

***Microscytus*, a new African genus of burrower bugs
(Heteroptera: Cydnidae)**

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Abstract. *Microscytus* gen. nov. is erected for *Geotomus striiventris* SIGNORET; a redescription, figures and new records of this species are also provided.

Key words: *Heteroptera*, *Cydnidae*, Africa, new genus.

Carrying out my studies on the Old World genera of *Cydnidae* in Naturhistorisches Museum Wien in Vienna and Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris I have examined the type and other specimens of species up to date incorrectly assigned to the genus *Geotomus* MULSANT & REY, namely *Geotomus striiventris* SIGNORET. Since it apparently fits in no described genus, it requires the erection of a new one.

***Microscytus* gen. nov.**

Type-species: *Geotomus (Melanaethus) striiventris* SIGNORET, 1883.

DIAGNOSIS

The new genus is easily recognized as a member of the subfamily *Cydninae* by the trichobothrial arrangement. It is allied to *Macroscytus* FIEBER in the type of head vestiture (only hair-like setae are present), and in general outline of the body, especially a shape of pronotum (well developed umbones covering posterolateral angles). Nevertheless it differs from the latter in quite different shape of the evaporatoria (figs 5 & 6), especially the apex of peritreme somewhat resembling that of the genus *Microporus* UHLER. At the other hand it can be separated from *Microporus* by a type of head vestiture (*Microscytus* – hair-like setae, *Microporus* – peg-like setae and hair-like setae; figs 3 & 4).

DESCRIPTION

Head (fig. 3) broad, anteriorly slightly acute, carinated; clypeus free, broad, without subapical setigerous punctures; each paraclypeus bearing only hair-like setae – three pairs of primary and one pair of secondary setae; eyes round, not large, each bearing an apical hair; ocelli small; antennae 5-segmented; rostrum 4-segmented.

Pronotum broader than long, laterally carinated; anterior margin acutely insinuated; each lateral margin with a submarginal row of setigerous punctures; umbones well developed and covering posterolateral angles.

Scutellum with elongated and tongue-like apex.

Corium longer than scutellum, distinctly divided into clavus, meso- and exocorium; clavus with two rows of punctures; mesocorium with two rows of

punctures paralleling clavo-corial suture; meso-exocorial suture also with two rows of punctures; membrane normally developed, not reduced.

Propleuron polished and smooth; evaporative areas on meso- and metapleuron large, with distinct broad, wedge-shaped polished band running to the apex of peritreme; the latter forming a rounded, sometimes slightly oval, auricle (fig. 5).

Abdominal sternites glossy in the middle, laterally wrinkled and somewhat punctured.

Anterior tibiae broad, distally expanded, the outer margin with strong spines; posterior and middle tibiae slightly compressed.

***Microscytus striiventris* (SIGNORET) comb. nov.**

Geotomus (Melanaethus) striiventris SIGNORET, 1883: 215.

Geotomus striiventris: LETHIERRY & SEVERIN, 1893: 74.

DESCRIPTION

Body length 3.85–4.17, body width 2.17–2.32; body colour from brown to blackish brown.

Head slightly wrinkled; clypeus as long as paraclypei and without subapical setigerous punctures; each paraclypeus punctured with numerous tiny punctures, and with 2 submarginal hair-like setae (fig. 3); eyes blackish brown, ocular index 3.0–3.5; ocelli brown; antennae pale brown or brown, 3rd segment 1.2–1.3 times longer than the 2nd; rostrum brown, surpassing middle coxae.

Pronotum with puncturation of as in fig. 1; umbones well developed; each lateral margin submarginally with a row of 6–7 setigerous punctures.

Scutellum of the same colour as pronotum, distinctly punctured, except basal part and extremely apex.

Corium of the same colour as scutellum, distinctly punctured, but punctures smaller than those on scutellum; costa with 1 setigerous puncture; membrane translucent, slightly browned, surpassing the tip of abdomen.

Prosternum brown, glossy, impression almost impunctured; evaporatoria as in fig. 5.

