

**The external morphology of eggs of three Rhopalidae  
species (Hemiptera: Heteroptera)  
with a review of the eggs of this family**

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**Abstract.** The external morphology of eggs and manner of oviposition of three rhopalid species, *Brachycarenum tigrinus* (Schilling, 1829), *Chorosoma schillingi* (Schilling, 1829) and *Rhopalus (Aeschyntelus) maculatus* (Fieber, 1837) are described. The eggs were studied using Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), and the results complete previous observations. The emphasis of the study is on the characteristics of eggs and details of oviposition in representatives of the family Rhopalidae. The chorionic origin of attachment stalk was confirmed only in the Chorosomatini. A completely smooth egg chorion was recognized in *R. (A.) maculatus*, as a unique condition within at least the Pentatomomorpha.

**Key words.** Rhopalidae, Rhopalini, Chorosomatini, *Brachycarenum tigrinus*, *Chorosoma schillingi*, *Rhopalus (Aeschyntelus) maculatus*, egg structure, micropylar processes, chorion, attachment stalk, oviposition

### Introduction

Heteroptera eggs have a stable shape due to a sclerotized chorion. Egg morphology is helpful for taxonomic and phylogenetic purposes. The morphology of heteropteran eggs varies distinctly among taxa; for details see two monographs: SOUTHWOOD (1956) and COBBEN (1968). Both authors mentioned that the eggs of the coreoid family Rhopalidae have a specific morphological pattern (e.g. two micropylar processes). COBBEN (1968) not only compared the morphology of heteropteran eggs but made phylogenetic inferences from their important characters.

The eggs of several rhopalid genera and species have been described and/or illustrated. However, the descriptions are mostly brief with simplified illustrations such as line drawings (e.g. PANIZZI et al. (2005): *Jadera choprai* Göllner-Scheiding, 1979; PASKEWITZ & MCPHERSON