



***Australodindymus nigroruber* gen. et sp. nov. from Western Australia (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pyrrhocoridae)**

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Abstract

A new genus and species, *Australodindymus nigroruber* gen. et sp. nov., is described from the Pilbara region of Western Australia based on male, female and 5th instar nymph. This endemic genus is related to the cosmopolitan genus, *Dindymus* Stål, 1861, but differs markedly in structure of both male and female genitalia, and is the first member of the Pyrrhocoridae recorded from Western Australia.

Key words. Heteroptera, Pyrrhocoridae, taxonomy, new genus, new species, nymph, Australia

Introduction

Though Australia represents a large geographic area, its fauna of the family Pyrrhocoridae is very poor in species especially when compared with the adjacent areas of New Guinea (see e.g. Ghauri 1972; Stehlík 2005, 2006; Stehlík & Jindra 2007). The Australian Pyrrhocoridae includes only three genera and 11 species and 4 subspecies (Cassis & Gross 2002; nominotypical subspecies not counted). The genus *Dysdercus* Guérin-Ménéville, 1831 is Cosmopolitan in tropical regions with some species extending to subtropics. In Australia, *Dysdercus* is represented by two subgenera, *Leptophthalmus* Stål, 1870 (syn. *Megalodysdercus* Breddin, 1900) and *Paradysdercus* Stehlík, 1965, 5 species and 2 subspecies (Cassis & Gross 2002). The genus *Dindymus* Stål, 1861 is widely distributed in tropics of Oriental and Australian Regions, being represented in Australia by 5 species and 2 subspecies (Cassis & Gross 2002), however, taxonomic status of *D. circumcinctus tristis* Mayr, 1866, sympatric with the nominotypical subspecies, is rather weakly supported and it may represent merely its colour variation. The Australian species of *Dindymus* are currently assigned to the nominotypical subgenus based on their external morphology, however, a detailed study of their genitalia is advisable to confirm their subgeneric placement. The last genus, *Syncrotus* Bergroth, 1895, has a single species of the nominotypical subgenus, *S. (Syncrotus) circumscriptus* Bergroth, 1895 endemic to Australia (NE Queensland) (Cassis & Gross 2002); the other subgenus, *Syncrotellus* Ghauri, 1972, has several species in New Guinea and Bismarck Archipelago (Ghauri 1972). Of the fifteen species and subspecies of Australian Pyrrhocoridae, eleven taxa are distributed only in the northern tropical parts (Queensland, Northern Territory, and adjacent islands) or the adjacent coastal areas of New South Wales. Only two taxa reach the southern parts of Australia, *Dysdercus (Paradysdercus) sidae sidae* Montrouzier, 1861 (New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, Victoria) and *Dindymus (Dindymus) versicolor* (Herrich-Schaeffer, 1853) (SE coast of New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, also in New Zealand) (Cassis & Gross 2002). The remaining two taxa, *Dindymus (D.) pectoralis pectoralis* Schmidt, 1932 and *D. (D.) p. flavis* Schmidt, 1932, were described from Australia without exact locality and their distribution is still unknown (Schmidt 1932, Cassis & Gross 2002). So far no species of Pyrrhocoridae have been described or recorded from Western Australia. Here we describe a remarkable new genus and species of Pyrrhocoridae from the Pilbara region of Western Australia which is one of the main areas of endemism within the continent (see e.g. Crisp et al. 1995, Cassis & Symonds 2008). The new genus is related to the widely distributed genus *Dindymus*, but differs markedly in structure of both male and female genitalia from all described *Dindymus* species.