



Megymenum distanti, a new remarkable species of the Dinidoridae subfamily Megymeninae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Dinidoridae) from India

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Abstract

Megymenum distanti, a new species of the dinidorid subfamily Megymeninae, is described from India and is compared with *M. affine* and *M. brevicorne*. It is the sixth species of this genus known from India. Remarks on the habitat, where the type material was collected, photographs of the host plant and a brief description of all instars are provided. This species is of a different color as an adult and as nymphs, a situation which is unusual.

Key words: Taxonomy, Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Dinidoridae, Megymeninae, *Megymenum*, new species, *Diplocyclos palmatus*, Cucurbitaceae, India, biology

Introduction

The genus *Megymenum* GUÉRIN includes 20 species distributed in the Oriental and Australian regions, but only 5 of them have been recorded from India (ROLSTON et al., 1996; KOCOREK & LIS, 2000). The species described and illustrated in this paper is the sixth from this subcontinent.

This species was collected by the second author on the campus of the University of Pune, Pune City, Maharashtra State, India. Its description is presented below.

Megymenum distanti, new species

(Figs. 1–9)

Diagnosis. The new species is similar to *M. affine* BOISDUVAL and *M. brevicorne* (FABRICIUS) in its body outline and sculpture; nevertheless, it can easily be separated from both of these species by the characters given in the Table 1.

Description. Body dark brown with metallic tinge and light brown membrane, elongate, abdomen slightly broader than pronotum (Fig. 1).

Head punctured; paraclypei deeply concave and much longer than clypeus; preocular part swollen with small sharp process in female; eyes rounded, protruding and pedunculate, light-brown, ocelli of the same color, interocellar distance 1,8–2,1; antennae 4-segmented, 1st segment short, not reaching apex of head, 2nd long and broad, 3rd flattened and broadened, 4th spindle-shaped; rostrum same color as rest of body, reaching mid-coxae, its 1st segment extending beyond base of head, bucculae lobed, buccular surface convex and rugose, almost of the same color as head.

Pronotum generally of same color as head, with numerous fine ridges, and punctures on anterior border which is drawn forwards to form a small collar-like structure behind base of head, bearing small but sharp spines in female; antero-lateral margins rounded without processes, antero-median tuberosity large and conspicuous; lateral pronotal margins irregularly rugged with a single pointed projection; posterior pronotal angles broadly rounded; posterior pronotal margin straight at base of scutellum.