

MEGALOPSALLUS, A NEW GENUS OF MIRIDÆ WITH
FIVE NEW SPECIES FROM NORTH AMERICA
(HEMIPTERA)

BY

HARRY H. KNIGHT.

REPRINTED FROM
ANNALS OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA,
Vol. XX, No. 2.

COLUMBUS, OHIO,
June, 1927.

MEGALOPSALLUS, A NEW GENUS OF MIRIDÆ WITH
FIVE NEW SPECIES FROM NORTH AMERICA
(HEMIPTERA).*

HARRY H. KNIGHT,

Ames, Iowa.

Megalopsallus, new genus.

Allied to *Psallus* Fieb., but head larger, broad, shaped much as in *Lygus* Hahn, or *Phytocoris* of the *pinicola* group. Arolia bristle-like, claws broadly curved, without distinct notch at inner side of base, pseudarolia entirely absent. Genitalia much as in *Plagiognathus* Fieb., but right clasper small, little longer than broad; left clasper with small spine at base of dorsal margin which points in a line parallel with margin of genital segment, this clasper having much the same form and holding the tip of the oedaegus as in *Plagiognathus politus* Uhler; genital characters distinctive for the genus. Pubescence composed of closely matted, sericeous, deciduous hairs, and intermixed with more erect and sparsely set, simple pubescent hairs. Rostrum long, reaching the hind coxæ or longer. Tibial spines pale but usually with fuscous dots at base.

Genotype: *Megalopsallus atriplicis* n. sp.

This genus runs close to *Psallus* in my key (Hemiptera of Connecticut, 1923, p. 429), but differs in the absence of pseudarolia, differently shaped head, and characteristic genitalia.

Megalopsallus atriplicis, new species.

A small pale greenish species, with broad head, long rostrum, clothed with white sericeous pubescence and intermixed with simple fuscous hairs; length 2.5—2.8 mm.

♂. Length 2.5 mm., width 1 mm. Head: width .71 mm., vertex .326 mm. Rostrum, length 1.18 mm., reaching to middle of venter, pale greenish, apex blackish. Antennæ: segment I, length .20 mm.; II, .77 mm., cylindrical, more slender than segment I; III, .62 mm.; IV, .42 mm., pale greenish, last two segments dusky. Pronotum: length .37 mm., width at base .86 mm.

Uniformly pale greenish, eyes reddish brown; femora with numerous small setigerous fuscous dots; tibiæ pale, spines brownish to dusky, each with a fuscous dot at base, becoming obsolete apically, tarsi pale, claws black; membrane whitish, veins concolorous, a distinct fuscous spot at basal angle of larger areole, smaller areole dusky to fuscous, apical half of membrane more or less dusky. Clothed with silvery,

*Contribution from the Department of Zoology and Entomology, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

sericeous pubescence, and intermixed with more erect, fuscous simple pubescent hairs; ventral surface and legs with white simple pubescence. Genital claspers much as in *Psallus seriatus* Reut., but right clasper much reduced, only a little longer than broad.

♀. Length 2.8 mm., width 1.27 mm. Head: width .80 mm., vertex .43 mm. Antennæ: segment I, length .21 mm.; II, .76 mm. Pronotum: length .46 mm., width at base 1 mm. More ovate and robust than the male but very similar in coloration and pubescence.

Holotype: ♂ April 25, 1926, Brownsville, Texas (T. C. Barber); author's collection. *Allotype*: same data as type. *Paratypes*: 14 ♂ ♀, taken with the types on *Atriplex matamorensis* which is the host plant of the species. Texas: 12 ♂ ♀ Feb. 15, 10 ♂ ♀ Sept. 11, 1925, 6 ♂ ♀ Mar. 24, 1926, Brownsville (T. C. Barber), on *Atriplex matamorensis*. 7 ♂ ♀ June 23, 1908, Brownsville (Hart). 3 ♂ Aug. 15, ♀ Sept. 1, 5 ♂ ♀ Sept. 10, 1925, Port Lavaca (R. H. Painter), on *Atriplex arenaria* and *A. matamorensis*. ♂ Aug. 18, 1922, Interior, S. Dak., (H. C. Severin).

Megalopsallus rubropictipes, new species.

Larger but more slender than *atriplicis*, antennal segment II longer, rostrum shorter, sternum fuscous and femora with reddish.

♂. Length 3.4 mm., width 1.24 mm. Head: width .80 mm., vertex .38 mm. Rostrum, length 1.09 mm., only reaching upon hind coxæ. Antennæ: segment I, length .21 mm.; II, .95 mm., cylindrical, a trifle thicker apically, but not attaining thickness of segment I; III, .66 mm.; IV, .43 mm.; greenish yellow, last two segments dusky. Pronotum: length .43 mm., width at base .96 mm.

