

THE GENUS SERICOPHANES WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF
TWO NEW SPECIES. (MIRIDÆ, HEMIP.)*

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The species of *Sericophanes* have scarcely been known to students of Hemiptera, though the genus was founded by Reuter in 1876 on the single species *ocellatus*, in his paper "Capsinæ ex America boreali in Museo Holmiensi asservatæ descriptæ ab."† While traveling through the southwestern United States with the Cornell Biological Expedition in 1917 the writer collected the type species of the genus and two other new forms which are described in the present paper.

The genus *Sericophanes* is characterized by the claws bearing free arolia with converging tips, third segment of the antennæ equally thick as the second; males macropterous, slender, hemelytra more or less constricted at the middle, thorax campanulate, the apex of the pronotum scarcely greater than the width of the vertex; females brachypterous, ant-like, abdomen short and broad.

KEY TO THE MALES OF SERICOPHANES.

1. With an ocellate cream colored spot at the middle of the clavus, more or less pruinose on the hemelytra, scutellum not noticeably arched (2)
Spot on the clavus not distinctly ocellate, transverse and extending onto the corium, or entirely lacking, scutellum distinctly arched..... (3)
2. Smaller, very slender, body yellowish brown.....*ocellatus* Reuter.
Larger, body dark chestnut brown.....*noctuans* Knight.
3. Yellowish brown, a triangular white area each side on the corium having its apex on the clavus.....*triangularis* n. sp.
Dark chestnut, a transverse white area on the clavus and extending upon the corium.....*transversus* n. sp.

***Sericophanes ocellatus* Reuter.** (Caps. Amer. Bor., p. 79, 1876.)

The males of this rare and interesting little species were taken by the writer at different points in Texas while collecting with a tent trap light in the semiarid regions. It is evident that Belfrage must have obtained

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† Öfversigt af Kongl. Vetenskaps-Akademiens Förhandlingar, 1876, No. 9, Stockholm.

much of his material by collecting at lights for it was only in such manner that the writer found *ocellatus* and certain other Reuter species of which Belfrage furnished the type material from Texas. The females of *ocellatus* were not taken, though the wingless females of this tiny form must have been present on the low grasses, as has been found in the case of *noctuans* and *transversus*.

Records: 6 ♂♂, June 22, Devers, Texas; 7 ♂♂, June 23, Richmond, Texas; 4 ♂♂, June 25, Victoria, Texas; all collected by the writer on the tent trap light.

After much sweeping and beating only two specimens of *Phytocoris brevisculus* were taken on mesquite while at night the species came in numbers to the trap light. *Tiryas punctulatus* was another species that was taken at the trap light while no amount of sweeping and beating would reveal its presence in the day time.

Sericophanes triangularis n. sp.

Slightly larger and broader than *ocellatus*; readily distinguished by the white triangular patches on the hemelytra, one at each side extending from the margin inward, the apex reaching the middle of the clavus; a second pair of transverse or triangular pale areas across the tips of the corium bordering the cuneus. General color dark yellowish brown, the hemelytra dull pale orange except for the triangular white spots with narrow fuscous borders.

♂. Length 3.4 mm. *Head*: width across the eyes .65 mm., vertex .28 mm., length .43 mm.; brown, shining, slightly paler on the lower side of the face; eyes large and coarsely granulated, extending back at the sides and forming the most posterior part of the head, purplish brown in color. Rostrum brownish, reaching beyond the posterior margin of the hind coxæ and nearly to the middle of the venter.

Antenna: segment I, length .25 mm.; II, length 1 mm.; III, length .71 mm.; IV, length .63 mm.; yellowish to fuscous.

Pronotum: length .57 mm., width at base .94 mm., apex .43 mm.; dark yellowish brown, smooth, shining, strongly declivitous, devoid of calli, collar broad and distinct, lateral margins of the disk rounded, slightly sulcate. Scutellum same color as the pronotum, strongly arched, thus differing from *noctuans* and *ocellatus*; sternum yellowish brown, metasternal orifice pale.

