



A new genus and species of the Mirine plant bug (Hemiptera: Miridae: Mirinae) from South Korea

YOUNG JAE CHO¹ & YONG JUNG KWON²

¹Gumi Branch office, Yeongnam Regional Office, National Plant Quarantine Service, Gumi, South Korea.

E-mail: jo0282@hanmail.net

²School of Applied Biology & Chemistry, Kyungpook National University, Daegu, South Korea.

E-mail: yjkwon@knu.ac.kr

This paper describes a unique new mirine plant bug collected in Jeollanamdo province and Gyeongsangbukdo province, South Korea. This mirid, which represents a new genus of the tribe Mirini, exhibits external features such as an oval body, a vertex without transverse carina, an impunctate pronotum, and hemelytra that are shallowly punctate with blackish short pubescence. Although somewhat similar externally to certain species of the genus *Lygocorides* Yasunaga, the new mirid differs substantially with respect to the structure of the male genitalia; in particular, the vesica possesses a peculiar bundle of spinelike spicules and coiled-branched lobe-sclerites. Several external diagnostic characters also support the placement of this species into a new genus.

The terminology used in this study follows that of Schuh & Slater (1995) and Yasunaga *et al.* (2007). All measurements are in millimeters. Type series are deposited in the collection of the School of Applied Biology & Chemistry, Kyungpook National University, South Korea.

***Koreocoris* CHO et KWON, gen. nov.**

Type species: *Koreocoris bicoloratus* CHO et KWON, sp. nov.

Description. Body oval; dorsal surface clothed with dense black hairs. Head vertical, with black erect pubescence; vertex without basal transverse carina, not sulcate longitudinally. Antenna rather short and slender; 1st segment slightly shorter than head width including eyes; 2nd segment somewhat tapered apically and shorter than pronotal width; 3rd segment about half as thick as 2nd; 4th segment slightly longer than 1st. Labium reaching middle coxae.

Pronotum shining, not punctate, densely covered with black suberect hairs, lateral margin not carinate; collar broad, about as thick as 1st antennal segment, with erect black hairs. Mesoscutum clothed with blackish decumbent pubescence; scutellum shining, weakly punctate, bearing blackish suberect hairs. Hemelytra shining, irregularly and shallowly punctate, with uniform blackish brown hairs; cuneus 1.2 times as long as basal width. Legs pale brown; femora with two narrow dark rings apically and one wide dark ring medially, tibiae with longitudinal stripe at 1/3 apically, tibial spines black; 3rd tarsomere dark brown.

Male genitalia (Figs. 3–6): Genital segment densely covered with erect hairs. Left paramere strongly curved (Fig. 4); sensory lobe well developed, widely projecting, with long hairs; hypophysis hooked at apex (Fig. 5). Right paramere almost straight, with blunt hypophysis (Fig. 6). Vesica with bundle of spinelike spicules, a ventral wingshaped sclerite and a lateral coiled-branched lobe-sclerite (Fig. 3): gonopore with distinct rim; ejaculatory duct somewhat widened subapically. Phallosome with tubercle along apical margin.

Female genitalia: The abdomens of two female specimens were flattened; the reason for this is unknown. We therefore failed to observe the female genitalia.

Discussion. This new genus is characterized by an oval body, a vertex lacking transverse carina, an impunctate pronotum, hemelytra shallowly punctate with a blackish short pubescence, and a peculiarly shaped vesica. Somewhat resembling the Palaearctic genus *Lygocorides* Yasunaga (1991) at first sight, this genus appears to be related to a member of the *Lygus* Complex. However, this unique genus is not member of the *Lygus* Complex. As mentioned by Yasunaga *et al.* (2002), the *Lygus* Complex is characterized by a pronotum more or less distinctly punctate (if pronotal punctuation is indistinct, then it has a vertex with distinct transverse basal carina). *Lygocorides* agrees with this diagnostic character