

TWO NEW SPECIES OF MYRMECOPHILOUS MIRIDAE (HEMIPTERA)  
FROM TANGANYIKA

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PROFESSOR B. HOCKING of the University of Alberta, Canada, has recently collected some Mirid ant-mimics in Tanganyika, and he has asked me to describe them. Although the collection was a very small one, a recent extensive study of the East African Hallodapini (Odhiambo, 1959) makes it possible to place the material with relative ease. Two new species, both belonging to the genus *Systellonotopsis* Poppius, are represented in the collection.

Subfamily PHYLINAE Douglas and Scott, 1865

Tribe HALLODAPINI Van Duzee, 1916

*Systellonotopsis pandus* sp. n. (figs. 1-3)

*Female*

*Structure*.—Macropterous. Dorsum covered with small to minute, adpressed pale hairs interspersed with several erect or semi-erect dark, long hairs. Head vertical; from above about twice as broad as long (59 : 27), from in front relatively broader than long (59 : 47), from the side higher than long; vertex 1.5 times broader than an eye (25 : 17) and with a brief longitudinal sulcus in the middle. Eyes prominent, coarsely granulose, sparsely and very shortly hairy, the minute hairs hardly protruding above the "granules" of the eyes; eyes appear from the side to occupy a little more than half height of head. Rostrum reaches apices of hind coxae, first rostral segment surpassing base of head. Antennae densely covered with small or minute, pale or brownish, adpressed hairs, a few erect hairs in addition on segment I; segment II thinner than segment I, becoming slightly thicker towards apex, about as thick as pronotal collar, segments III and IV somewhat spindle-shaped, at least as thick as apical portion of segment II; relative lengths of segments, 30 : 72 : 48 : 37. Pronotum with lateral margins more or less straight, posterior margin deeply arcuate; width across humeral angles about 2.25-2.5 times that across apical margin (82 : 35), and 1.7 times as broad as long in the middle (82 : 48); disc very finely rugose; calli hardly elevated, confluent posteriorly. Scutellum broader than long (58 : 50); disc, including base, hairy, with a few erect hairs; apical portion distinctly tumid. Hemelytral membrane with apical angle of the large areole rounded broadly. Hind tibiae with brownish spines, which are only as long as tibiae are thick; pseudarolia of tarsal claws minute. Length of body 3.5-3.7 mm., width across hemelytra 1.20 mm.

*Colour*.—Shiny, hemelytra dull. Head brown to reddish-brown, darker towards apex. Antennae brown to fuscous, segment I sometimes with reddish suffusion. Pronotum and scutellum fuscous, with reddish suffusion. Hemelytra fuscous, with a white band across each hemelytra (figs. 1 and 2); the band sometimes broken into 2 large spots, or the form the band takes may differ in the 2 hemelytra of the same specimen (fig. 3), but in any case outline of band irregular. Venter and legs fuscous to black; mesocoxae, metacoxae, trochanters, and metathoracic ostiolar peritreme yellow; underside of abdomen irregularly yellowish-white, with reddish suffusion.

*Male*

Unknown.

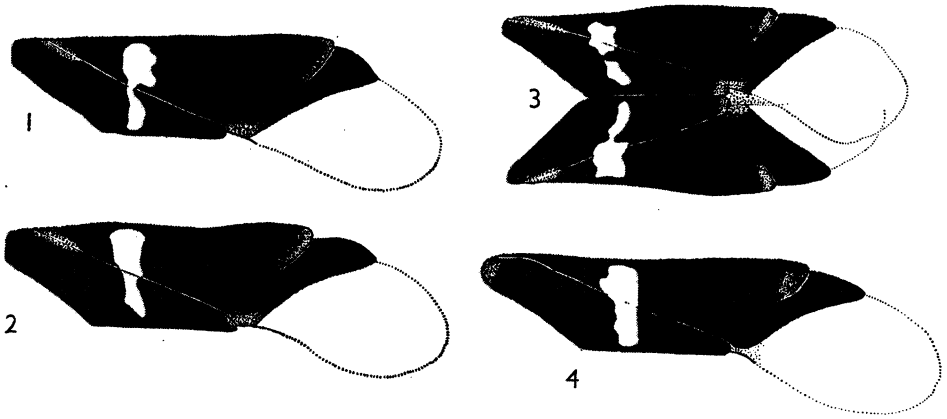
*Holotype* ♀, TANGANYIKA: Sanya Juu, 3° S., 37° E., on the western slopes of Kilimanjaro, 30.v.1961 (*B. Hocking*); with the label "Trichophthalmocapsus sp. not in B.M., det. R. J. Izzard, 1961."

