



New species of the leafhopper genus *Drabescus* Stål (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Selenocephalinae) from Papua New Guinea

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Abstract

Five new species of the leafhopper genus *Drabescus* Stål, *D. longispinus*, *D. bifurcatus*, *D. bicornis*, *D. wauensis* and *D. brevispinus*, **spp. nov.**, are described and illustrated from Papua New Guinea. A check-list and key to the species from Papua New Guinea are given.

Key words: Insecta, Homoptera, Auchenorrhyncha, morphology, taxonomy, distribution

The Old World drabescine leafhopper genus *Drabescus* (Hemiptera, Cicadellidae, Selenocephalinae) was established by Stål in 1870 for its type species *Bythoscopus remotus* Walker. It is now a large genus comprising 45 previously described species, of which all but its type species (from Africa) occur in Asia and the Pacific. Of these, four species *D. brunneus*, *D. feraminensis*, *D. gressitti* and *D. sirunkensis* were described from Papua New Guinea by Evans (1972). In the present paper, we describe five new species from Papua New Guinea, bringing the total number of species in the genus to 50 including nine from the study area (see Check-list below). Although species of the genus are very diverse in the male genitalia, Zhang & Webb (1996) found conflicting evidence of relationship and placed all species in the one genus (*Drabescus*) pending further studies. This genus and one other (*Rengatella* Zhang & Webb) are here considered the only members of the tribe Drabescini Ishihara. This tribe and Paraboloponini Ishihara (the latter containing, numerous genera) were synonymised by Dmitriev (2004) based on adult and nymphal similarity, but Drabescini can still be defined (and therefore may still be monophyletic) based on the adult characters given by Zhang & Webb (1996: 23).

The type specimens of the new species are kept in Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Hawaii, USA (BPBM), Museum Naturalis, Leiden, Netherlands (MNL), Saitama University, Japan (SU) and The Natural History Museum, London, U. K. (BMNH).

Check-list of *Drabescus* species from Papua New Guinea

bicornis n. sp.

bifurcatus n. sp.

brevispinus n. sp.

brunneus Evans, 1972: 198–199, fig. 11j; Zhang & Webb, 1996, figs 431–435, 519.

feraminensis Evans, 1972: 198, fig. 11h; Zhang & Webb, 1996, figs 446–449, 534.

gressitti Evans, 1972: 198, figs 11c–e; Zhang & Webb, 1996, figs 436–439, 535.