NOTES ON SOME GENERA OF HETEROPTERA

by E. Bergroth

Fam. PENTATOMIDÆ

1. Scylax Dist. — This genus contains but one species: porrectus Dist. /macrinus Dist.). In trying to refute this well founded synonymy Distant (Entomologist 1911, p. 23) resorts to an amusing trick, to put it very mildly. He makes the unnecessary statement that his types of these species were both females (which was clear from the figures), and now describes the male genital segment of porrectus, and then says: «this effectually (?)» disposes of the contention of Breddin (Wien. Ent. Zeit. XXVI, p. 93 [1907]), repeated by Kirkaldy (Cat. Hem. I, p. 371, 1909), that S. porrectus, Dist., and S. macrinus, Dist., were the sexes of one species. » It is, I think, the first time that Distant describes the genital segment of an insect, and we have to be thankful for it, but with the description and the quoted remark he entirely misses his aim. As the places where Breddin and Kirkaldy speak of this genus are correctly cited, Distant has evidently read them, and thus knows quite well that neither Breddin nor Kirkaldy have ever said that porrectus and macrinus are the sexes of one species. Breddin simply says that he had received a long series of specimens, showing all transitions between porrectus and macrinus, and that macrinus is only a subbrachypterous form of porrectus — a conclusion with which I entirely agree — and Kirkaldy only says, without quoting Breddin, that he had seen specimens and that the two species «are the same». Mr. Distant too often forgets his own maxim: «any approach to misrepresentation should be avoided» (Cfr. Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg. 1911, p. 230). If he wants to show that porrectus and macrinus are distinct, he has to describe either the male or the female genital segment of both «species», and show where the difference is. Nobody doubts that the male genital segment of a species is different from the female one.

2. Sepontia Stål. — It seems to me that Distant on good reasons has separated Eusarcororis Leveddi Le Guill. and two other species as a distinct genus, Neostollia, but also the allied genus Sepontia must in my opinion be divided into two genera, Sepontia Stål, and Coenina Walk (which corresponds to Stål's division a of Sepontia). In Sepontia the scutellum is considerably
narrower, leaving the lateral parts of the abdomen and a great part of the corium uncovered, and slightly narrowing backward at the very base with short frena, then parallel through a short distance before being moderately amplified. In Caenina the scutellum is strongly amplified from the very base, without frena, and covering a greater part of the corium and the posterior part of the abdomen. Sepontia is known only from Africa (in the eastern part of which its only species is common); to Caenina belong the Asiatic and Australian species hitherto placed in Sepontia, excepting S. australis Schout. which probably is a Neostolida. As the name Caenina is preoccupied (Felder, Lepidoptera, 1861), I propose for Walker's genus the name Spermatodes.

*Spermatodes granum* n. sp. — Nitidus, niger, ëænesens, modice dense fortiusculum, in capite subtilius punctatus, area exteriori pro-et mesopleurarum segmentoque genitali maris subsumido levibus; supras transversaliter et praesertim longitudinaliter valde convexus, e latere visus ante medium rotundato-declivis, pone partem plus quam tertiam basalem scutellum planato-declivis, subitus transversaliter sat fortiter, longitudinaliter parum convexus, macula transversa subapicali pronoti, margine laterali prothoracis ab apice ultra medium, maculis tribus subbasaliibus scutelli (media transversa a margine basali paulum distante, lateralibus longitudinaliter ovalibus nonnihil intra angulos basales positis et marginem basalem subiugentibus), maculis tribus apicalibus diffusis et subconfluentibus scutelli, margine costalii corii cum epipleura angulique postico metapleurarum flavis, antennis, rostro pedibusque flavo-testaceis, coxis et trochanteribus piceis. Caput ante oculos leviter sinuatum, antennis medium abdominis superantibus, articulis secundo et tertio subaequilongis, quarto duobus praecedentibus unitis æque longo, quinto quarto distincte longiore, elongato-fusiformi. Pronotum capite triplo latius, marginibus lateralis anticus rectis, angulis lateralis parum prominulis, anguste rotundatis. Scutellum pone medium abdomini æque latum. Excoriun maxim extra venam radiale serie unica punctorum praeditum. Segmentum sextum ventrale maris medio duobus praecedentibus unitis subæque longum. — Long. Cº 1.9 mill., lat. 1.8 mill.

Ins. Philippineæ (Los Baños, C. F. Baker).

This very distinct species is the smallest Pentatomoid bug hitherto known from the Old World. (From Venezuela I know a still smaller undescribed Pentatomid).

