

A NEW CENTRAL AMERICAN GENUS AND SPECIES
OF THE GROUP BLATTELLITES (ORTHOPTERA;
BLATTIDAE; PSEUDOMOPINAE).

BY MORGAN HEBARD

In studying large Panamanian collections of Blattidae, we have recently examined much of the undetermined material of this family available. In material, as yet unreported, from Mexico and Nicaragua, a pair of a Blattellite, particularly remarkable in the character of the tarsal claws, has been found. This material we desire to treat at the present time, in order that the name may be quoted in the Panamanian study now being prepared.

ANTITHETON¹ new genus

The present genus is remarkable in having asymmetrical tarsal claws, a feature characteristic of the typical genera of the Nyctiborinae and the genus *Chorisoneura*², though in all other respects clearly a Pseudomopid of the Group Blattellites. This species, and the species of the genus *Latiblattella*, represent the only forms of the Pseudomopinae known to us which show this type of tarsal claw specialization.

In linear arrangement we place this genus after *Latiblattella* Hebard and before *Macrophyllodromia* Saussure and Zehntner. The genus is, however, distinctive and shows little affinity to any of the other genera, though superficially and in general appearance alone agreeing more closely with *Platylestes* Hebard.

Genotype.—*Antitheton iniquiungues* new species.

Sexes similar. Size rather large, form very broad for the Group Blattellites. Head with eyes well separated; lateral margins of face distinctly convergent ventrad. Tegmina rather decidedly chitinous for the Group; discoidal sectors numerous, oblique but moderately radiating, so that they are strongly oblique beyond apex of anal field, but toward the discoidal vein parallel to it. Wings with costal veins weakly thickened distad;

¹ From ἀντίθετον = antithesis.

² Though a striking feature, we find no mention of it heretofore in the literature.

ulnar vein with numerous complete branches; intercalated triangle small but distinct. Dorsal surface of male abdomen specialized. Subgenital plate of male fusing and specialized with styles. Subgenital plate of female short, showing a very brief medio-longitudinal distal cleft. Cephalic femora with ventro-cephalic margin armed with (four to six) long, stout spines, succeeded distad by a row of minute, well-spaced, piliform spines, terminating in three spines, heavy and elongate in increasing ratio distad. Ventro-caudal margin of cephalic femora armed with (four and one distal) long, stout spines. Other ventral femoral margins well supplied with spines, which, for the Group, are long and stout, though not as heavy as those usually found in the species of the Group Ischnopterites. First three tarsal joints supplied distad with small pulvilli, brief ventral surface of fourth joint occupied by a pulvillus. Tarsal claws asymmetrical, simple; cephalic claw of each pair about half as large as the corresponding caudal claw, its apex extending only slightly beyond the large arolium.

Antitheton iniquiungues new species

Compared with *Platylestes colombiae* Hebard, with which species alone any similarity, of even a superficial nature, is shown, the present insect is found to differ in the smaller head, shorter, much more transverse and elliptical pronotum, fully developed tegmina and wings, showing only very slight reduction in the female sex, richer coloration, more slender cerci, important features in venation and male primary and secondary sexual features, and in the remarkably asymmetrical tarsal claws.

Type.—♂; Cacao, Trece Aguas, Alta Vera Paz, Guatemala. Altitude, about 900 feet. April 19, 1906. (Barber and Schwarz.) [United States National Museum.]

Size rather large for the Group, form very broad. Head with interocular space half that between antennal sockets; inter-ocular-ocellar area flattened, feebly concave; large ocellar spots present; slightly smaller circular areas, with surfaces feebly convex, occur meso-ventrad of and adjacent to the antennal sockets. Maxillary palpi with distal joint large, very slightly shorter than preceding joint, which joint is distinctly shorter than third joint. Face and two distal joints of maxillary palpi well supplied with moderately elongate, coppery hairs. Pronotum strongly transverse; surface very weakly and evenly convex except toward caudal margin, where it is narrowly more strongly convex declivent; transparent lateral portions very weakly declivent, distinctly less so than in *Platylestes colombiae*; cephalic margin broadly convex, caudal margin

very broadly convex except mesad where a slightly stronger convexity is shown; lateral angles only slightly caudad of mesal point, broadly rounded. Tegmina broad; fully developed, extending beyond cercal apices a distance equal to the cercal length. Dorsal surface of abdomen with sixth segment showing a strong and sudden median depression, its cephalic margin strongly convex, from the caudal margin spring two rounded ridges, approximate, slightly concave, converging cephalad, with their apex supplied with a tuft of agglutinated hairs, these occupying the mesal portion of the depression; latero-caudal angles of segment slightly produced, subrectangulate, with apex sharply rounded; seventh and eighth segments briefly exposed, transversely decidedly narrower than sixth. Supra-anal plate briefly triangularly produced, with apex rounded; length about one-fourth basal width. Cerci elongate, slender; dorsal surface flattened, weakly convex proximad; joints (thirteen) with lateral margins almost straight to near caudal margin, but decreasing rapidly in individual size meso-distad to the acute apex; ventral surface of each joint decidedly convex, lateral margins rather broadly lamellate, particularly the external margins. Concealed genitalia very complex.³ Subgenital plate very small, convex, the meso-distal third occupied by large, elongate, irregularly rounded, attingent styles, directed dorso-caudad, with broad apices rounded; beneath and covering the internal portion of the bases of the styles, the median portion of the free margin of the plate is triangularly produced. Limbs elongate and slender. Venation, limb armament, tarsi and arolia discussed in generic description.

