

**EPHEDRODOMA, A NEW GENUS OF ORTHOTYLINE MIRIDAE
(HEMIPTERA) FROM WESTERN UNITED STATES**

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Abstract.—*Ephedrodoma* n. gen. and *Ephedrodoma multilineata* n. sp. are described. The new genus is compared with *Argyrocoris* Van Duzee. The new species occurs in California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Host plants are *Ephedra trifurca* and *Ephedra aspera*.

Our collections of Miridae in western United States over the past several years have revealed a species of Orthotylineae that inhabits *Ephedra* (Mormon Tea) and cannot be placed in any described genus. We thus propose a new genus, *Ephedrodoma*, for this insect.

Specimens treated in this paper are held in various collections with abbreviations as follows; we are indebted to the curators or individuals as noted for permission to study their collections. Gary M. Stonedahl Collection, Oregon State University (GS); R. T. Schuh, American Museum of Natural History (AMNH); J. T. Polhemus Collection (JTP).

***Ephedrodoma*, NEW GENUS**

Description.—Head broad, short, triangular when viewed from above; eyes protrusive, large; vertex wide, more than twice the dorsal width of an eye; vertex with distinct carina, occasionally obscure medially; antennae long, slender, segments III and IV somewhat thinner than preceding two. Pronotum large, convex, posterior angles acute; calli not prominent. Mesoscutum well exposed; scutellum flat. Hemelytra long, macropterous, extending to tip of abdomen. Legs long, slender; femora robust; claws large, parempodia minute, pulvilli large, convergent. Rostrum long, extending past hind coxae. Male genitalia of orthotyline-type; right clasper club shaped, small, with 1-3 spinose projections apically; left clasper small, spatulate, with long curving projection on lower margin. Pubescence distinctive, consisting of black bristle-like hairs interspersed with patches and longitudinal lines of silvery scale-like hairs.

Discussion.—Superficially, *Ephedrodoma* n. gen. resembles *Argyrocoris* Van Duzee (1912). Both genera are placed in the subfamily Orthotylineae on the basis of genitalia and pretarsal structure, and both possess longitudinal lines of silvery scales on the head and pronotum. The major point of separation between the two genera lies in the structure of the head. In *Ephedrodoma* the head is strongly produced vertically, with the gena extending below the eye for a distance equal to the vertical height of the eye, in contrast to *Argyrocoris* where the head is