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Cervinotaptera guilberti n.gen., n. sp. a conspicuous apterous Mezirinae from Madagascar (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Aradidae)

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Abstract

Nine genera and 19 species of apterous Mezirinae are recorded to date from Madagascar (Heiss 2012), all of them endemic. *Cervinotaptera guilberti* n. gen., n. sp. differs from all of them by the presence of two distinct thoracic evaporation structures and the horn of a stag-like process on pronotum.

Key words: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Aradidae, Mezirinae, new genus, new species, apterous, Madagascar

Résumé

A ce jour, neuf genres et 19 espèces de Mezirinae aptères sont connus de Madagascar (Heiss, 2012), et tous sont endémiques. *Cervinotaptera guilberti* n. gen., n. sp. diffère de toutes ces espèces par la présence de deux structures thoraciques évaporatoires distinctes, et de processus en forme de «bois de cerf» sur le pronotum.

Introduction

As expected because of the isolation for long geological times, the rich diverse and mostly endemic flora and fauna already known of Madagascar proves now to be much more numerous and diverse. This is particularly true for the flat bug family Aradidae. Recent collections (e.g., by American and Czech entomologists) using malaise traps or sifting leaf- and ground litter in rainforests, now a greater number of specimens is available for study, containing several new taxa which will be described soon.

In this paper a conspicuous new genus and species are described and illustrated.

Material and methods

The specimens upon which the description is based were collected during a field survey by members of the Californian Academy of Sciences and sent to Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelles in Paris (MNHN) for study. As most apterous Carventinae and Mezirinae are covered by a waxy incrustation which obscures body structures, the specimens were carefully cleaned to show details of fused thoracic segments.

Photos (Figs.1–3) were taken through an Olympus SZX 10 binocular microscope with Olympus E 3 digital camera and processed with Helicon Focus 4.3 software and using Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom 2.3.

Measurements were taken with a micrometer eyepiece, 40 units = 1 mm.

Abbreviations used: deltg = dorsal external laterotergite (connexivum), mtg = mediotergite, vltg = ventral laterotergite, pe-angle = posteroexterior angle (of deltg).

The holotype will be deposited in the collection of the Californian Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the paratype in that of Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN).