Africa (Carvalho & Southwood, 1955 : 44). The single female specimen on which the following description is based was submitted by the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia

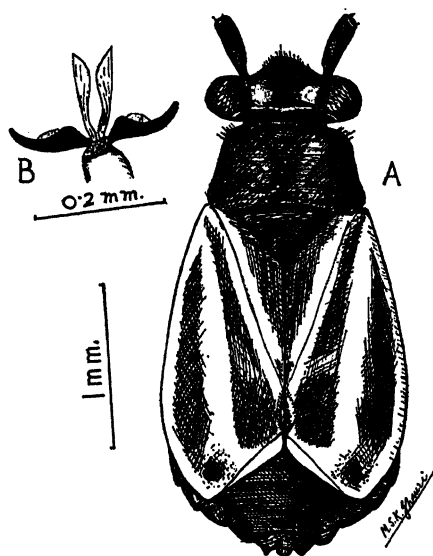


FIG. 1.—*Mecomma ruwenzoriense* sp. n.: A, dorsal view of the type (female); B, posterior claw showing arolia.

and was captured by the members of the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland Mount Ruwenzori Expedition. In the key given by Carvalho & Southwood (1955), it runs to *Mecomma grande* C. & S., but differs from this species in many characters, for example, in the shape of the head and pronotum and in the coloration of the hemelytra. I am grateful to Mr. Elliot Pinhey, Keeper of the Department of Entomology, National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, who kindly sent me this specimen. Hitherto only two species of *Mecomma* have been described from the Ethiopian Region.

Mecomma ruwenzoriense sp. n.

Coloration.—Head black, with one pale round spot near inner margin of each eye; eyes grey; pronotum, scutellum, sternum, abdomen (except ovipositor, which is red), antennae and coxae (except small pale areas on their ventral side), black. First and fourth rostral segments, femora on their ventral side and tarsi fumed, second and third rostral segments and tibiae pale fuscous. Hemelytra

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testaceous with three longitudinal fuscous bands, the first submarginal, the second median (these two on the corial area) and the third on the posterior margin (on the claval area), and one obscure fuscous spot near outer angle of corium.

Measurements (in mm.).—3.16 long, 1.6 wide. Head (including eyes), 0.92 wide, 0.4 long; vertex, 0.5 wide; rostrum, 1.7 long. Antennal segments I, 0.36; II, 0.96; III, 0.83 long; the fourth segment is missing in the specimen. Pronotum, 0.92 and 0.74 wide at base and at apex, respectively, and 0.6 long; hemelytra, 0.8 wide.

Structure.—Frons produced, angularly rounded. Pronotal lateral margins only slightly concave, almost straight. Membrane reduced, only a thin trace remaining. Body covered with short adpressed pale hairs and longer black erect setae.

Male.—Unknown.

Holotype ♀, UGANDA: Ruwenzori, 6th Lake, 12,900 ft., January, 1962 (*University of Rhodesia and Nyasaland Mount Ruwenzori Expedition*) in the British Museum (Natural History), London.

Mecomma ruwenzoriense closely resembles *Mecomma grande* C. & S., from which it can be differentiated by the produced frons and by the shape of the pronotum, the lateral margins of which are almost straight (contrasted with concavely sinuate margins in *M. grande*) and are less convergent anteriorly, with apical and basal margins 28 and 35 micrometer units wide, respectively, compared with the corresponding dimensions of 30 and 40 in *M. grande*. The two species differ also in the coloration of the hemelytra.

REFERENCE

- CARVALHO, J. C. M. and SOUTHWOOD, T. R. E., 1955, Revisão do complexo *Cyrtorhinus* Fieber-*Mecomma* Fieber (Hemiptera-Heteroptera, Miridae). *Bol. Mus. Goeldi* (1) 11 : 72, 25 figs.