*Paratypes*, 2 ♀, same locality, one with the label "Formicopsella nr. zeugma? T. R. Odhiambo" [identifier not recorded].

All types will be deposited in the British Museum (Natural History).

Apart from the shape and form of the transverse white band, *S. pandus* differs from *S. bifasciatus* Poppius in the colour of the antennae, the hairy base of the scutellum, the very finely rugose pronotum, the faintly sulcate vertex, and by the first rostral segment surpassing the base of the head. It is also clearly distinguished from *S. pumilus* Odhiambo in that the erect hairs on the dorsum and the spines

on the tibiae are dark, the spines on the hind tibiae quite short, and the dimple-like depressions on the vertex absent.



FIGS. 1-4.—Colour markings, especially shape of transverse white band, of hemelytra : (1-3) *Systellonotopsis pandus* sp. n. ; (4) *Systellonotopsis chnous* sp. n.

***Systellonotopsis chnous* sp. n. (figs. 4-12)**

**Male**

**Structure.**—Macropterous. Dorsum densely covered with pale, small to minute, adpressed hairs, erect hairs almost absent but a few present, especially on scutellum. Head from above appears obviously transverse, more than twice as broad as long (61 : 28), as seen from in front distinctly broader than long (61 : 48), from the side appears vertical and higher than long ; vertex slightly narrower than width of eye as seen from above (19 : 21), and with a very faint, brief, longitudinal sulcus in the middle. Eyes prominent ; covering more than three-fourths height of head, reaching nearly to gular region ; eyes granulose, sparsely and very shortly hairy. Rostrum reaches apices of mesocoxae. Antennae thickly covered with minute pale hairs, segment I with a few erect hairs on inner aspect ; segment II only half as thick as segment I and about as thick as pronotal collar, segments III and IV about equally thick and slightly thicker than segment II ; relative lengths of segments, 29 : 84 : 57 : 45. Pronotum with lateral margins nearly straight, posterior margin slightly arcuate ; pronotum across humeral angles twice as wide as long (100 : 50), and about 2.5 times as wide as apical margin (100 : 38) ; calli somewhat delimited, not confluent. Scutellum somewhat broader than long (62 : 55) ; apical portion distinctly tumid. Hemelytral membrane with large areole, whose apex is broadly rounded. Hind tibiae with spines just as long as tibial thickness. Genitalia (figs. 5-12). Length of body 4.2 mm., width across wings 1.36 mm.

**Colour.**—Shiny, apical half of hemelytra dull. Head, pronotum, and scutellum brownish-red. Antennae brown to fuscous ; segment I yellow, with reddish suffusion, basal half of segment IV yellow. Hemelytra fuscous ; each hemelytron with yellowish-white transverse band, whose posterior margin is nearly straight (fig. 4). Venter reddish-brown, base of abdomen irregularly yellowish-white ; metathoracic ostiolar peritreme yellow. Legs fuscous to black ; mesocoxae, metacoxae, and trochanters yellow.

**Female**

Unknown.

