A KEY TO THE GENERA OF ONCOMERINI STÅL (HETEROPTERA: PENTATOMIDAE, TESSARATOMINAE), WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES FROM AUSTRALIA AND NEW SYNONMY.

By Dennis Leston, F.R.E.S.

Stål (1870) divided Tessaratominae Schilling, into five sections, which have subsequently been regarded as tribes. Later, further tribes were added—principally by Horvath (1900)—so that Kirkaldy (1909) listed no fewer than eleven. However, Eumenotini is clearly a tribe of Dinidorinae, whilst Deloccephalini has been transferred to Phylocephalinae with loss of tribal status (Schouteden, 1909). Recently, Natalicolini (= Aplosternini) has also been removed from Tessaratomininae and given subfamily status within Pentatomidae (Leston, 1955).

TRIBES OF TESSARATOMINAE.

In his original keys to the tribes of Tessaratomininae Stål used venational characters of fore and hind wing, shape of the margins of the abdomen, structure of the metasternum and scutellum as well as in the structure of the pronotum. Examination discloses that, apart from wing venation, the diagnostic criteria are of little more than generic weight; the wing venation, however, clearly splits the subfamily into two tribes. The aedeagus of Oncomeris Laporte has been examined and shown to be of the same general type as that of Tessaratoma Berthold, Eusthenes Laporte and Sepina Signoret (described in Leston, 1954a; Pruthi, 1929), i.e. there are no essential differences in the structure of the aedeagus between Tessaratomini and Oncomerini.

KEY TO TRIBES OF TESSARATOMINAE.

1 Membrane with a series of three to five basal cells from which longitudinal transmembranal veins radiate; hind wing with R + M and Cu widely separate at their proximal two thirds **Tessaratomini** Schilling

2 Membrane without basal cells or with a single elongate and narrow, but feebly defined cell; hind wing with R + M and Cu parallel and contiguous at their proximal two thirds . . . . . . **Oncomerini** Stål

The following groups, hitherto ranked as tribes, are reduced to subtribal status within Tessaratomini:

- Prionogastraria Stål stat. nov.
- Sapinaria Horvath stat. nov.
- Eusthenaria Stål stat. nov.
- Tessaratomaria Schilling stat. nov.
- Platytataria Horvath stat. nov.

Notopornini, a monotypic group from S.E. Asia, is unknown to the writer. Pantochlorini, a monotypic group from central America is possibly related to

Mr. D. Leston's Key to the genera of Oncomerini Stål (Heteroptera)

Edessini, Pentatominae, although it has characters in common with Piezosternum A. & S.; further work is in progress on the morphology of Edessini which should elucidate this problem.

**Systematics of Oncomerini.**

This tribe remains circumscribed as by its originator, Stål. It poses a zoogeographical problem for, whilst all the included genera but one are from the Oriental-Australasian regions, Piezosternum A. & S. occurs in Africa (very widespread), Madagascar and the Neotropical region. The aedeagus of P. calidum (F.) has been examined (Leston, 1954b) and shown to be quite unlike that of Tessaratoma Berthold in that it has a long, tubular and coiled vesica, very suggestive of Coreoid affinities, whilst in Tessaratoma the vesica is somewhat rigid and non-tubular (Leston, 1954a). Until the limits of the various Pentatomoid families have been re-defined, Piezosternum is retained within Oncomerini by virtue of its similar fore and hind wing venation, but is given group status.

**Piezosternaria subtrib. n.**


**Oncomeraria subtrib. n.**

Tessaratominae, Oncomerini. Aedeagus similar in general structure to that of Tessaratoma; vesica rigid or semi-rigid, not elongate and coiled. Metasternum flat or swollen but never produced forwards. Oriental and Australasian.

All the genera included in the following key have been seen except Cumare Blüte, for which the author's description has been used (1946); Tamolida Horvath is unknown to the writer.

**Key to Genera of Oncomerini.**

1 Ethiopian and Neotropical; metasternum produced forwards as an elongate spine-like process ............... **Piezosternum** Amyot & Serville

Australasian and Oriental; metasternum not produced forwards ............... 2

2 Scutellum not or only slightly longer than broad (save in Cumare); third abdominal sternum without a median forwards-pointing spine-like process, but a median tubercle or swelling sometimes present ......... 3

Scutellum always much longer than broad; third abdominal sternum produced forwards in a spine-like process ............... 7

3 Scutellum squarely truncate posteriorly; male genitalia surrounded apically by the seventh abdominal segment; paralympus greatly produced; flattened insects with a superficial resemblance to Natalioninae . ............................................. **Chinatessa** gen. n

Appearance otherwise ............... 4

4 Postero-lateral pronotal angles spinously produced; third abdominal sternum without a median tubercle ............... **Neosalica** Distant

Postero-lateral pronotal angles not spinously produced; third abdominal sternum with a median tubercle ............... 5

5 Antennae 4-segmented ............... **Stilida** Stål

Antennae 5-segmented ............... 6
6 First antennal segment surpassing the apex of the head; mesosternum without carinae ............................ Rhoeocoris Bergroth
First antennal segment not surpassing the head; mesosternum with anterior and posterior carinae ................ Cumare Blöte

7 Scutellum excavated at apex .............................. Agaephyta Laporte
Scutellum not excavated at apex .............................. 8

8 Antennae 4-segmented ................................. 9
Antennae 5-segmented ................................. 10

9 Eye-ocelli distance equal to inter-ocelli distance; ocelli clearly situated behind an imaginary line joining the eyes posteriorly; lateral pronotal margins curved ............................ Oncomeris Laporte
Eye-ocelli distance less than the inter-ocelli distance; ocelli scarcely situated behind an imaginary line joining the eyes posteriorly; lateral pronotal margins straight .................. Plistenes Dallas

10 Apex of scutellum sharply pointed ..................... Lyramorpha Westwood
Apex of scutellum rounded ........................... Erga Walker

Fig. 1.—Chinatessa natalicoloides gen. et sp.n. Male type from Queensland, Australia (Venation of membrane omitted.)

