Annales Entomologici Fennici 54:1–10. 1988

Studies on the Miridae fauna (Heteroptera) of the Middle East

Rauno E. Linnavuori

Linnavuori, R.E. 1987: Studies on the Miridae fauna (Heteroptera) of the Middle East. — Ann. Entomol. Fennici 54:1–10.

The article contains taxonomic studies on Miridae of the Middle East. *Megacoelum quercicola* Linnavuori 1984 (Iraq) is renamed as *M. irbilanum* nom.nov. *Pronototropis* Reuter and *Pleuroxonotus* Reuter are regarded as separate genera. *Pronototropis longicornis* Reuter and *P. longirostris* Wagner are transferred to *Pleuroxonotus*. *Pronototropis* subgenus *Jafara* Wagner is synonymized with the subgenus *Alloeonycha* Reuter in *Macrotylus* Fieber. Two new taxa, *Macrotylus dahukanus* sp.n. (Iraq) and *Monocris longicornis* sp.n. (Iraq), are described.

Rauno E. Linnavuori, Somersoja, SF-21220 Raisio 22, Finland

Index words: Miridae, Middle East, new species, taxonomy

1. *Megacoelum irbilanum* nom. nov.

Megacoelum quercicola Linnavuori 1984: 27–28, nec *M. quercicola* Linnavuori, 1965: 26–27.

The *Megacoelum* species described by me as *M. quercicola* from Iraq must be renamed, since I have already used the same name for a species from Tunisia.

2. On the genera *Pronototropis* Reuter and *Pleuroxonotus* Reuter

The taxonomy of *Pronototropis* and *Pleuroxonotus* was treated in Linnavuori 1971: 133–135. The former genus was regarded as monotypic containing only the type species, *P. punctipennis* (Fieber), since the second known species, *Pronototropis longicornis* Reuter, turned out to be closely related to the type species of *Pleuroxonotus, P. nasutus* Reuter, and was therefore transferred to that genus. Wagner (1973a) opposed my proposal and wanted to retain the old concepts of the genera. However, some of the distinctive characters mentioned by him are imaginary (such as differences in starting points of antennae and in shape of labrum between *nasutus* and *longicornis*), while others occur in both species (dark inner margin of clavus), or are valid at the species but not at the generic level. Moreover, *Pronototropis* (*Jafara*) *Brevirostris* Wagner, which was claimed by him to be an intermediate between *punctipennis* and *longirostris*, in fact belongs to the genus *Macrotylus* Fieber. The comparison in Table 1 is based on material recently added to my collection.

The *Pronototropis* complex evidently consists of two phylogenetic groups. The first group, *Pronototropis* in a strict sense, contains only *punctipennis*, the second group three species, *nasutus*, *longicornis* and *longirostris*. Of these, *nasutus* and *longicornis* are sister species, recently evolved from a common ancestor. Consequently *Pleuroxonotus* is the valid generic name for this group. *P. longirostris*, unknown to me, is apparently an older derivative of the stock. *Pronototropis* and *Pleuroxonotus* have evolved from the same ancestral group. They are closely related but, in my opinion, merit separate generic status. If, however, they are lumped together, *Pronototropis* is the valid name for the group. In this case *Pleuroxonotus* forms a well-defined subgenus within *Pronototropis*.