Pale yellowish, tinged with green, eyes reddish brown; femora with numerous small reddish dots on apical half, a few fuscous setigerous dots also; tibiæ pale, spines yellowish, each with a light fuscous dot at base, tarsi yellowish, tips and claws blackish; sternum fuscous to black, spot at top of coxal cleft and numerous small dots and points on sides of venter, reddish. Membrane and veins whitish, fuscous spot at base of larger areole, darkened smaller areole and dusky on apical half of membrane nearly as in *atriplicis*. Thickly clothed with silvery, sericeous, deciduous pubescence, and intermixed with more sparsely set brownish to dusky simple pubescent hairs. Genital characters nearly as in *atriplicis*, scarcely to be separated on external examination.

Holotype: ♂ Aug. 17, 1925, Florence, Colorado (H. H. Knight), taken at light; author's collection. *Paratypes*: ♂, taken with the type. ♂ ♀ Sept. 12, Trinidad, ♂ Sept. 14, Rocky Ford, ♂ Sept. 15, 1898, Pueblo Colorado (E. D. Ball). The female is too poor for description.

Megalopsallus latifrons, new species.

Allied to *atriplicis* but larger, membrane uniformly whitish, without fuscous spot at base of larger areole, antennal segment II distinctly longer than width of head; greenish to yellowish, femora with small setigerous fuscous dots; length, 3.3—3.5 mm.

♂. Length 3.3 mm., width 1.36 mm. Head: width .89 mm., vertex .37 mm. Rostrum, length 1.38 mm., reaching upon fourth ventral segment, yellowish, apex black. Antennæ: segment I, length .26 mm.; II, 1.03 mm.; III, .74 mm.; IV, .47 mm.; greenish yellow, last two segments becoming dusky. Pronotum: length .54 mm., width at base 1.12 mm.

Uniformly pale greenish, more yellowish on head, mesonotum, body beneath and legs; femora with small setigerous fuscous dots, becoming obsolete on basal half; tibiæ and spines pale yellowish, a small pale fuscous dot at base of each spine. Membrane uniformly whitish, veins pale to yellowish, without fuscous spot at base of larger areole. Clothed with silvery, sericeous pubescence, and intermixed with more erect, fuscous simple pubescence; ventral surface and legs with simple white pubescence. Genital characters very similar to those of *atriplicis*.

♀. Length 3.5 mm., width 1.5 mm. Head: width .87 mm., vertex .47 mm. Antennæ: segment I, length .24 mm.; II, .92 mm.; III, .71 mm.; IV, .36 mm. Pronotum: length .51 mm., width at base 1.18 mm. More robust than the male but very similar in coloration and pubescence.

Holotype: ♂ Aug. 6, 1925, Delhi, Colorado (H. H. Knight); author's collection. *Allotype*: same data as the type. *Paratypes*: 20 ♂ ♀, taken with the types on the host plant, *Saueda diffusa* Wats. Colorado—♂ Aug. 30, Fort Collins, ♀ July 20, 1898, Delta (E. D. Ball). Mutilated specimens are present from Grand Junction which probably belong here. Texas—♀ Aug. 19, 2 ♂ Aug. 22, 1925, Port Lavaca (R. H. Painter), collected on *Dondia linearis* which is probably another host for the species. ♀ June 25, 1917, Victoria (H. H. Knight).

Megalopsallus latifrons diversipes, new subspecies.

Suggestive of *latifrons* but differs in the longer second antennal segment which nearly equals width of pronotum at base; femora more or less reddish on apical half, fuscous dots not apparent on hind tibiæ at base of the yellowish spines; the simple fuscous pubescence on the dorsum somewhat heavier than in *latifrons*.

♂. Length 3.4 mm., width 1.3 mm. Head: width .89 mm., vertex .41 mm. Rostrum, length 1.4 mm., reaching upon fifth ventral segment. Antennæ: segment I, length .266 mm.; II, 1.06 mm.; III, .89 mm.; IV, .44 mm. Pronotum: length .50 mm., width at base 1.09 mm.

♀. Length 3.8 mm., width 1.6 mm. Head: width .93 mm., vertex .53 mm. Antennæ: segment I, length .266 mm.; II, 1.23 mm.; III, 1 mm.; IV, .44 mm. Pronotum: length .56 mm., width at base 1.27 mm.

Holotype: ♂ June 14, 1917, Biloxi, Mississippi (H. H. Knight); author's collection. *Allotype*: taken with the type at light. *Paratypes*: 22 ♂ ♀, taken with the types at light. The next morning various plants in the same vicinity were swept with the net but without finding this species.