Chinatessa gen. n. (Fig. 1-5.)

Very flat bugs; abdomen circular; head shorter than pronotum, pronotum slightly shorter on mid-line than scutellum.

Head very reduced into long pedes anteriorly; tubercles visible 12:55:50; second and fourth segments of the pedes anteriorly divergent.
Rostrum reaching beyond second segment of the pedes.
Pronotum: foliaceous expansion of the pronotum internal angles: Scutellum as long as the pronotum.

Fig. 2-5.—Ck. 
(4) Left st stem segment (p. 27)
Hemelytra: cross-reins indicated.
Abdomen of the male.

Pronotum: maximum width to length on mid-line 17 : 8. Lateral margins flat and foliaceousy expanded. Antero-lateral and postero-lateral angles rounded; postero-internal angles rounded and obtuse. Lateral margins rounded, edges sharp and serrate. Scutellum as long as its basal width; lateral margins rounded anteriorly, straight and convergent posteriorly; apex truncate. Tarsi 3-segmented.

Figs. 2–5.—Chimaesa notalicoeloides. (2) Head and rostrum, lateral. (3) Metasternum. (4) Left stink-gland external orifice and evaporatorium. (5) Male ninth abdominal segment (pygophore) from below.

Hemelytra as figured; membrane with numerous longitudinal veinlets, cells and cross-veins indistinct and largely wanting. Hind wing short, but venation complete. Abdomen above circular, connexival segments rigidly fused, margins finely serrate. Prosternum slightly carinate, mesosternum flat medially, metasternum swollen medially.
and with a median carina. Stink-gland opening large, leading to a short, apically raised, auriculate process. Evaporatorium well defined, with numerous low rugosities. Venter very flat; second abdominal segment visible medially only as a narrow, curved, raised strip. Second abdominal spiracles visible. Paired trichobothria present on segments 3–7.

Male genital segment short and cylindrical, deeply embedded in the abdomen and surrounded ventrally by a ventral hood-like deflection of the seventh segment posteriorly. Genital segment ventrally produced into a median process with two long lateral projections. Claspers not seen (either reduced or absent).

Type species: *Chinatessa natalicoloides* sp. n.

**Distribution:** QUEENSLAND.

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![Diagram](image_url)

**Fig. 6.—** *Necosalica pedestris* (Bredlin). Male, Sadon, N.E. Burma, 1200 metres (Malaise).

**Chinatessa natalicoloides** sp. n.

*Male.*—Largely yellow with pink and green tints admixed (faded museum specimen of great age). Head with median line brown and inner margins of paraclypeal processes pale brown. Pronotum with a median brown line anteriorly and an oblique brown line from behind the eyes to behind and within the postero-lateral angles. Lateral pronotal line continues centrally with various rugose or punctate, with two additional segmental.

Length: 15 mm. Fem.
of Oncomerini Stål (Heteroptera) 67

continued for a short distance on the corium. Corium pinkish; connexival segments centrally pink. Lateral serrate margina of pronotum and abdomen black. Venter yellow with ventral connexival pink and tibiae and tarsi red.

Head rugose, finely punctate on the elytra. Antennae finely pubescent. Pronotum rugose except for two low and indistinct anterior calli; lateral areas densely but minutely punctate, elsewhere less so. Scutellum transversely rugose, punctate, apex greenish with two dark ante-apical marginal spots.

Abdomen produced in two inwardly curving processes which surround the genital segment, the processes triangular in cross-section.

Length 22.0 mm.; maximum pronotal width 10.0 mm.; maximum abdominal width 15 mm.

Female unknown.


Chinatessa is named in honour of Dr. W. E. China who, upon receiving it amongst unnamed material from the Perth Museum, recognised it as an undescribed genus.

**Neosalica** Distant, 1882.


*Mesolea* Breddin, 1902 *syn. nov.*


1. *forbesi* Distant, 1882 (*Neosalica*).  

2. *pedestriv* Breddin, 1902 (*Mesolea*).  
*nigrivittata* Distant, 1921 (*Neosalica*) *syn. nov.*  

**Neosalica** (fig. 6) is the sole genus of Oncomerini reaching to the Asiatic mainland; it has not previously been figured.

**Acknowledgments.**

Dr. W. E. China and The Trustees, British Museum (Nat. Hist.) are thanked for the facilities provided and for permission to describe the unique *Chinatessa.* Dr. R. Malaise and the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseum are thanked for supplying examples of *Neosalica.*

**Summary.**

1. Tessaratominae is restricted to include two tribes, Oncomerini and Tessaratomini.

2. Tessaratomini includes subtribes Tessaratomaria, Prionogastraria, Sepinaria, Eushtenaria and Phytotatoria.

3. Oncomerini includes two subtribes, Oncomeraria and Piezosternaria.

4. Piezosternaria is retained *pro. tem.* within Oncomerini although its aedeagus is different in general structure.

5. A key to all known genera (except *Tamalia*) of Oncomerini is provided.

6. *Chinatessa natalicoloides* gen. et sp. n. is described from Queensland.

7. *Neosalica* and *Mesolea* are synonymised and illustrated.
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