3. **Acrosternum** Frieb. — Stål (Enum. Hem. V, p. 63) maintained Acrosternum as a genus distinct from Nezara, but distinguished it from this genus almost only by the absence of the black

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streak under the lateral margin of the head. This character is, of course, of no generic value, and in consequence of this limitation of the genus he referred only three Asiatic species to it, besides the type. It has since been united with Nezara. Yet Acrosternum is in my opinion a perfectly valid genus, readily separable from Nezara by the structure of the metasternal orifice which are always of great importance in the systematic arrangement of the Pentato-
midae.

**Nezara** Am. S.: Orificia brevia, latiuscula, medium metapleure non aut vix attingentia, apice abrupta et levissime elevata, in rugam seu plicam non continuata, rarissime perbrevia, subauricu-
lata.

**Acrosternum** FERR.: Orificia in rugam seu plicam longam angus-
tam, apice acutam, angulum postero-lateralem mesopleure固定的
te attingentem, oblique extrorsum et antorsum continuata.

The conclusive proof that they are distinct genera has been given by SHARP (Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1890, p. 406-408, pl. XIII, figs. 11, 12, 16, 17) who has studied in detail the inner male genital segment and its appendages of Nezara viridula L., an unnamed Acrosternum from Madagascar allied to acutum DALL. (it is the recently described *A. spicatum* DALL.) and the American *Acrosternum marginatum* P. B. While the two geographically widely separated species of Acrosternum are very similar in the structure of the male genital segment, the Nezara is in this respect so totally different that Sharp says he doubts whether they can be correctly placed in the same genus.

To Nezara belong the species placed by STAL (Enum. Hem. V, p. 81) in his division a of this genus. No American species, except the cosmopolitan *viridula*, belong to Nezara.

To Acrosternum belong the species of STAL's division *a* (loc. cit.) and all American species wrongly placed by KIRKALDY (Cat., p. 116-117) in the « typical subgenus » of Nezara (except *viridula*).

**Polleca** STAL, which STAL regarded as a subgenus, is generally distinct by the structure of the pronotal apical margin, the base of the venter, and the quite different coloration.

**Banasa** STAL (including *Atomosira* UHL.) is distinct from Acro-
stemum by different puncture and habitus; the KIRK. can be main-
tained as a subgenus of Banasa.

I have not seen *Menida Gerstnerkeri* BERG. since I described it some twenty years ago, and the type is in the Paris museum, but although the apical margin of the pronotum is narrowly levigated and slightly elevated, there can be no doubt that it is an Acrosternum allied to *A. vinapsus* DALL.
Acrosternum Horvathi Bergr. stands in some collections under
the name punctatorugosum Stål. These species are closely allied,
but Horvathi is at once distinguished by the absence of smooth
callous spots on the pronotum, the black (not red) lateral margin
of the upper side of the head, pronotum, and basal part of
corium, and by the bicolorous legs. Horvathi seems to be much
more common than punctatorugosum which I have seen only in
Van Duzee's collection.

4. Farnya Schout. — In 1881 DISTANT published a description
and figure of an African species under the name Halyomorpha
versicolor. The figure shows no resemblance to a Halyomorpha,
and I have always suspected that it belonged somewhere else, but
the species has remained unknown to me. Under the name Farnya
Schouteden described in 1910 a new subgenus (s oder vielleicht
Gattung) of Halyomorpha, and in this subgenus he placed versi-
color Dist. and the new east-african species kilimana and rika-
tensis, to which he later added Pentatomina maculata Dall, which Stål
had placed in Antestia. Having recently examined a pair (♂♀) of
rikaensis Schout. in the Helsingfors museum, I have found that
Farnya is a good genus. It has no affinity at all to Halyomorpha
but is very closely related to Plautia Stål, and following Stål's
systematic exposition in Enum. Hem. V, it is impossible to place it
elsewhere. The venter is, quite as in Plautia, broadly but distinctly
tuberculate at the base (a character not mentioned by Distant
and Schouteden), and its other characters are also those of Plautia,
from which it is separated only by the peculiar tesselated sculpture
of the apical half of the pronotum, and by a somewhat different
scheme of coloration. I have little to add to Schouteden's good
description of F. rikaensis. The pale fifth antennal joint,
which was lacking in Schouteden's specimens, has a rather broad
and diffuse subapical black annulation, the dorsum of the abdomen
is red, very thickly and finely punctulate, the dark basal and apical
fascia to the connexival segments and the dark « linea marginalis
suturalis » of the ventral border are sometimes very indistinct or
almost wanting, the hyaline membrane has (as in versicolor) in the
middle of its basal half a small fuscous spot, quite distinct when the
hemelytra are outspread. The scutellum in the male reaches the
middle of the penultimate dorsal segment, in the female it does not
quite reach the apex of the preceding segment; this disparity is
not due to a difference in the length of the scutellum, but to the
shorter male abdomen. The difference in size of the sexes is some-
times (as in versicolor) considerable, ♂ 11 mill., ♀ 14.5 mill.
(without membrane). The specimens of F. rikaensis in the
me collections under names are closely allied, the absence of smooth (not red) lateral margin, and basal part of it seems to be much I have seen only in

