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Notes on the Papua New Guinea genus *Cheronella* Miller (Hemiptera: Reduviidae: Reduviinae), with a redescription of its little known type species

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Abstract

The monotypic Papua New Guinea genus *Cheronella* Miller is reexamined. The diagnostic characters of the genus are modified and its little known type species, *Cheronella stuberi* Miller, 1955, is redescribed. The characters of male genitalia are reported for the first time. The dorsal habitus, head, male genitalia, and other diagnostic morphological features are illustrated.

Key words: Reduviidae, Reduviinae, *Cheronella*, new species, Papua New Guinea

Introduction

Cheronella, a monotypic reduviine genus, was established by Miller in 1955 with *C. stuberi* Miller as type species. This genus is very similar to the genera *Neocheronea* Miller 1955, *Cheronea* Stål 1863, and *Korinchocoris* Miller 1941 in the wide and raised veins on the corium and the bifurcate vein Cu of the corium. All these genera are narrowly distributed in the Oriental Region and show a low level of specific diversity (*Korinchocoris* with 5 species, *Neocheronea* with 2 species, and *Cheronea* and *Cheronella* are monotypic). These genera may form a monophyletic group with the above synapomorphic characters. In a study of the Papua New Guinea reduviids in the collection of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, we found a specimen of the little known species *C. stuberi* Miller. The identity of this species was confirmed by comparison of images with the type by Mr. M. D. Webb. To facilitate the future correct identification of the species we here redescribe the male, and illustrate its important morphological features. No information is available at present on the biology of this species except that the specimen examined here was attracted to light.

Material and methods

The study material was collected using diverse methods (e.g., fogging, light trap…) by Dr. Olivier Missa during a biodiversity studies on the Curculionidae (Coleoptera) in the canopy of the Baiteta Forest, Papua New Guniea. Male genitalia was soaked in hot 10% potassium hydroxide solution for approximately 5 minutes to remove soft tissue, rinsed in distilled water, and dissected under a Motic binocular dissecting microscope. All drawings were traced with the aid of a camera lucida. Dissected genitalia was placed in a vial with glycerin and pined under the corresponding specimen. Morphological terminology mainly follows that of

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