

**METACANTHUS TRANSVAALENSIS, SP. N.—A NEW STILT-BUG
FROM SOUTH AFRICA (HETEROPTERA, BERYTIDAE)**

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Derivatio nominis: This new species is named *M. transvaalensis* from the territory in South Africa where it has been found.

Locus typicus: Africa meridionalis, Transvaal, Johannesburg, 27. IV. 1952, leg. F. Zumpt (17 ♂♂, 19 ♀♀).

Holotype (♂), **allotype** (♀) and 10 **paratypes** (5 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀) in collections of the Moravian Museum in Brno; 24 **paratypes** (11 ♂♂, 13 ♀♀) in coll. J. M. Štusák.

Diagnosis: This new species belongs to the group of *Metacanthus*-species having legs and antennae annulated with black, the hemielytra not shortened and having a black stripe on each lateral side of the head. It is a species of medium size having the second antennal joint slightly shorter than the third; the fourth one is approximately 0.5 times shorter than the second. The ventral side of the head and thorax is not black.

Description: General colour isabelline, the legs and antennae with black spots being mostly of an annular shape. The dark rings are of irregular shape and also their number varies; the annulations are much narrower than the yellowish spaces among them.

The head is about 1.4 to 1.5 times as long as its maximal width; it is approximately as long as the maximal width of the pronotum. Vertex of the head convex, the anteocellary sulcus arch-shaped. Ocelli reddish, the distance between the ocellus and the posterior margin of the eye is approximately the same as the distance between the ocelli. The eyes are brown-black. On the lateral sides of the head there is a curved blackish stripe running from the posterior margin of the eye (from the anteocellary sulcus in other words) backwards and continuing on the lateral sides of the anterior lobe of the pronotum. The rostrum reaches approximately the posterior margins of the middle coxae. The first rostral joint does not reach to the anterior margin of the prothorax but approximately to the level of the ocelli. The rostrum is straw-yellow, only the apex of the fourth rostral joint and a very narrow median stripe running along the whole length of the dorsal side of the rostrum are black. (When the rostrum is closed to the ventral body side, this black stripe is situated on the under side.) Relation of the rostral joints: 11:10:5:12 = 0.47 mm.: 0.43 mm.: 0.26 mm.: 0.51 mm. The antennae are only a little longer than the body. The first antennal joint is slightly shorter than the second and

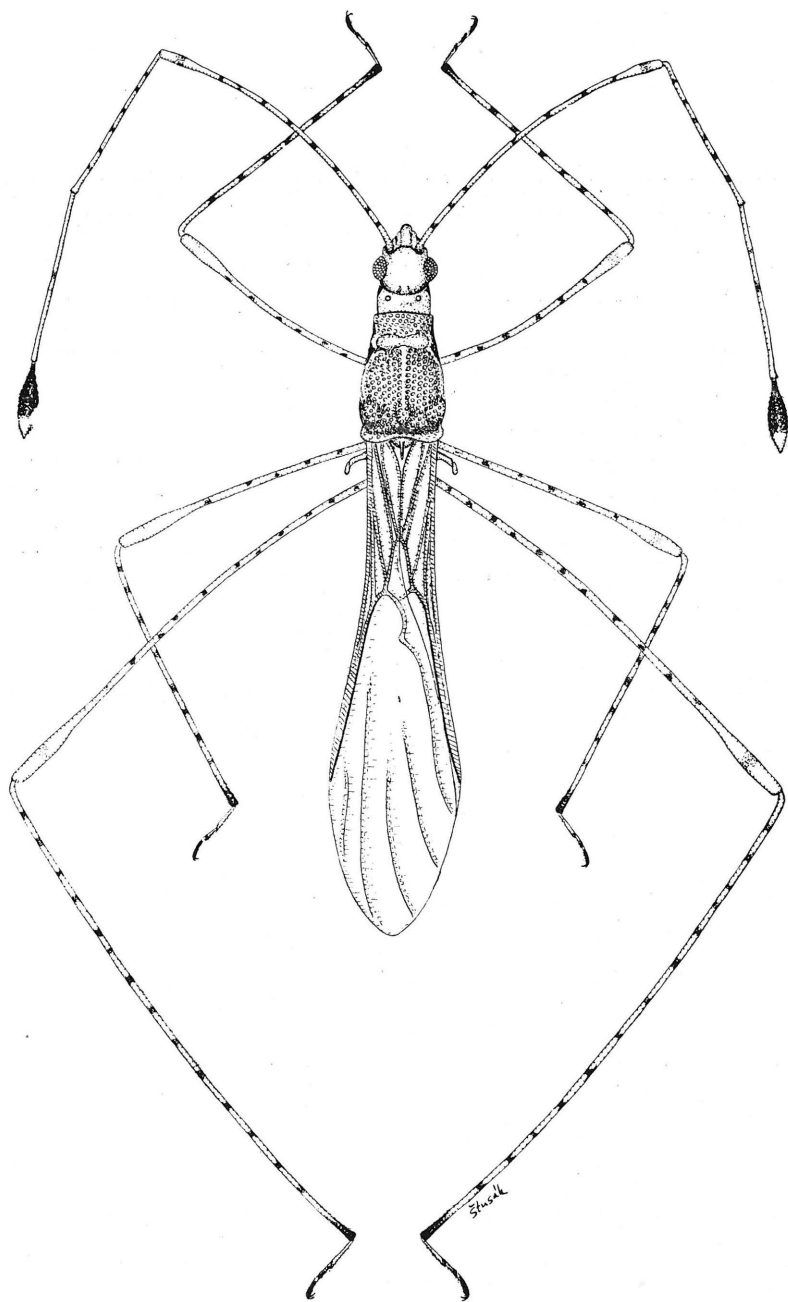


Fig. 1. *Metacanthus transvaalensis*, sp. n.