published a description under the name Halycornophora, somewhere else, but under the name Parnyx (a oder vielleicht genuss he placed versicolor and rikattensis, ball, which Stal had lined a pair (♂) of him, I have found that all to Halycornophora and following Stal's impossible to place it broadly but distinctly as Halsina and those of Plautia, or tesselated sculpture somewhat different to Schutt's good fifth antennal joint, it has, a rather broad serrum of the abdomen dark basal and apical mark "linea marginalis there very indistinct or white in versicolor in the quite distinct when the male reaches the female it does not; this disparity is scutellum, but to the marked the sex is some- mill., ♀ 14.5 mill. F. rikattensis in the

Helsingfors museum are from Arabia (Weldeje Gebel Melham) and are taken by Dr. Schwenfurth. The occurrence of this species in Arabia is of interest but not surprising, as southern Arabia has a purely ethiopian fauna with intermingling of very few palaeartic and no Indian forms.

Fam. MYODOCHIDAE

5. Porta Dist. — In 1903 Distant described from the Malay States a new genus and species under the name Porta gracilis, referring it to the family Coreide, subfam. Alydineae. A glance at Distant's figures (Fasc. Malay., Zool., 1, pl. XV, fig. 6 and 6a) is sufficient to show that this insect has nothing to do with the Coreide, and the examination of a cotype proved it to belong to the family Myodochidae (Lygaeidae), subfam. Myodochini. div. Myodocha, where its place is not far from the typical genus Myodocha Latr. The referring of this genus to the Coreide-Alydineae is simply absurd, and would be impossible to account for in the writings of any other hemipterist, but it is quite in keeping with the author's placing at Corizin in the Myodochidae. The original description contains so little by which the genus could be recognized (not even the spinous fore femora being mentioned) that it is necessary to redescribe it.

Corpus angustum, elongatum. Caput exsertum, pronoto subaeque longum et basi hujus paullo angustius, parte postoculari retrotum fortius angustata et in collum brevem transseunte, vertice medio longitudinaliter canaliculato, oculis et lator visus oblique ovalibus, ocellis inter se et ab oculis subaeque longe distantibus, tuberculis antenniferis et superis visus exuto parallelibus, spatio inter apicem et oculosculo ipso paullo breviorae, bucculis brevissimis, gula subrecta, rostro coxas medias subattingente, articulis longitudinalibus subequalibus, primo marginem posticum oculorum hau attingente, antennae gracilibus, corpore longioribus, articulo primo capitis subaeque longo, apicem capitis longissime superante, apice oblongo-clavato, secundo primo plus quam dimidio longiore, tertio secundo nonnihil breviore, quarto tertio paullo longiore. Pronotum latitudine longius, declive, paullo ante medium angulariter constrictum et transversim profunde impressum, apice et basi late leviter sinuato, collari per sternum continuo et ibidem multo longiore, lobi postico antico nonnihil latiore, angulis lateralis haeve eminus sed spina subrecta armatis. Scutellum latitudine basali longius. Hemelytra apicem abdominis hau superfanti, ante medium nonnihil constricta, clavo biseriatim punctato, parte media inter has series subconfusa punctata, commissura scutello
æque longa, margine apicali corii sutura clavi parum breviore. Anguli postici metasterni recti, haud producti. Abdomen oblongo-ovale, hemelytris haud latius, basin versus angustatum et attenuatum, ventre (saltum in mare) pér segmenta tria prima medio carinato. Pedes longi, graciles, femoribus apicem versus sensim levissime incrassatis, anticis ceteris haud crassioribus, subitus in dimidio apicali spinis tribus uniserialim ordinatis armatis. (Pedes postici in specimine descripto desunt.)

Allied to Bedania Strål, but the head is more strongly narrowed toward the base, the pronotum is longer with spined lateral angles, the clavus is differently punctured, and the fore femora are much less incrassate with only three spines placed in a single row. It is also allied to Vertomannus Dist. (as redescribed by Breddin), from which it differs by the much shorter neck of the head, by longer pronotum with distinctly spined lateral angles, and by much shorter hemelytra. (That the fore femora in Vertomannus are spined beneath is not mentioned by Distant, but this and most other characters have been supplemented by Breddin).