



Description of the unknown male of the Afrotropical *Heissocteus ernsti* J. A. Lis (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Cydnidae: Cephalocteinae)

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Heissocteus ernsti was described from Zambia (Lis 2006) as a genus and species new to science. Despite the fact that its description was based on a single female, the morphological characters could place the new taxon close to *Cephalocteus* Dufour, the only genus of the tribe Cephalocteini (Cydnidae: Cephalocteinae) known at then (Lis 1999).

Browsing through the burrower-bug material from Namibia (received several years ago for identification from the Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität in Berlin, Germany), I found a single male of *H. ernstii*; its description is presented below.

Description of male specimen. Body length 3.77 mm, body width 2.34 mm; its dorsal surface with ground colour castaneous; head, margins of pronotum, and hemelytra blackish brown; antennae yellowish brown; dorsal surface shiny with sparse, clearly visible punctation (Fig. 1).

Head (Fig. 2) broader than long (width: 1.06 mm, length: 0.93 mm); dorsal surface slightly convex, its punctation and sculpture as in female holotype; clypeus free, shorter than paraclypei, its apex with a pair of long hair-like secondary setae; vestiture of paraclypei similar to that of female holotype; lateral margin of paraclypeus with a row of 11-12 short and more or less blunt peg-like setae, and 6-7 long hair-like setae; eyes pale brown, small, faintly protruding, two apical peg-like setae present (the primary seta VI and an additional seta posteriorly to apical one, both setae shorter than those in female holotype); ocular index 6.1; ocelli small, same coloured as eyes, ocellar index 11.7; interocellar distance 3.5 times a distance of ocellus from the eye; antennae short, 1st segment the longest (0.29 mm), 2nd the shortest (0.14 mm), 3rd (0.22 mm) about 1.6 times longer than the 2nd, 4th, and 5th of the same length (0.17 mm); 1st and 2nd antennal segments elongated and cylindrical, three others more or less bulbous; rostrum short, reaching slightly beyond the anterior coxae. Pronotum and scutellum in all characters same as in female (Fig. 1), except for their sizes (pronotum: max. width: 2.15 mm, max. length: 1.09 mm; scutellum: width: 1.66 mm, length: 1.44 mm. Corium and membrane (Fig. 1) also same as in female holotype.

All legs with tibiae strongly flattened (Fig. 1); anterior tibia broadened apically, with the apical part prolonged beyond the point of tarsal insertion, tibial outer margin with 7 stout spines (4 long, 3 shorter); all other characters same as in female holotype.

Abdominal sterna with small punctures; entire punctation almost same as in female holotype. Parameres and aedeagus typical of the subfamily Cephalocteinae (Figs 3–4).

Material examined. 1 male: [Namibia]: SW Afr., Kaokoveld, Kowares, 90 miles SE Ohopoho, 3. VI. 51, No. 323; Swedish South Africa Expedition 1950-1951, Brinck – Rudebeck (in the collection of the Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, Germany).

Distribution of the species. Namibia (**first country record**), Zambia.

Conclusion. *H. ernstii* was placed within the tribe Cephalocteini of the family Cephalocteinae (Lis 2006) on the basis of similarity of its single female to dark coloured specimens of *Cephalocteus scarabaeoides* (Fabricius), and because its abdominal trichobothrial arrangement is same as in the latter (this character is regarded as crucial for defining subfamilies within the family Cydnidae – see Lis and Hohol-Kilinkiewicz 2002). The absence of a male specimen made it impossible to study male genital structures and therefore the decision was a little doubtful at that time. The present study shows that the aedeagus and parameres of *H. ernstii* are typical of the subfamily Cephalocteinae; therefore, the decision taken when the species was described is herein justifiable.