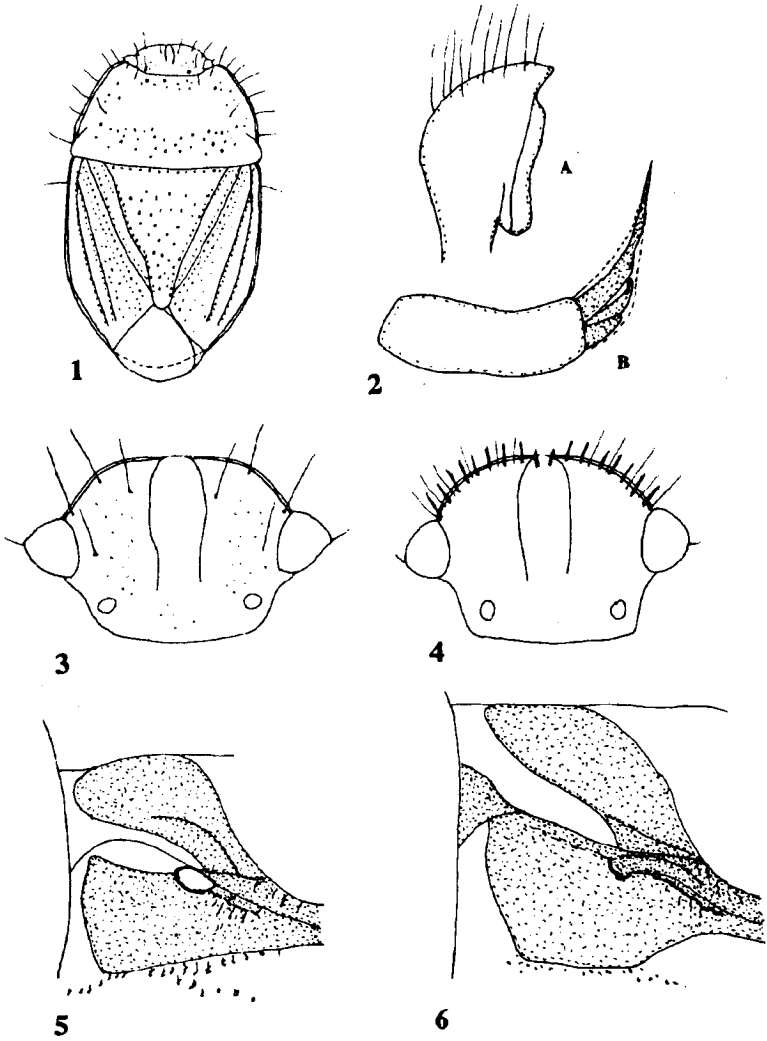
Abdominal sternites reddish brown, glossy in the middle, laterally wrinkled and punctured.

Legs brown, tarsi yellowish brown; anterior tibiae with 7–8 strong spines on outer margin.

Paramere and penis as in figs 2a and 2b, respectively.

TYPE MATERIAL EXAMINED

Lectotype female of *Geotomus (Melanaethus) striiventris* SIGNORET (present designation): STEINDACHNER 1869, Dagang; *striiventris* det. SIGNOR.; Type *striiventris* SIGN., labelled by R.C. FROESCHNER 59; Coll. Nat. Mus. Wien (NhMW).



1-3, 5. *Microscytus striiventris*; 4. *Microporus* sp.; 6. *Macroscytus* sp.:
1 - general habitus, 2a - paramere, 2b - penis, 3-4 - head, 5-6 - evaporatoria.

OTHER MATERIAL EXAMINED

MALI: Ansongo am Niger, 1 male, A. WEIDHOLZ (NhMW).

MAURETANIA: IFAN 1953, Bafrechie (Mauritanie), 2 males 15.IX.–10.X., A VILLIERS, *Geotomus striiventris* SIGN., FROESCHNER 71 (MNHN).

SENEGAL: Senegal, Bandja, 2 males 1 female 28.03.80, B. SIGWALT leg. (MNHN); Senegal, Podor, 1 male 2 females 13.03.80, B. SIGWALT leg. (MNHN).

SUDAN: Aegypt–Sudan, EBNER 1914: 1 male Gungikai 19 III, 1 female Gulfan 24 III, 1 female Gulfan–Keiga Tummero 25–26.III. (NhMW).

REMARKS

The type was described from "Dagang"; I have traced three different localities bearing this name, all in China (SE Asia). Because *M. striiventris* is with no doubt an African species I suppose that the type has been probably mislabelled.

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MICROSCYTUS, NOWY AFRYKAŃSKI RODZAJ ZIEMIKOWATYCH
(HETEROPTERA: CYDNIDAE)

STRESZCZENIE

W pracy opisano nowy afrykański rodzaj ziemikowatych (*Cydnidae*) – *Microscytus*, dla gatunku *G. striiventris* SIGNORET błędnie umieszczanego do tej pory w rodzaju *Geotomus* MULSANT & REY.

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