

The genus *Linoceraea* Hv. was synonymized with *Glaphyrocoris* by CARVALHO (1952: 70). Later on (LINNAVUORI 1965: 266) *Trachelonotus* Rt. was synonymized with the genus too. Also *Hypomimus* Ldb. is undoubtedly congeneric with *Glaphyrocoris*. SCHUH (1974: 84 - 85) regarded *Linoceraea* as a separate genus on the following reasons: 1) *G. unifasciatus* lacks a ridge or raised carina on the posterior margin of the vertex which is present in *lunigera*, 2) the head and eyes are distinctly concave behind in *unifasciatus* so that the anterior margin of the pronotum is obscured, whereas in *lunigera* the head is not concave behind and the anterior margin of the pronotum is not obscured and 3) the transverse fascia of the elytra in *unifasciatus* is narrower and very sharply delimited, whereas in *lunigera* it is broad and somewhat diffuse. According to the original description (REUTER 1903:15 - 16) of *G. unifasciatus* the scutellum is not humped apically (scutello parte apicale apicem versus fortiter declivi).

Besides the species mentioned below, I have examined the following other representatives of the genus: *chobauti* (Pt.) (the Atlas countries), *secundus* (Lv.) (Israel), *lunigerus* (Hv.) (N. Africa, Arabia), *rubalkhalicus* (Lv.) (Arabia), *puncticollis* (Lv.) (Iran), *iranus* (Lv.) (Iran), *nigeriensis* Lv. (Nigeria) and *rufiventris* Lv. (Nigeria). Unfortunately the type of *G. unifasciatus* was not available. A good figure in the original description is helpful, anyhow. Since altogether 13 species were studied, an adequate conception of the variability lines within the group could be obtained:

1) The head: The hind margin is either straight (*antennalis*, *nocturnus*, *torridus*), distinctly concave (*chobauti*, *nigeriensis*, *rufiventris*) or \pm slightly concave (other species). The basal margin of the vertex is distinctly carinate (*chobauti*, *iranicus*, *lunigerus*, *nigeriensis*, *puncticollis*, *rufiventris*, *secundus*), obtusely carinate (*torridus*, *v-albus*, *varians*) or ecarinate (*antennalis*, *nocturnus*). Also the length of the head is variable. 2) The antennae: relatively incrassate in all species. 3) The pronotum: As mentioned below the microsculpturing is either distinct or faint, in *puncticollis* the disk of the pronotum is punctate. Also the breadth and convexity of the pronotum is variable. 4) The scutellum: The apical hump is usually strong, in *iranicus*, *lunigerus*, *nigeriensis*, *rubalkhalicus*, *v-albus* and *varians* \pm blunt. 5) The elytra. Either totally shiny or broadly opaque at middle. The white pattern is greatly variable: broad and diffuse (*lunigerus*), broad and sharply delimited (*nigeriensis*, *puncticollis*), narrowish and rather diffuse (*nocturnus*) or narrow and sharp (e.g. in *rufiventris*). 6) The hind tarsi: The 3rd joint is usually distinctly shorter than the combined length of the 1st and 2nd joints, sometimes (*nigeriensis*, *rufiventris*) only slightly shorter.

The only difference between *G. unifasciatus* and the species studied remains in the shape of the scutellum. But

since a tendency towards reducing of the apical hump is seen in certain species, *unifasciatus* can be regarded as an extreme step in this evolutionary line. It represents in this feature an intermediate between the subgenus *Pongocoris* and *Glaphyrocoris* s.str., but since it in all other characters agrees with the other species, I regard it as strictly congeneric with them.

The species *kiritshenkoi* and *opertus* differ from the others in the small flattened body (elongate and cylindrical in the others), the completely flat apical part of the scutellum, the very broad fascia of the elytra and the more gracile legs. A new subgenus, *Pongocoris* is therefore established for them.

Linoceraea pauliani Vill. (Morocco) upon which WAGNER (1973: 342 - 343) based his opinion of the genus, differs from the others in the large size, the gracile antennae and the black colouring and may represent a separate genus. The species is unknown to me.

The centre of origin of the genus is in the savannah belt of Africa. An adaptation into arid conditions has taken place leading to radiation into the Eremian subregion from North Africa to Iran and the adjacent parts of Turkestan.

1. group: elytra opaque in basal two-thirds, head and pronotum distinctly microsculptured.

✓ *G. nocturnus* Lv.

Male genitalia as in Fig. 49 f - i. For description see LINNAVUORI 1964: 329.

17, 3 exx. At lamp. Also known from Somalia.

✓ *G. secundus* (Lv.)

WAGNER (1973: 341) synonymized *G. secundus* (Lv.) from Israel with *G. chobauti* (Pt.) from the Atlas countries. The proposed synonymy is incorrect and undoubtedly based on a misinterpretation of the original description (LINNAVUORI 1961: 5). Both species are very different. *G. secundus* is readily distinguished by the small size, the dark colouring, the very small eyes and narrow head, the more convex vertex and frons, the shorter antennae and the blunter scutellar hump. Several specimens of *G. chobauti* from Morocco, Granja del Muluya, Kebdana, A. Pardo leg., were studied.

2. group: elytra totally shiny, head and pronotum distinctly microsculptured.

✓ *G. v-albus* sp. n.

Length 4 mm. Like *nocturnus*, but 1) robuster, 2) eyes larger and antennae thicker, 3) elytra totally shiny and 4) the white bands of clavus (Fig. 42 q) oblique, together forming a V-shaped spot.

Head strongly shagreened and provided with faint transverse furrows, base rather distinctly marginate, ocular index 1.13 (δ) or 2.67 (φ). Proportions between antennal joints 8:21:16:15, 2nd joint 0.65 \times as long as basal width of pronotum. Pronotum distinctly shagreened anteriorly. Apical hump of scutellum (Fig. 49 j) of moderate size. Male genitalia as in Fig. 49 k - n, much as in *nocturnus*, but robuster, hypophysis of left stylus regularly falcate and theca with an irregularly dentate subapical lamella.

Blue Nile: Wad Medani, 1 δ , type, 11 - 12. XI. 1962; 60, 1 φ . At lamp.

✓ *G. torridus* sp. n.

Length 3.75 - 4 mm. Like *nocturnus*, but elytra totally shiny.