

A new genus and six new species of ground-dwelling leafhoppers from Chile and New Zealand (Hemiptera: Cicadomorpha: Myerslopiidae)

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Abstract

A new genus, *Mapuchea* gen. nov. from Chile, is described with *Myerslopiia chilensis* NIELSON, 1996 (type species) and two new species (*Mapuchea burckhardti* sp. nov. and *Mapuchea hamiltoni* sp. nov.). The nymphs of an unidentified species of *Mapuchea* are also described. Four new species of the New Zealand genus *Myerslopiia* Ev. (*M. rakiuraensis* sp. nov., *M. whakatipuensis* sp. nov., *M. tawhai* sp. nov. and *M. tearohai*) are described. Additional data on the distribution of some species of the genus *Pemmation* HMLT. are also presented.

Key words: *Mapuchea* gen. nov., *M. burckhardti* sp. nov., *M. hamiltoni* sp. nov., *Myerslopiia rakiuraensis* sp. nov., *M. whakatipuensis* sp. nov., *M. tawhai* sp. nov., *M. tearohai* sp. nov., Myerslopiidae, Hemiptera, Chile, New Zealand, distribution

Introduction

The family Myerslopiidae is a small group of curious, Southern Hemisphere leafhoppers, once believed to be members of Ulopidae (Evans 1947, 1957, Linnavuori 1972, Knight 1973, Oman et al. 1990). The group was raised to family level by Hamilton (1999), who also established a second genus (*Pemmation* Hamilton, 1999) and discussed the characters of the family and its phylogenetic relationships. The morphological nomenclature in this group is not stable and homologies not clear, so morphological terms used below follow Mejdalani (1998), Rakitov (1998) and Hamilton (1999).

The Myerslopiidae are small cryptic insects, known as ground-dwelling leafhoppers. These insects can be characterised by the following combination of features: head with foliaceous anterior margin, with humps on face and vertex; pronotum with winglike expansions, so-called paranota; coriaceous tegmina with distinct prominences and densely punctate, each puncture with a setiferous tubercle; hind wings lacking; mesocoxae with