

A cavernicolous new species of *Notuchus* from New Caledonia (Homoptera: Fulgoroidea: Delphacidae)

by

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With 9 Text-figures

ABSTRACT

Notuchus larvalis sp. n., a cavernicolous species of Delphacidae (Homoptera: Fulgoroidea) is described from material collected in New Caledonia.

In a small collection of cavernicolous Homoptera sent to the writer by Dr. V. Aellen, Director of the Museum d'Histoire naturelle, Geneva, were found two specimens belonging to the delphacid genus *Notuchus*. These proved to represent a new species, and this is described below.

Family DELPHACIDAE Leach

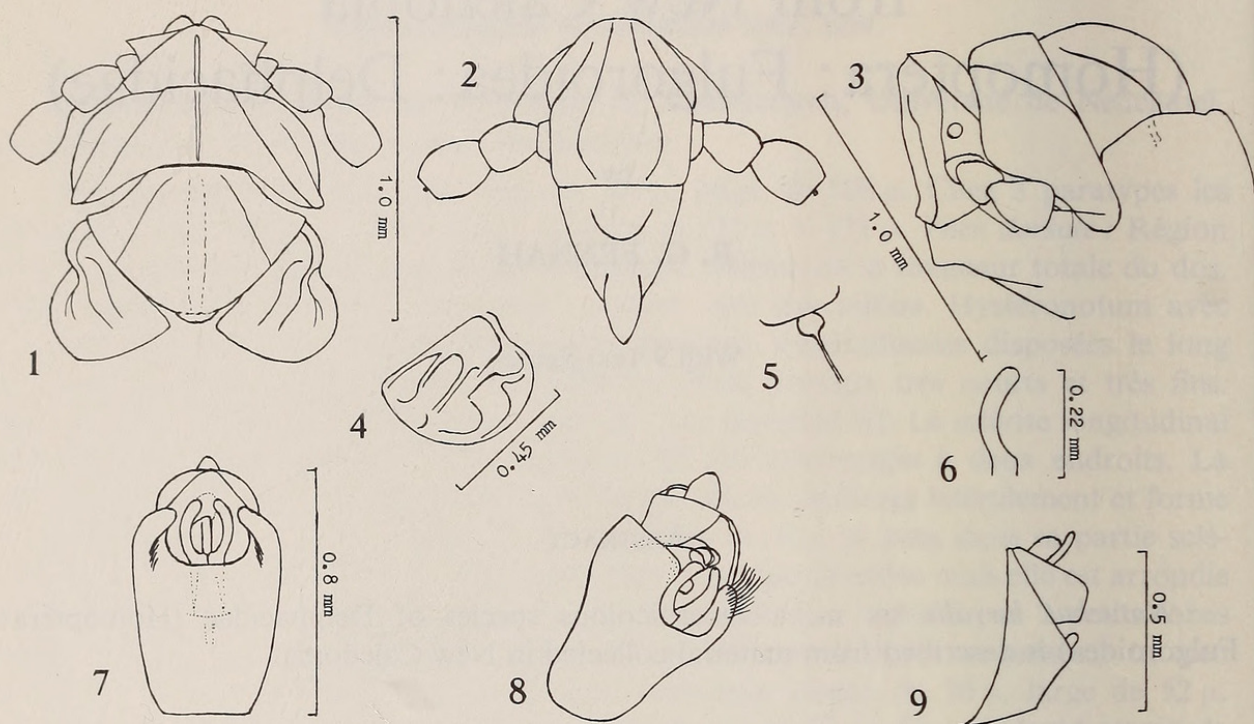
Genus *Notuchus* Fennah

Notuchus Fennah, 1969:32. Type species, *Notuchus risioides* Fennah, 1969:32.

***Notuchus larvalis* sp. n. (Figs. 1-9)**

Vertex extremely reduced, wider at base than long in middle line (2.4:1), finely medially carinate, anterior margin of head convex, with base of frons visible; frons only slightly longer in middle line than broad at widest part, widest at level of antennae, longer than broad at apex (about 1.2:1), lateral margins obsolete basally, submedian carinae approximately equidistant between lateral margins and middle line of frons, diverging distad in basal two-thirds, then converging in distal third, median intercarinal area slightly elevated; postclypeus broader at base than long in middle (nearly 1.4:1),

median part in basal half markedly elevated in a boss; rostrum extending to ninth abdominal segment, basal segment longer than apical segment (almost 2:1), second segment longer than wide at middle (7:1), eyes reduced, non-functional, antennae with segments subovoid, basal segment slightly longer than broad (1.1:1), second segment longer than first (1.3:1), and longer than broad (1.4:1), third segment subglobose. Pronotum tricarinate, about as long in middle line as broad between carinae at anterior



FIGS. 1-9.

Notuchus larvalis sp. n.; 1: Head, thorax and tegmina, dorsal view, with pronotum and mesonotum slightly separated; 2: frons and clypeus; 3: head, pronotum and mesonotum, left side; 4: tegmen; 5: apical margin of second antennal segment and third antennal segment; 6: left genital style, posteroventral view; 7: male genitalia, posteroventral view; 8: the same, posterolateroventral view, with setae of left side of pygofer omitted; 9: the same, left side.

margin, carinae almost straight, strongly diverging caudad, laterobasal angles deeply rounded; mesonotum tricarinate, broader than long, strongly transversely and axially convex, with lateral carinae diverging caudad, mesoscutellum very short, with posterior margin shallowly convex; post-tibiae longer than broad at middle (nearly 9:1), laterally unarmed and with 4 short stout spines apically; calcar very short and stout; basal metatarsal segment with 4 minute teeth apically; second segment with 3 teeth; tarsal claws slender. Tegmina greatly reduced, scarcely attaining base of abdomen, costal margin slightly concave near base, and from this point a sulcus extending to near middle of tegmen. Wings absent.

Dull brownish yellow; minute speckling on median raised area of frons and post-clypeus, middle line of vertex and thorax dorsally, all abdominal tergites medially and 2 further longitudinal lines on abdominal tergites III and IV unpigmented.

♂. Anal segment distinctly broader than long, with lateral margins moderately deep, decumbent. Pygofer rather short, with dorsolateral angles slightly produced and

inflected and beset with long fine setae, ventral margin moderately broad, transverse. Aedeagus whip-like, comprising a straight tubular stem and a long curved flagellum, a clear cup-like pellicle overlying apical point of flexure. Genital styles in ventral view broadly contiguous at base, moderately diverging in basal half and converging in apical half, but not meeting distally, each style longer than broad at middle (about 7:1), of about equal width throughout, bluntly rounded apically.

♀. Ovipositor complete, in side view convex, strongly so in basal third, slightly surpassing anal segment. First valvifers extending to level of middle of second valvifers.

Male (apterous): length, 2.2 mm. Female (apterous): length, 3.3 mm.

Holotype ♂. New Caledonia: Taphozous Cave, Hienghène, 3 m., 3.viii.1978, S. & J. Peck, in British Museum (Natural History).

Allotype ♀. New Caledonia: same data as holotype, in DSIR Department of Entomology collection, Mt. Albert Research Centre, Auckland, New Zealand.

This species is most readily distinguishable by its larviform appearance, which is attributable to the shortening of the head associated with the degeneration of the compound eyes, and to the almost vestigial tegmina. Both antennal segments are relatively shorter than those in *N. risioides* Fennah and *N. monticola* Fennah (1972:265) and the mesonotum is more strongly convex. The post-tibiae are laterally unarmed, whereas they are trispinose laterally in the other species. In the male genitalia, the shape of the lateral margin of the pygofer and that of the genital style suffice to distinguish this species.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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