third joints together, annulated with black-brown, its apex clavate. The number of blackish annulations varies. The apical clava often with wide dark brown ring at its middle, but the apex is light. The second antennal joint is a little longer than half of the first, but it is somewhat shorter than the third joint. The apices of the second and third joints moderately enlarged. The dark annulation varies and it is often poorly distinct. The annulation of the third joint is somewhat lighter and it may be absent sometimes (e. g. in holotypus). The fourth antennal joint is wide, spindle-shaped as in the related species, but it is about half the length of the second joint, black with the apical fourth white-yellow.

Pronotum a little more than 1.4 times as long as its maximal width, roughly punctate; its anterior margin is very moderately convex — or almost straight, posterior margin considerably concave. The humeral angles with moderate elevations and the third similar elevation is situated medially between the humeral ones. Into the median elevation falls the striking median carina beginning beyond the callosities of the anterior pronotal lobe; the callosities situated on the anterior lobe of the pronotum are connected with each other having a longish oval shape narrowed in the middle. The two less conspicuous lateral carinae, better visible in lateral view, ending in front of the humeral elevations.

Scutellum armed with a long slender spine directed obliquely backwards; the spine is about half as long as the posterior margin of the pronotum. The processes of the odoriferous apertures extending far beyond the level of the hemielytra, recurved backwards and moderately enlarged at their tips.

Tibiae longer than femora, femora with clubbed apices, apices of the tibiae moderately enlarged. Femora with irregular black spots, tibiae with narrow dark annulations and dark apices. The first tarsal joint is the longest one, the third is black and longer than the second.

Hemielytra longer (mostly ♂♂), as long, or also moderately shorter (mostly ♀♀) than the abdomen, light straw-yellow, only the inner margin of the prolonged part of corium with a very narrow black line.

Dorsal and also ventral side of the abdomen yellowish.

Measurements: Total length of body 4.63 mm. to 5.00 mm., length of head 0.55 mm. to 0.61 mm., width of head 0.12 mm. to 0.13 mm., length of pronotum 0.80 mm. to 0.98 mm., width of pronotum 0.55 mm. to 0.68 mm., length of antenna 4.86 mm. to 5.52 mm. (I: II: III: IV = 2.04 mm. to 2.33 mm.: 1.06 mm. to 1.27 mm.: 1.15 mm. to 1.32 mm.: 0.51 mm. to 0.60 mm.).

Holotype: Total length of body 4.72 mm., length of head 0.57 mm., width of head 0.40 mm., length of pronotum 0.85 mm., width of pronotum 0.60 mm., length of antenna 4.86 mm. Relation of antennal joints 49: 25: 27.5: 13 = 2.08 mm.: 1.06 mm.: 1.17 mm.: 0.55 mm.

leg	femur	tibia	tarsus
anterior	1.57 mm.	1.79 mm.	0.51 mm.
middle	1.83 mm.	2.04 mm.	0.51 mm.
posterior	2.89 mm.	3.74 mm.	0.59 mm.

Discussion: As far as previously known there were two species of the genus *Metacanthus* Costa 1838 on the African continent: *M. picticornis* (Noualhier) 1898, described from Senegal and *M. tenerrimus* (Bergroth) 1912, described from Madagascar and found later in Ruanda-Urundi (Schouteden 1957). *M. picticornis* (Noualh.) has according to Noualhier's (1898) description, inter alia, the following characters: "...articulus

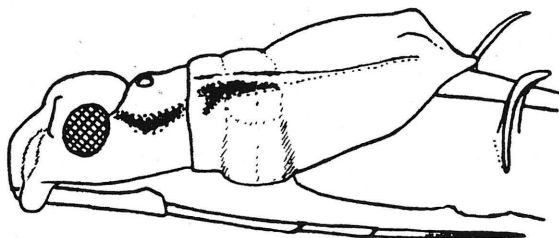


Fig. 2. *Metacanthus transvaalensis*, sp. n. Lateral view.

ultimus antennarum eburneus... antennae corpore duplo longiores...", etc. *M. transvaalensis*, sp. n. differs from *M. picticornis* by the absence of the charactes mentioned above and by its somewhat smaller size. It differs from *M. tenerrimus* by the black annulation of its legs and antennae; the legs and antennae are light and unicolorous in *M. tenerrimus*.

In similar way it may be distinguished from *M. pertenerus* (Breddin) 1907 (India, Ceylon), *M. pluto* Gross 1950 (Australia — Queensland) and *M. ataoënsis* Lindberg 1958 (Isl. Cab Verde). From *M. gibberosus* Horváth 1922 (Formosa) and *M. pusillus* (Horváth) 1912 (Java) which have also a black stripe on the lateral sides of the head it differs mainly by its larger size and by the different relationships of the antennal joints. From *M. nigristernus* (Blöte) 1945 (Java) by smaller its size and in not having the ventral side of the head and thorax black. It differs from the other *Metacanthus*-species which also have the legs and antennae annulated with brown or black by not having the second antennal joint longer than the third, and the fourth joint of the antennae approximately half the length of the second one, whilst in them the fourth antennal joint is one-third or one-fourth as long as the second joint.

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