



***Myrmoplastoides* subgen. nov. of the genus *Myrmoplasta* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pyrrhocoridae) from the Oriental region**

JAROSLAV L. STEHLÍK¹⁾ & PETR KMENT^{2,3)}

¹⁾ Department of Entomology, Moravian Museum, Hviezdoslavova 29a, CZ-627 00 Brno – Slatina, Czech Republic

²⁾ Department of Entomology, National Museum, Kunratice 1, CZ-148 00 Praha 4, Czech Republic & Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science, Department of Zoology, Viničná 7, CZ-128 44 Praha 2, Czech Republic. E-mail sigara@post.cz

³⁾ Corresponding author

Myrmoplasta Gerstäcker, 1892, is a small genus of the family Pyrrhocoridae, currently including five described species—*Myrmoplasta mira* Gerstäcker, 1892, *M. vittiventris* Carlini, 1894, and *M. kmenti* Stehlík, 2007, from the Afrotropical region (Stehlík 2007); and two Oriental species, *M. longipennis* Blöte, 1933, and *M. biguttata* Blöte, 1933, both known only from the short original descriptions by Blöte (1933). The examination of types of both Oriental *Myrmoplasta* species enable us to redescribe them, and to describe the hitherto unknown male of *M. longipennis*. Moreover, we found several important differences between the Oriental and the Afrotropical species of the genus, which warrant the establishing of a new subgenus—*Myrmoplastoides* subgen. nov.—for the Oriental species.

***Myrmoplasta* Gerstäcker, 1892**

(Fig. 1)

Myrmoplasta Gerstäcker, 1892: 51.

Type species. *Myrmoplasta mira* Gerstäcker, 1892; by monotypy.

Diagnosis. Brachypterous, rarely macropterous, body distinctly myrmecomorphic (Fig. 1). Head wider (male 1.84–2.08 mm, female 2.05–2.35 mm), frons less convex. Pronotal lobe gradually widening laterally towards base, its lateral margins neither gibbous nor strongly produced; posterior margin of pronotal lobe not elevated above scutellum. Abdomen strongly constricted basally, and strongly widened medially; mesotergites gibbous, bearing setae. Hemelytra of brachypterous morph considerably reduced, not surpassing base of tergite II, each corium posteriorly separately rounded, lacking membrane. Fore femur of male with three remote teeth and long stout black setae on its ventral surface; female fore femur toothless. For description of male genitalia see Stehlík (2007).

Included species. *Myrmoplasta mira* Gerstäcker, 1892, *M. vittiventris* Carlini, 1894, and *M. kmenti* Stehlík, 2007.

Distribution. East, Central, and South Africa from Ethiopia to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Africa (Stehlík 2007).

Note. Stehlík (2007) did not succeed in locating the type specimen of *Myrmoplasta mira*. According to Weidner (1972), this holotype is deposited in the collection of Zoologisches Museum, Universität von Hamburg, Germany.

***Myrmoplastoides* subgen. nov.**

(Figs. 2–3)

Type species. *Myrmoplasta longipennis* Blöte, 1933; here designated.

Diagnosis. Known only in brachypterous morph, body not markedly myrmecomorphic (Figs. 2–3). Head narrower (male 1.69 mm, female 1.55–1.84 mm), frons more gibbous. Pronotal lobe arcuately gibbous laterally or its lateral margins strongly produced outwards and elevated; posterior margin of pronotal lobe distinctly elevated above scutellum. Abdomen only slightly constricted basally, and slightly widened medially; mesotergites flat, without setae. Corium reaching at least posterior margin of tergite III, posterior margins of both hemelytra accordingly truncated, straight, lacking membrane. Fore femur of male with three remote teeth, but without setae on its ventral surface; female fore femur