

**MERINOCAPSUS FROESCHNERI, A NEW SPECIES OF
PHYLINE MIRIDAE FROM WESTERN NORTH AMERICA,
WITH NOTES ON THE GENUS (HETEROPTERA)**

RANDALL T. SCHUH

Department of Entomology, American Museum of Natural History,
New York, New York 10024

Abstract.—*Merinocapsus froeschneri* is described as new. *Ankylotylus pallipes* Knight is transferred to *Merinocapsus*. The male genitalia are illustrated and compared and the distributions summarized for the three species currently placed in *Merinocapsus*.

Knight (1968) described *Merinocapsus ephedrae* as one of a number of species of Miridae in western North America recorded as occurring on species of *Ephedra*. Intensive collecting by me and colleagues over the last seven years has revealed that there is an additional undescribed species of *Merinocapsus* on *Ephedra*. In the present paper I describe this species as new, naming it in honor of Richard C. Froeschner, in recognition of his longstanding interest in, and contributions to, the Heteroptera fauna of North America. I also transfer *Ankylotylus pallipes* Knight to *Merinocapsus*.

Merinocapsus Knight

Merinocapsus Knight, 1968:34.

Ankylotylus Knight, 1968:55. **New Synonymy.**

Diagnosis. Recognized by the characteristic phylina-type male genitalia, the pretarsus with setiform parempodia and small pulvilli, the at least partially dark pronotum and scutellum contrasting with the lighter hemelytra which range from completely white to entirely deep red, the short head with weakly bulging eyes, the setiform parempodia, the elongate claws with small pulvilli (Fig. 4), the weak to moderately strong sexual dimorphism with the hemelytra in the males extending well beyond the apex of the abdomen and those of the female shorter and often just covering the abdomen, the metathoracic scent-gland evaporatory area elongate and narrow (Figs. 5-7), and the form of the male genitalia with the vesica slender and sigmoid, the apex bifid terminating with two small apical spines, and the secondary gonopore subapical (Figs. 9, 11, 14, 17).

Similar in general appearance and form of sexual dimorphism to many species of *Europiella* Reuter, but distinguished by the small pulvilli which do not cover most of the ventral claw surface as in *Europiella*, the more slender metathoracic scent gland evaporatory area, and the bifid apex of the vesica.

Discussion. Knight (1968) did not provide differential diagnoses for *Merinocapsus* and *Ankylotylus*. The two genera, which came out in the same couplet in his key, were distinguished by the structure of the tylus in *Ankylotylus pallipes* and the color of the tibial spines. My examination of additional specimens of *pallipes* indicates that Knight's interpretation was in error and that in fact there are no substantial