

A revision of the *Varta-Stymphalus* generic complex of the leafhopper tribe Scaphytopiini (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) from the Old World

C.A. VIRAKTAMATH

Department of Entomology, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore 560 065, India

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Abstract

The genus *Varta* Distant (type species: *Varta rubrofasciata* Distant) is often treated as a junior synonym of *Stymphalus* Stål (type species: *Platymetopius rubrolineatus* Stål). Several species from the Oriental region have been misidentified either as *S. rubrolineatus* (Stål) or as *S. rubrostriatus* (Horváth). All these species are treated here as belonging to the *Varta-Stymphalus* generic complex and are analyzed. The genus *Stymphalus* is redefined to include only the type species, *S. rubrolineatus* (Stål), and the genus is restricted to the Afrotropical region. The genus *Varta* is more widespread and is distributed in the Oriental and Palaearctic regions. The following new taxa are described and their distributions given in parentheses. *Shivania* gen. nov., *S. serrata* sp. nov. (type species; Kenya); *Varta bifida* sp. nov. (Thailand), *V. japonica* sp. nov. (Japan and S. China), *V. longula* sp. nov. (Australia and Papua New Guinea), *V. sympatrica* sp. nov. (S. China), *Vartalapa* gen. nov., *V. curvata* sp. nov. (China: Fujian), *V. malayana* sp. nov. (Malaysia), and *V. robusta* sp. nov. (type species; Laos and Thailand); *Vartatopa* gen. nov., *Vartatopa bifurcata* sp. nov. (type species; Thailand); *Xenovarta* gen. nov., *X. acuta* sp. nov. (type species; S. China), *X. ankusha* sp. nov. (China: Guangdong), *X. compressa* sp. nov. (Sabah), *X. cylindrica* sp. nov. (Cambodia and Vietnam), and *X. harpago* sp. nov. (Sabah and Laos). *Stymphalus modesta* Linnavuori is transferred to the genus *Shivania*. *Platymetopius rubrovittatus* Matsumura and *Deltocephalus rubrolineatus* Motschulsky are transferred to the genus *Varta* and the former is considered a valid species. All taxa are described and illustrated. Keys to the included genera and species are also provided.

Key words: *Varta*, *Stymphalus*, new taxa, Scaphytopiini, leafhoppers

Introduction

The leafhoppers, family Cicadellidae, form one of the largest families of the order Hemiptera, containing more than 30,000 described species. They are found in all zoogeographical regions. Being exclusively phytophagous, they cause considerable damage to economically important plants both by feeding and oviposition injuries. In addition, they transmit plant disease organisms such as viruses, bacteria, and phytoplasmas (Nielson, 1979; Conti, 1985; and Purcell, 1985). It is this role as vectors that make them most serious pests of agricultural crops.

About 40 subfamilies of leafhoppers are recognized (Oman *et al.* 1990). Of these the subfamily Deltocephalinae contains the largest number of species followed by Typhlocybinae. The tribal classification of the Deltocephalinae is still in a fluid state. However, any-