Hemelytra: width near apex or corium 1 mm., width at middle .94 mm.; dull pale orange and marked with silvery white and fuscous; a large silvery white triangular area on each side extending from the margin inward, the apex attaining the middle of the clavus, narrowly margined with dark fuscous; a smaller triangular white area at the tip of the corium and bordering the cuneus, also a pale spot narrowly margined with fuscous at

the tip of the clavus; cuneus dark reddish; sparsely clothed with rather long pale yellowish hairs; members evenly infuscated without pale marks.

Legs: reddish brown, coxæ and basal third of the femora pale to yellowish, tips of the tarsi fuscous.

Venter: yellowish brown to reddish, paler at the base on the lower side, not so distinctly narrowed and flattened as in *noctuans*; genital claspers conspicuous and distinctive.

Holotype: ♂, July 12, 1917, Deming, New Mexico (H. H. Knight); Cornell University Collection.

Paratypes: 18 ♂♂, taken with the types; ♂, July 13, Lordsburg, New Mexico; 7 ♂♂, July 20, 1917, Texas Pass, Arizona; ♂, July 15, 1917, Bowie, Arizona; all collected at the tent trap light by the writer.

Sericophanes transversus n. sp.

Dark chestnut brown, shining, easily distinguished by the transverse white mark across the middle of the clavus and reaching upon the corium, also a smaller white spot bordering the cuneus.

♂. Length 3.7 mm., greatest width 1.14 mm. *Head:* width across the eyes .85 mm., vertex .37 mm., length .43 mm., more globose than in *triangularis* or *ocellatus*; dark brown, smooth and shining. Rostrum reaching slightly beyond the posterior margin of the hind coxæ, dark brownish in color.

Antennæ: segment I, length .31 mm.; II, length 1.14 mm.; III, length .80 mm.; IV, length .57 mm.; fuscous brown, darker on the apical half.

Pronotum: length .85 mm., width at base 1.14 mm., apex .43 mm.; dark chestnut brown, polished, apical half lighter colored; calli faintly discernible, disk more highly arched than in *triangularis*; scutellum strongly arched as in *triangularis*, sternum dark amber to reddish brown.

Hemelytra: greatest width 1.17 mm., scarcely narrowed at the middle; dark chestnut brown to blackish, highly polished; a conspicuous transverse silvery white mark across the middle of the clavus and extending onto the corium as far as the cubitus, tip of the embolium and half way across the apex of the corium bordering the cuneus, pale white; sparsely clothed with fine long golden hairs; membrane evenly infuscated.

Legs: dark fuscous brown, middle and posterior coxæ and trochanters, pale.

Venter: Dark chestnut brown, polished, clothed with moderately long fine golden pubescence; genital claspers prominent and distinctive of the species.

Female: length 3.1 mm., brachypterous, very ant-like in form, dark chestnut brown in color like the male, polished, head and thorax lighter colored than the abdomen. *Head:* nearly globose, eyes slightly smaller than in the male; restrum reaching slightly beyond the posterior margin of the hind coxæ.

Antennae: segment I, length .28 mm.; II, length 1.03 mm.; III, length .71 mm.; IV, length .54 mm.; brownish to fuscous.

Pronotum: nearly quadrate, length .57 mm., width at base .77 mm., collar .48 mm., width behind the collar .60 mm.; scutellum greatly arched, more so than in the male.

Hemelytra: length .85 mm., barely meeting at the suture behind the scutellum, tapering out to a point at the outside margin and reflexed; transversely sulcate and pale across the middle, also pale behind the scutellum along the suture.

Venter: width 1.42 mm., broad and nearly globose, only the basal third covered by the hemelytra. Legs very similar to the male.

Holotype: ♂, June 26, 1917, Gillette, Texas (H. H. Knight); Cornell University Collection.

Allotype: taken with the type.

Paratypes: 35 ♂♂, taken with the types; 15 ♂♂, July 2, 1917, Sabinal, Texas; 15 ♂♂, July 12, 1917, Mesilla Park, New Mexico; 5 ♂♂, July 20, Texas Pass, Arizona; all collected on the tent trap light by the writer. 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, June 15, 1900, Pueblo, Colorado (E. D. Ball).

This interesting species was taken only in the desert regions and is nocturnal in its habits, as are the other members of the genus. The type female though wingless had crawled up onto the tent trap light when found. Prof. E. D. Ball found this species in Colorado and *noctuans* in Ohio, both occurring on grasses. It is evident that these species hide away during the day time and become active only at night.