



***Spinisternum castaneipictus* Willemse, 1966 (Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae: Conocephalinae) from Papua New Guinea, with description of the male and remarks on the relationship**

MUSTAFA ÜNAL

Abant İzzet Baysal Üniversitesi, Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi, Biyoloji Bölümü, 14280 Bolu, Türkiye. E-mail: unal@ibu.edu.tr

Abstract

In the present paper, the male of *Spinisternum castaneipictus* Willemse, previously unknown is described. The similarity of *Spinisternum* with other genera causes confusion in identification. This problem is discussed and similar species in different genera are compared. A key to species of *Spinisternum* and illustrations of *S. castaneipictus* are provided.

Key words: Orthoptera, Conocephalinae, *Spinisternum castaneipictus*, male description, relationship, *Anthracites*, *Gonatacanthus*, New Guinea, Oriental Region

Introduction

The three known species of *Spinisternum* Willemse, 1942 are known from the Solomon Islands, New Guinea and the Palau Islands in Oriental Region. Willemse (1942) established the *Spinisternum* with the species *S. insularis* Willemse, 1942 as type species from Solomon Islands. Willemse (1966) described the second species of *Spinisternum*, *S. castaneipictus*, from New Guinea. Both species are known from only females. Vickery *et al.* (1999) discovered a third species, *S. palauensis*, from the Palau Islands.

Species of *Anthracites* Redtenbacher, 1891, closely related to *Spinisternum*, are distributed in tropical Africa and tropical Asia (Karny, 1912b; 1931; Sjöstedt, 1913; Hebard, 1922; Ingrisch, 1998). Four species are known from East Africa (Brongniard, 1897; Sjöstedt, 1909, 1913), the remaining 11 species from the Philippines, Sulawesi, New Guinea and Timor (Redtenbacher, 1891; Dohrn, 1905; Karny, 1912a, 1931; Hebard, 1922; Ingrisch, 1998). Of 7 species, males and females were described, but the remaining 8 species are known from only one sex. The males of 3 species, *A. geniculatus* Dohrn, 1905, *A. discolateralis* Karny, 1931 and *A. humeralis* Karny, 1931 and the females of 5 species, *A. nitidus* Redtenbacher, 1891, *A. femoralis* Dohrn, 1905, *A. usambaricus* Sjöstedt, 1913, *A. zebra* Hebard, 1922 and *A. rufus* Ingrisch, 1998 are unknown.

The 6 known species of *Gonatacanthus* Karny, 1907, another relative of *Spinisternum*, occur in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and New Guinea (Karny, 1912b, 1926; Otte, 1997; Ingrisch, 1998). Similarly, 5 species are known from single sex. The males of 2 species, *G. decipiens* Karny, 1926 and *G. inexpectatus* Willemse, 1953 and the females of 3 species, *G. wernerii* Karny, 1907, *G. griffinii* Karny, 1911 and *G. pulcher* (Bolivar, 1900) are unknown. Therefore, describing new species from a single sex in *Spinisternum*, *Anthracites* or *Gonatacanthus* has to be done with care. As a matter of fact I had first identified the specimens of *S. castaneipictus* as an unknown species of *Anthracites*. It was possible to identify them only after comparison of the type specimens of *S. castaneipictus*.

The only species of *Spinisternum* recorded from New Guinea is *S. castaneipictus* (Willemse, 1966). Herein its male is described for the first time.