

Comparison. The new species is extremely close to *M. geniculatus* Reut., a common species distributed in Kirgizia and Tajikistan from Fergana and Atbashi ranges and Susamyr valley in the north to Zeravshan Range and the Pamirs in the south at the heights of 2100-4300 m and mainly collected from *Artemisia*. *M. geniculatus* is extremely variable in the coloration, length of antennal segments and form of vesical sclerites. We did not find good external characters to distinguish the two species, but the number of the aedeagal spiculae (three in *M. trispiculus*, only two in *M. geniculatus*) can be used for their separation.

Myrmecophyes (Myrmecophyes) frontosus sp. n.
(Figs 15-22)

Holotype. ♂, Kazakhstan, Tselinograd (now Astana) Prov., 8 km E of crossing Tersakkan River on the way to Mendesh, 4.VI.1972 (Kerzhner).

Paratypes. 9 ♂, 7 ♀, as holotype (Kerzhner, Loginova).

Description. Body black, strongly shining, only the white area of hemelytra dull; scutellum with fine transverse striation; hemelytra finely shagreened in their black part. Dorsal side of body without any hairs, only hemelytra with sparse whitish tomentum. Antennae yellow; 1st segment in males with brownish base or outer side; 3rd and 4th segments sometimes yellowish brown. Legs yellow; coxae black; hind femora brown to black, often pale at base; sometimes in males also fore and middle femora partially brown; tarsi brownish yellow to dark brown. Hemelytra in male with black claval and white corial part, the white area occupies slightly more than half of their surface; in female, the black area is much larger and occupies more than half of the surface, so that white-coloured are only a more or less narrow lateral triangular area and a very narrow stripe along hind margin. Connexivum of abdomen white entirely or on external margin.

Vertex flat. Frons strongly convex, protruded above the base of clypeus, especially in females. Antennae not thickened; 1st segment with black bristles. Rostrum reaching hind coxae. Pronotum wider (on hind margin) than long. Scutellum (in lateral view) flat; its apex not separated. Brachypterous,

commissure of hemelytra subequal in length to scutellum.

Male genitalia as in Figs 17-22. Theca (Fig. 19) with subbasal flat process serrate on apical margin (Fig. 20) and a small bi- or trifurcate tooth on the side opposite to the process (Fig. 21); mouth of the theca with serrate margin on one side. Aedeagus with one spicula strongly widened at base and pointed at apex (Fig. 22).

Measurements (mm). Body length: ♂ 2.1-2.2, ♀ 2.8-3.0; head width: ♂ 0.8-0.83, ♀ 0.9-0.95; vertex width: ♂ 0.3-0.32, ♀ 0.4; pronotum width at base: ♂ 0.6-0.65, ♀ 0.76-0.8; pronotum length: ♂, ♀ 0.45; scutellum length: ♂, ♀ 0.2-0.22; commissure: ♂ 0.2-0.22, ♀ 0.15-0.2; length of antennal segments (I-IV): ♂ 0.4-0.45, 1.15-1.3, 0.65-0.67, 0.42-0.45, ♀ 0.35-0.4, 1.1-1.2, 0.65-0.7, 0.42-0.45.

Bionomics. The species was collected from a grass, apparently *Psathyrostachys juncea* (Fisch.) Nevski.

Comparison. The new species is the northernmost in the genus, except for the widely distributed and often macropterous *M. alboornatus* Stål. Its occurrence in lowland steppes is unusual: most species of the genus are monticolous. The new species can be distinguished from other species of the genus by the absence of setae on head and pronotum. It is most similar in coloration to *M. limbatus* Reut. (see Bykov, 1971) from Tien Shan, but in the latter the black area of hemelytra occupies less than half of their surface in both sexes, not only in the males.

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References

- Bykov, A.A. 1971. The bugs of the genus *Myrmecophyes* Fieb. (Heteroptera, Miridae) in the fauna of Tien Shan and Pamiro-Alai. *Entomol. Obozr.* 50(4): 870-881. (In Russian).

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