

**The first species of *Systelloderes*
(Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Enicocephalidae)
from New Caledonia**

Pavel ŠTYS¹⁾ & Petr BAŇAŘ²⁾

¹⁾ Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science, Department of Zoology, Viničná 7, CZ-128 44 Praha 2, Czech Republic; e-mail: pavelstys@gmail.com

²⁾ Department of Forest Protection, Forestry and Game Management Research Institute, Jíloviště – Strnady, CZ-156 04 Praha 5 – Zbraslav, Czech Republic; e-mail: petrbanar@seznam.cz

Abstract. The first species of the genus *Systelloderes* Blanchard 1852, from New Caledonia, *S. loebli* sp. nov., is described. The generic classification is tentative, and only the diagnostic autapomorphies are stressed, since the rich Oriental, Papuan, and Australian faunas of *Systelloderes* have not been studied and most species remain undescribed. The fore leg of the female of *S. loebli* sp. nov. is characterized by the presence of a long, erect ventral scale on the fore coxa (unique among the Enicocephalomorpha), and the occurrence of neopatella (new term, = sclerites within the femoro-tibial intersegmental membrane at the site of the lost patellar limb segment). A rasp-shaped sculpture on the fore coxa is interpreted as a stridulitrum rubbing against the edges of the prosternum, which acts as a plectrum.

Key words. Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Enicocephalidae, taxonomy, *Systelloderes loebli*, New Caledonia, morphology, neopatella, limb segmentation, stridulation

Introduction

In this paper we describe a new species of the Enicocephalidae, subfamily Enicocephalinae, from New Caledonia. The species is tentatively assigned to the probably Cosmopolitan genus *Systelloderes* Blanchard 1852. This discovery has been expected but is of particular interest for three reasons. First, this is the first *Systelloderes* in the Eastern Hemisphere outside the Afrotropical, Madagascan, and New Zealand regions. Second, the female fore leg shows several autapomorphies so far unknown in the Enicocephalomorpha. Lastly, the sculpture of the fore coxa is tentatively interpreted as used for stridulation – the first case within the infraorder.