Vol. 50, pp. 163–166 October 28, 1937

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

CONCERNING THE GENUS LEPTOBYRSA STÅL (HEMIPTERA).

BY C. J. DRAKE AND M. E. POOR.

One of the problems confronting the writers for some time has been the status of the genus *Leptobyrsa* Stål as well as certain other genera of the family Tingitidae of the Western Hemisphere.

The genus *Leptobyrsa* was erected by Stål, ENUM. HEMIP. III, 1873, pp. 119 and 123, for a single species, *Tingis steini* Stål from Rio Janeiro. Champion, BIOL. CENTR.-AMER., RHYNCH., II, 1897, p. 25, greatly amplified the generic conception of *Leptobyrsa* so as to include five species which he was describing from Central America. Since then, several species have been described from South America and two from Australia. In all, a total of 17 species has been assigned to the genus *Leptobyrsa*.

The two Australian tingidids described by Hacker as *Leptobyrsa* Stål do not belong to this genus nor to the new genera described below and will be discussed in a subsequent paper. *Leptobyrsa bradleyi* Drake is transferred to the genus *Leptopharsa* Stål. The rest of the American species included in *Leptobyrsa* are treated below.

Genus LEPTOBRYSA Stål.

Haplotype, *Tingis steini* Stål.

Pronotum convex, pitted, narrowed anteriorly, abbreviated behind, tricarinate, each carina strongly foliaceous and with large areolae; hood moderately large, subglobose to globose, inflated, projecting forward over base of head, sometimes as far as apex of head; paranota subrectangular in outline, reflexed, widely reticulate, produced forward in front; lateral carinae terminating in front at calli, opposite basal margin of hood; greatest width of pronotum, including paranota, at humeral angles. Antennae

slender, moderately long, widely separated at base, clothed with long stiff hairs. Rostral channel wide, open behind, the laminae foliaceous; rostrum long, bucculae closed in front. Wings abbreviated. Elytra rectangular in outline, widely reticulate, abruptly widened a little behind the base, there usually widest; discoidal area raised in a large tumid elevation strongly impressed within, nearly reaching middle of elytra and with inner row of areolae very large; subcostal area narrow, mostly biseriate, the inner row of areolae much larger than outer areolae. Margins of paranota and elytra armed with spines or hairs, or both hairs and spines. Legs slender, clothed with long stiff hairs.

As here delimited, *Leptobyrsa* Stål contains: *Steini* Stål, *ardua* Drake and *tersa* Drake and Hambleton from Brazil; *bruchi* Drake and *mendocina* Pennington from Argentina; and *decora* Drake from Colombia and Ecuador. These forms represent a very distinct but closely related generic group of six species which are readily separated specifically from each other.

The rest of the American species of *Leptobyrsa* are being referred to the new genera detailed below:

ARISTOBYRSA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Leptobyrsa* Stål in having the antennae densely clothed with extremely long hairs, bucculae open in front, elytra extremely broad and paranota clothed with long hairs. Hood small, formed by raised median portion of collar, roof-shaped; legs slender, hairy. Pronotum tricarinate, triangularly produced behind. Hypocostal ridge uniseriate.

Genotype, *Leptobyrsa latipennis* Champion.

Champion, Biol. Centr.-Amer., Rhynch., II, 1897, p. 25, pl. II, figs. 13 and 13a, gives an excellent description and figure of *latipennis*. The size, extremely long antennal hairs and very large bulbous elevation of elytra, not impressed and projecting over the narrow, finely seriate subcostal area, separate this species at once from allies. Described from Panama; specimens are at hand from Brazil and Peru.

PLANIBYRSA, gen. nov.

Pronotum without hood, but with truncate collar; unicarinate, the lateral carinae obsolete and the median carina ridge-like, sometimes almost lacking. Paranota expanded anterolaterally, exceeding apex of head, and terminating posteriorly in a narrow strip at humeral angles; widest point of paranota and pronotum together opposite or anterior to collar. Posterior triangular process of pronotum reticulate and either abbreviated or extended. Elytra wide at base and produced forward beyond humeral angles. Discoidal area not exceeding half the length of elytra, flattened, moderately tumid, or slightly raised at subcostal vein. Subcostal area with areolae of same size as those on the other elytral areas. Costal area wide, widest at base. Margins of elytra and paranota set with spines. Hypocostal ridge uniseriate at base, merely ridgelike posteriorly.

Genotype, *Leptobyrsa spendida* Drake (Mem. Carn. Mus. IX, 1922, p. 374, fig. 2a.)

In addition to *splendida* (Drake) from Brazil, the genus *Planibyrsa* contains *elegantula* (Drake) and *sodalis* (Drake and Bondar) also from Brazil.

PLESEOBYRSA, gen. nov.

Separated from *Leptobyrsa* Stål and the other two genera described above by the differently formed elytra and collar. Collar distinct, truncate or slightly produced forward in front, in the latter case usually with the median portion raised so as to form an inverted V-shaped, hoodlike structure. Pronotum uni- or tri-carinate, the posterior process triangular or abbreviated. Paranota expanded, slightly reflexed, variable in form in different species. Elytra with distinct areas, without tumid elevation; discoidal area short, raised so that the subcostal area is subvertical; margins of elytra and paranota clothed with hairs or armed with short spines. Bucculae closed in front.

Genotype, *Pleseobyrsa boliviana,* n. sp.

P. chiriquensis (Champion) and *plicata* (Champion) from Panama, *mollinediae* (Drake and Hambleton) from Brazil and *nigriceps* (Champion) from Guatemala and Panama are here transferred to this genus.

From the original description and figure it would appear that *Leptobyrsa translucida* Champion may belong to the genus *Stephanitis* Stål. The foliaceous median carina, hood and discoidal area appear to be typical of the latter genus.

Pleseobyrsa boliviana, sp. nov.

Very similar in appearance and form to *P. chiriquensis* (Champ.) but larger, with median carina more elevated behind and differently shaped discoidal area. Antennae brown, rather densely clothed with hairs, the first and last segments black; segment I stouter and nearly two and one half times as long as II, the latter short, III very long, slightly curved, a little more than two and one-half times as long as IV. Head black, the spines brownish and much reduced. Pronotum convex, blackish, sharply tricarinate, carinae testaceous; lateral carinae parallel, obsolete behind on triangular process; median carina slightly more elevated; collar distinct, slightly raised along median line; paranota moderately wide, slightly reflexed, rounded in front, nearly straight along the lateral margin, triseriate in front, uniseriate behind, the outer margin armed with short spines.

Elytra similar in form to *P. chiriquensis,* the outer margin armed with short, slender spines; costal area irregularly tri-quadriseriate, the cells varying considerably in size; subcostal area mostly triseriate or quadiseriate, the cells slightly irregular; discoidal area distinctly impressed, five or six cells wide at widest point.

Legs fuscous, set with rather short, slender spines; bucculae open in front. Rostral channel open behind, rostrum extending almost to mesosternum. Hypocostal ridge very narrow, indistinctly uniseriate.

Length, 4.25 mm.; width, 2.50 mm.

Holotype, male, and allotype, female, Cochabamba, Bolivia in Drake collection.