

**NEW METACANTHUS-SPECIES FROM EAST AFRICA
(HETEROPTERA, BERYTIDAE)**

By

JOSEF M. ŠTUSÁK

(Department of Zoology, University of Agriculture, Prague)

Among the material of Berytidae in the collections of the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren (Belgique) which was discussed in the preceding paper (Štusák 1965) there was found a *Metacanthus*-species from East Africa. In the present paper this species is described as new.

***Metacanthus microphthalmus*, sp. n.**

(Fig. 1, 2)

Derivation of name: This species is named *M. microphthalmus* in reference to its having very small eyes in comparison with the other species of this genus.

Type locality: East Africa, Kenya, Taweta (Lumi river).

Diagnosis: This new species belongs to the group of *Metacanthus*-species having the legs (except apices of tarsi) and antennae (except the fourth antennal joint) unicolorous pale, i. e. without any dark spots or annulations. Hemelytra well developed — not shortened; the species is of small size and the fourth antennal joint is 2.6 times shorter than the third.

Description: General colour straw-yellow (isabelline) only the basal two thirds of the fourth antennal joint, eyes, apices of tarsi, tip of the rostrum and a very narrow line running on the inner margin of the prolonged portion of the corium are black or black-brown. The head is only moderately shorter than the pronotum is wide (almost equal) and 1.26 times as long as wide over the eyes. Eyes are relatively very small. The distance between the posterior margin of the eye and the ocellus is a little shorter than the distance between the ocelli. Vertex of the head is very little vaulted (fig. 2). Antennae are almost 1.3 times longer than the body. The first antennal joint is club-shaped at its apex, a little shorter than the second and third together, second joint a little longer than the third; fourth joint spindle-shaped and black with apical third whitish. It is approximately 2.6 times shorter than the third one. Relation of antennal joints: I: II: III: IV = 64: 36: 31: 12. Rostrum with blackish tip reaching between the posterior coxae. The first rostral joint is the widest one and it does not reach to the anterior margin of the prothorax; it reaches only to the level of ocelli. Relation of rostral joints: I: II: III: IV = 11: 10: 6: 9.