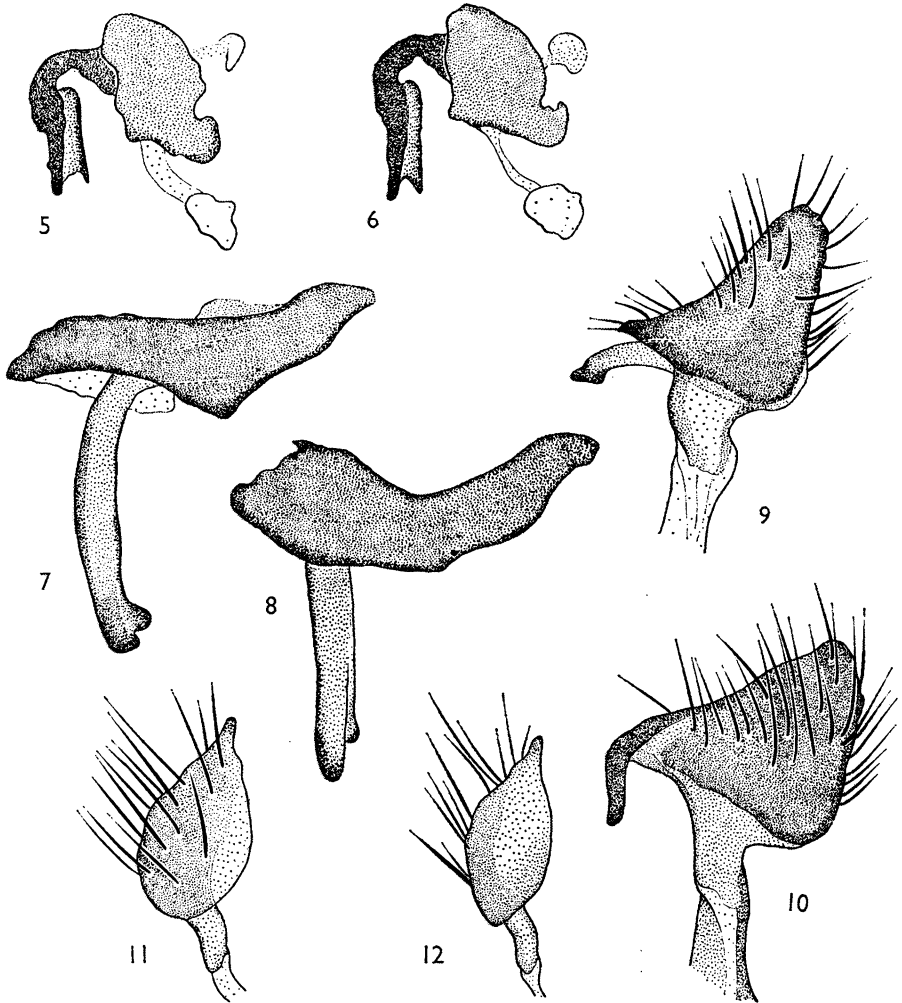
**Holotype** ♂, TANGANYIKA : Ardai, 3° S., 36° E., 15 miles west of Arusha, 22. vi. 1961 (*B. Hoeking*).

The holotype will be deposited in the British Museum (Natural History).

*S. chnous* is similar to *S. pandus*, but can be distinguished by the shorter rostrum, the almost total absence of erect hairs on the dorsum (except a very few on the scutellum and pronotum), the less arcuate posterior margin of the pronotum, the almost straight posterior margins of the transverse white bands on the hemelytra, and the different colour of the antennae.

Both species, *S. chnous* and *S. pandus*, have hairy eyes, although the hairs are minute and only obvious at a magnification of 100. At least two other genera of the

Hallodapini, *Hallodapus* Fieber and *Pangania* Poppius, have hairy eyes. The hairy eyes, which are the most characteristic external feature of the genus *Trichophthalmocapsus* Poppius, are therefore not unique; in this genus, however, the hairs are very long and even visible to the naked eye.



FIGS. 5-12.—Male genitalia of *Systellonotopsis chnous* sp. n.: (5, 6) base of penis, two views; (7, 8) theca plus vesica, two views; (9, 10) left paramere, orientation varied; (11, 12) right paramere, orientation varied.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I should like to thank Professor B. Hocking for entrusting me with the study of this small collection of Miridae. To Dr. W. E. China, of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), Dr. M. S. K. Ghauri, of the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, and Mr. J. P. Doncaster, Keeper of Entomology, British Museum, I extend my appreciation for their help in this study.

#### REFERENCES

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