

Larinocerus balius, a New Genus and New Species of Plant Bug from the United States (Hemip- tera: Miridae)

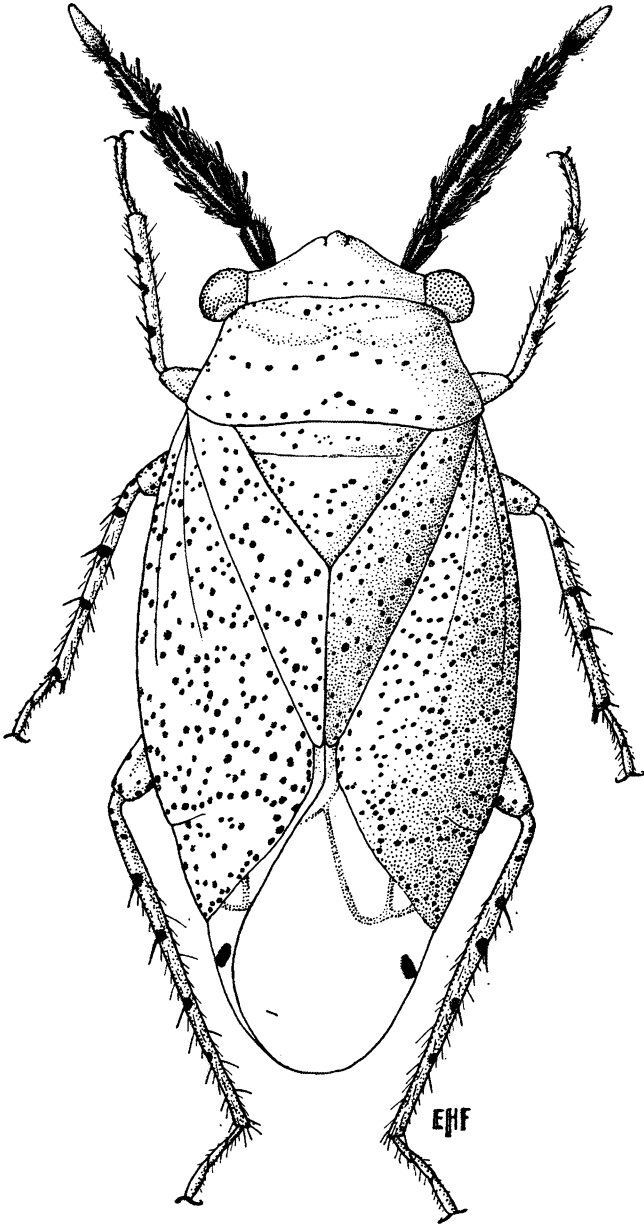
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Among the unidentified Miridae in the Smithsonian Institution were two series of a strongly marked and, surprisingly, apparently undescribed Californian mirid. Following Carvalho's (1955) keys, the lack of arolia, absence of a pronotal collar, and structure of the male external genitalia place it in the tribe Phylini; within the tribe the pale color of body and coria coupled with the modification of the third antennal segment (swollen and with large flattened hairs) run it to *Hambletoniola* Carvalho (1954) from Mexico.

The relationship between *Hambletoniola* and the present new genus is quite close, as shown by the following enumeration of characters shared by both: antennal segments II and III with large flattened hairs; vestiture of head and pronotum of long, pale, suberect hairs intermixed with recumbent, golden, scalelike hairs; femora and tibiae dull white with fuscous spots; and pseudarolia reaching well beyond midlength of tarsal claws.

For a time I considered the new species as a member of *Hambletoniola*, but on closer examination I found the following important differences which, in the tribe Phylini, clearly demark this as a distinct genus. *Hambletoniola* has 1) diameter of antennal segment II subequal to or less than diameter of segment III; 2) vertex twice as wide as one eye; 3) costal margin convex from base to midpoint, thence straight. In contrast, this

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ones on ventral surface; tibiae pale, with numerous prominent fuscous spots on dorsal surface, these encircling insertions of the dark tibial spines; tibial spines dark, their length greater than tibial diameter; tarsi long, more or less cylindrical; pseudarolia large, reaching well beyond middle of claws.

Type of genus: *Larinocerus balius*, new species.

The generic name is derived from Greek: *Larinos*, meaning fat; and the masculine *keros*, meaning horn.

Larinocerus balius, new species (Fig. 1)

As the only member of the genus, this species is easily recognized by the strongly modified second antennal segment which delimits the genus within the subfamily. (All measurements in following description given in millimeters.)

HOLOTYPE: Male. Length to tip of membrane 3.04; width across humeri, 1.12. Head: length, 0.30, width, 1.00, interocular width, 0.66. Antennal segments, I, length 0.20, diameter, 0.11; II, length, 0.60, diameter, 0.16; III, ovoid, length 0.26, diameter, 0.10; IV, length 0.26, diameter, 0.06. Pronotum: length, 0.53, width, 1.10.

Color: dull grayish white with numerous rounded brown to fuscous spots scattered over base of head, pronotum, mesoscutum, scutellum, corium (except basal angles), pleura and venter of abdomen (except broad median strip); membrane chalky white with a prominent, oblique, blackish spot just posterior to apex of cuneus, veins slightly yellowed; antennal segments I, II and III polished brownish black, IV reddish brown on basal two-fifths and pale yellow apically.

Female: very similar to male in form, color and measurements.

Holotype male and *allotype female*: south of Palmdale, CALIFORNIA, June 8, 1935, P. Oman (U.S.N.M. type No. 67449). *Paratypes*: five males and ten females with same data as holotype; two males and two females, Los Angeles County, California, Coquillet collector. The species name is from the Greek *balius*, meaning spotted.

All specimens have most of the vestiture rubbed off, but enough patches remain on different places on several individuals to allow confident placement of this genus among those with the mixture of two types.

In comparing *L. balius* with the original description and type of *Hambletoniola antennata* Carvalho (1954) an error in the description of the latter was noted. The colors credited (p. 126) to antennal segments II and III actually refer to segments III and IV.

Unfortunately, no host information was available but the dull white color suggests that this insect frequents plants with pruinose white leaves, such as are found on many species of *Artemesia*.

REFERENCES

- CARVALHO, J. C. M. 1954. Neotropical Miridae, LXIX: A remarkable new genus of Phylini (Hemiptera). Ent. News 65: 123-126.
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