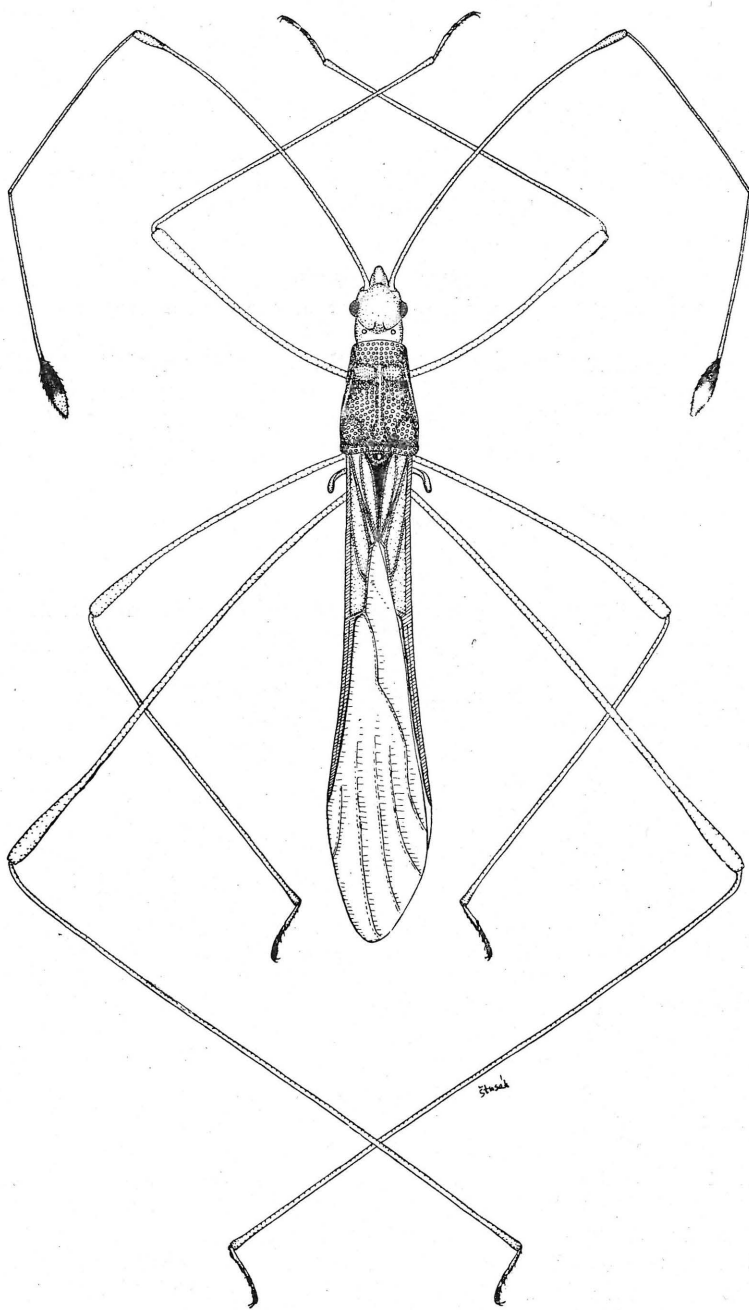


Fig. 1. *Metacanthus microphthalmus*, sp. n.

Pronotum is almost 1.5 times as long as wide, coarsely punctured. Anterior margin of the pronotum is straight (moderately convex), the posterior margin concave bended medially and curved obliquely upwards. The humeral angles moderately elevated, between them a median small moderate elevation of prolonged shape is situated. A median longitudinal carina beginning between the callosities on the anterior pronotal lobe runs into the median elevation. Two moderately marked lateral carinae beginning near the lateral margins of the pronotal callosities are also situated on the pronotum. Scutellum armed with a long spine which is directed upwards being almost perpendicular to the surface of body (spine in holotypus partially broken). The odoriferous ostiolar processes extending far

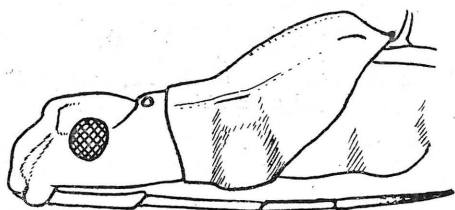


Fig. 2. *Metacanthus microphthalmus*, sp. n., lateral view.

beyond the level of the hemielytra, archedly recurved at their apices. Tibiae longer than femora, femora clavate at their apices. Also distal ends of tibiae moderately enlarged. The first tarsal joint a little longer than the second and third together, the second one shorter than the third. Apices of tarsi black-brown. In male the hemielytra longer than the abdomen. The dorsal side of the abdomen with a narrow median stripe of clear red colour. This stripe, however, ends on the penultimate tergite, so that it is absent on the last tergite.

Measurements: (holotypus) Length of body (to the apex of hemielytra) 4.72 mm., length of head 0.51 mm., width of head 0.40 mm., length of pronotum 0.81 mm., width of pronotum 0.55 mm., length of antenna 6.08 mm. (I: II: III: IV = 2.72 mm.: 1.53 mm.: 1.32 mm.: 0.51 mm.).

leg	femur	tibia	tarsus
anterior	1.70 mm.	2.00 mm.	0.43 mm.
middle	1.87 mm.	2.30 mm.	0.43 mm.
posterior	3.40 mm.	4.29 mm.	0.46 mm.

Material examined: holotype — male: Africa orient., Kenya, Taweta (Lumi river), 27. 6. 1912, leg. Dr. Bayer. Holotype in collections of the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren (Belgique).

Discussion: As far as was hitherto known there were four species of the genus *Metacanthus* Costa 1838 with unicolorous, i. e. legs and antennae without annulations: *M. ataoënsis* Lindberg 1958 (Isl. Cab Verde), *M. pluto* Gross 1950 (Queensland — Australia), *M. pertenerus* (Breddin) 1907 (India, Ceylon) and *M. tenerimus* (Bergroth) 1912 (Madagascar, Burundi).

Metacanthus microphthalmus, sp. n. differs considerably from all these species especially in having the eyes much smaller. It differs from the species *M. ataoënsis* by the absence of narrow black annulations on the base of the first antennal joint, in its smaller size, in longer femora and tibiae, by shorter fourth antennal joint and in having the head longer than three quarters of pronotum. *M. microphthalmus*, sp. n. differs from *M. pluto*, inter alia, in much smaller size, in lighter colour and in relation of the antennal joints (in *M. pluto* III:IV = 3.6; in *M. microphthalmus*, sp. n. III:IV = 2.6). It differs from *M. pertenerus* by its smaller size and the relation of the antennal joints, and from *M. tenerrimus* especially in having the vertex much less vaulted, etc.

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