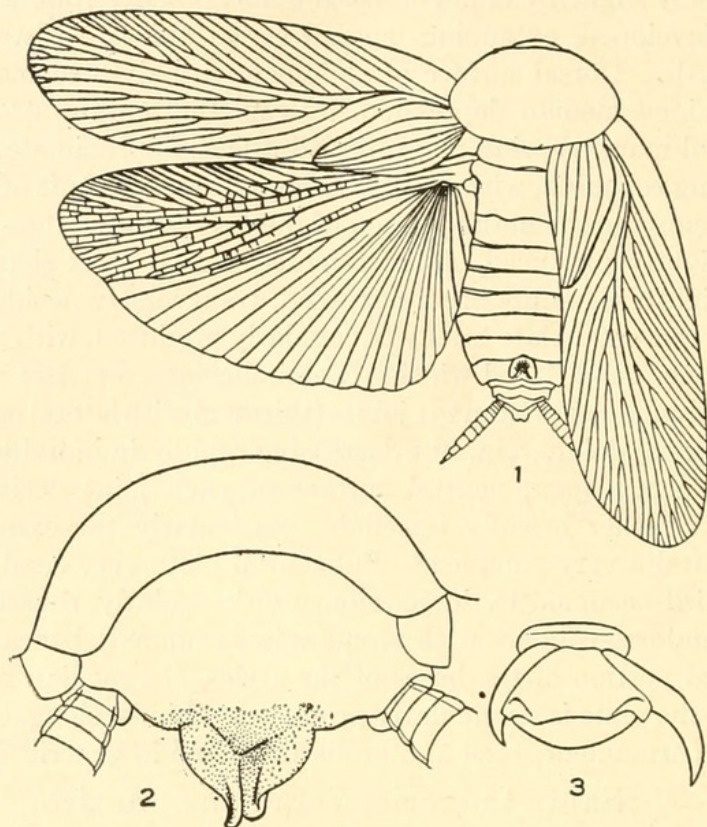
Allotype.—♀; Santa Lucrecia, Vera Cruz, Mexico. (F. Knab.)
[United States National Museum.]

This sex agrees closely with the male, but has the pronotum slightly longer, while the tegmina and wings show slight reduction, reaching only slightly beyond the cercal apices. Interocular space of same width. Dorsal surface of abdomen unspecialized. Supra-anal plate triangularly produced, with apex rounded but deeply cleft; length about one-third basal width. Subgenital plate ample, convex, short, briefly upturned distad, with a brief medio-longitudinal cleft in this portion; free margin broadly convex proximad, then as broadly concave beneath bases of cerci, thence with margin of briefly upturned portion very broadly convex.

Measurements (in millimeters)

♂	Length of body	Length of pronotum	Width of pronotum	Length of tegmen	Width of tegmen
Cacao, Guatemala, <i>type</i> .	14.8	4	6.5	17	5.2
♀					
Santa Lucrecia, Mexico, <i>allotype</i>	14.5	4.2	6.4	15.5	5.1

³ This portion can not be examined without risking damage to the unique male.



Antitheton iniquiungues new species. *Type*. Male. Cacao, Trece Aguas, Alta Vera Paz, Guatemala. Fig. 1. Dorsal outline ($\times 2\frac{1}{2}$). Fig. 2. Ventro-caudal view of distal portion of abdomen (much enlarged). Fig. 3. Distal outline of tarsal claws and arolium (greatly enlarged).

Coloration.—Disk of pronotum and tegmina shining, brilliant mahogany red; the latter when spread translucent, appearing umber brown, this weaker distad and in area of dextral tegmen concealed when at rest. Lateral portions of pronotum transparent, weakly tinged with buffy. Wings transparent, weakly tinged with buffy, except veins and all but proximal portion of anterior field, which are weak amber brown. Dorsal surface of abdomen and cerci ochraceous-tawny. Head vinaceous-rufous⁴; eyes black; ocellar spots buffy. Antennae liver brown, except first two joints which are apricot buff. Maxillary palpi with proximal joints buffy washed with dark brown proximad, last two joints black. Limbs cinnamon rufous, the following portions suffused with blackish brown; cephalic tibiae and tarsi, distal half of median tibiae, distal half of caudal tibiae, distal portion of median and caudal metatarsi and all of remaining median and caudal tarsal joints.

This remarkable species is known only from the described pair.

⁴ In the type dark, discolored.



Hebard, Morgan. 1919. "A New Central American Genus and Species of the Group Blattellites (Orthoptera; Blattidae; Pseudomopinae)." *Transactions of the American Entomological Society* 45, 303–306.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/31722>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/92029>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.