***Megalopsallus brittoni*, new species.**

Distinguished by the long second antennal segment which in length (♂) exceeds basal width of pronotum; form and color of head, especially the broad vertex and large eyes, very suggestive of a female *Phytocoris* of the *pinicola* group, but size smaller.

♂. Length 4 mm., width 1.5 mm. Head: width .95 mm., vertex .43 mm. Rostrum, length 1.66 mm., scarcely attaining posterior margins of hind coxæ. Antennæ: segment I, length .29 mm.; II, 1.33 mm.; III, 1.03 mm.; IV, .53 mm.; yellowish to dusky, last two segments light fuscous. Pronotum: length .55 mm., width at base 1.23 mm.

General coloration pale yellowish to dusky, pronotum, mesoscutum, scutellum, and thorax beneath more reddish, venter more strongly yellow; femora reddish yellow to dusky red-brown, small setigerous fuscous dots apparent; tibiæ pale to dusky, spines pale without fuscous dots at base. Hemelytra pale yellowish, tinged with dusky, somewhat darker apically, cuneus concolorous with corium; membrane whitish, tinged with brownish, areoles somewhat darker, veins tinged with reddish, anal area dark brown bordering vein. Dorsum clothed with silvery, sericeous pubescence, and intermixed rather abundantly with more erect, fuscous simple pubescence; ventral surface and legs clothed with simple pale pubescence. Genital characters very similar to other members of genus, apparently not exhibiting good specific characters.

Holotype: ♂ July 4, 1904, Westville, Connecticut (W. E. Britton); author's collection.

***Megalopsallus adustus*, new species.**

Allied to *brittoni* but second antennal segment shorter, darker colored, the thorax and femora strongly fuscous.

♂. Length 4.1 mm., width 1.5 mm. Head: width .98 mm., vertex .44 mm. Rostrum, length 1.7 mm., attaining posterior margins of hind coxæ, yellowish brown, apex blackish. Antennæ: segment I, length .28 mm.; II, 1.2 mm.; III, 1 mm.; IV, .53 mm.; dusky yellowish brown, darker apically. Pronotum: length .58 mm., width at base 1.24 mm.

Fuscous over a yellowish ground color, thorax, venter and femora darker, sternum more nearly black; basal area of hemelytra lighter, tip of scutellum pale; membrane fuscous brown, more whitish bordering apex of cuneus and between larger areoles. Legs fuscous brown to darker, femora with small setigerous fuscous dots apparent through the dark ground color; tibiae pale to dusky, spines yellowish, small darker points apparent at base of spines; tarsi dusky brown, claws black. Dorsum clothed with white to yellowish sericeous pubescence, and intermixed with simple fuscous pubescence; sides of thorax and venter bearing silvery, sericeous pubescence and intermixed with simple yellowish pubescence. Genital characters very similar to those of *brittoni*.

♀. Length 4 mm., width 1.5 mm. Head: width .95 mm., vertex .52 mm. Antennae: segment I, length .266 mm., II, 1.21 mm.; III, 1.03 mm.; IV, .47 mm. Pronotum: length .58 mm., width at base 1.39 mm. Very similar to the male in coloration and pubescence.

Holotype: ♂ October 8, 1918, Anahuac, Texas (H. S. Barber); U. S. National Museum collection. *Allotype*: ♀, taken with the type. *Paratype*: ♀, taken with the types.

KEY TO SPECIES OF MEGALOPSALLUS.

1. Hemelytra, femora, and frequently the body tinged or darkened with fuscous..5
Hemelytra pale to greenish, never darkened with fuscous; femora frequently reddish, or bearing setigerous fuscous dots..... 2
2. Membrane with distinct fuscous spot on basal angle of larger areole..... 3
Membrane without such fuscous spot..... 4
3. Antennal segment II equal to, or only slightly exceeding width of head across eyes, being distinctly shorter than basal width of pronotum; length, 2.5-2.8 mm..... *atriplicis* n. sp.
Antennal segment II in length distinctly greater than width of head, nearly or quite equal to basal width of pronotum; length, 3.4-3.6 mm.
rubropictipes n. sp.
4. Femora pale to greenish yellow, apical half with small, setigerous fuscous dots on anterior aspect; antennal segment II distinctly shorter than basal width of pronotum..... *latifrons* n. sp.
Femora distinctly reddish on apical half; antennal segment II nearly equal to basal width of pronotum..... *diversipes* n. subsp.
5. Antennal segment II of male exceeding basal width of pronotum; hemelytra uniformly tinged with dusky or fuscous, pronotum, scutellum and ventral surface of body lighter, tinged with reddish..... *brittoni* n. sp.
Antennal segment II of male not equal to basal width of pronotum; apical half of clavus and corium distinctly fuscous, pronotum, scutellum, and ventral surface of body dark fuscous..... *adustus* n. sp.