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Pochazoides szwedoi n. sp. from the East African copal
(Hemiptera: Fulgoromorpha: Ricaniidae)

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ABSTRACT. *Pochazoides szwedoi* n. sp. from the East African copal is described and illustrated.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, Hemiptera, Fulgoromorpha, Ricaniidae, *Pochazoides*, new species, Africa, East African copal.

INTRODUCTION

The East African copal, also named Zanzibar copal, is a kind of fossil resin, which comes from a small area in East Africa coast. It was excavated from “Kopalgruben” (copal mines) since the beginning of the end 19th century. These localities are placed near the town of the Dar es Salaam, in the coast of Tanzania (SCHLÜTER and von GNIELINSKI 1987).

The age of this African fossil resins is still under debate. GEINAERT (2002) suggest that East African copal is 100 000 years old, but SCHLÜTER and von GNIELINSKI (1987) believe that this fossil resin is aged Pleistocene and not older than Pliocene.

The East African copal is derived almost entirely from the trees of *Hymenaea verrucosa* of the family Leguminosae (subfamily Caesalpinaceae). Recently this species is restricted to the East Africa and Zanzibar (POINAR 1992, GEINAERT 2002).

The East African is very rich in inclusions, but a few Fulgoromorpha are mentioned. Following families were identified: Derbidae, Issidae and Ricaniidae (STROIŃSKI & SZWEDO 2002).

The recent genus *Pochazoides* SIGNORET, 1860 is distributed in Madagascar and East Africa and comprises of 15 species (METCALF 1955).

***Pochazoides szwedoi* n. sp.**

(Figs 1–5)

ETYMOLOGY

This species is dedicated to my friend Dr. Jacek SZWEDO, who is the specialist of the recent and fossil Hemiptera.

DIAGNOSIS

Pochazoides szwedoi n. sp. is similar to *Pochazoides nobilis* MELICHAR, 1898 by the following characters: 3 carinae of vertex present, wave-shaped longitudinal veins of tegmina, apical cell of tegmina longer than subapical one. It differs by the following characters: costal membrane as wide as costal cell (*P. nobilis* – costal membrane narrower than costal cell), posterior margin of gonoplac with 2 rows of teeth (*P. nobilis* – one row of teeth).

DESCRIPTION

Total length of female 0.95 cm.

HEAD. Vertex, anteriorly 6.43 times as broad as long in mid line; anterior margin weakly arcuate; lateral margins straight and parallel; posterior margin arcuate with minor curvature than anterior one; median carina and two lateral carinae present, lateral carinae weakly visible.

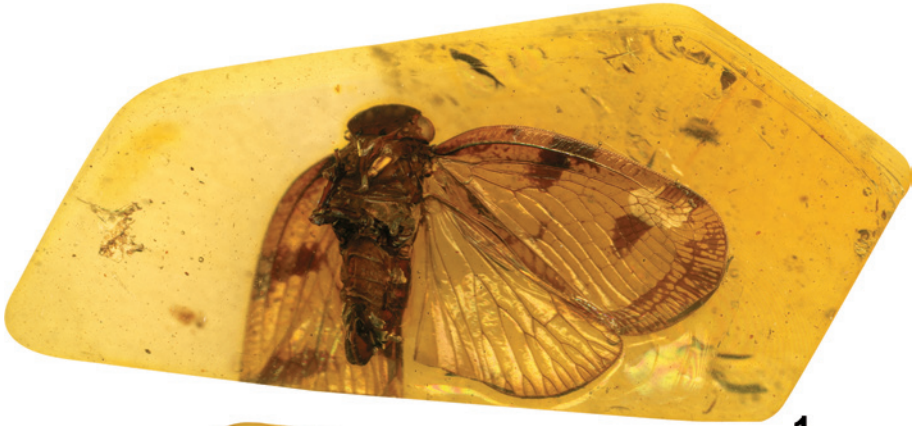
Frons tricarinate with well visible median and lateral carinae, carinae separated at base; transverse carina absent, frons broader at upper margin than long in mid line, widest at half of length of compound eye; median and lateral carinae well visible, upper margin straight; lateral margins weakly arcuate in median portion almost straight and without incision at level of ocelli, in lower part widely curved to clypeal suture, disc of frons rugose, near the clypeal suture (in lateral view) weakly concave; median carina of frons reaching almost to clypeal suture; lateral carinae arcuate, frontal field and transverse carina absent.

Compound eyes with small sized callus at the lower margin. Clypeal suture widely and shallowly arcuate. Clypeus with median carina and without visible musculature. Rostrum reaching to hind coxae.

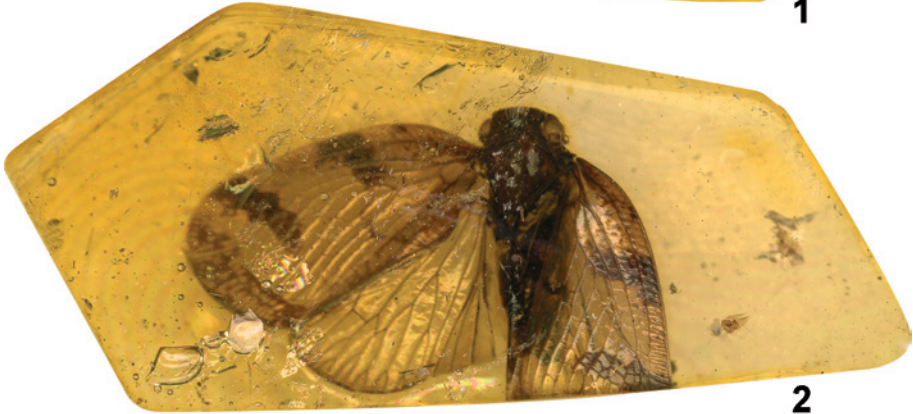
THORAX. Pronotum 1.57 times as long as vertex in mid line, with median carina and two impressions on disc; transverse carina absent, anterior margin arcuate in median portion weakly flattened; posterior margin arcuate with major curvature than anterior one.

Mesonotum, about as long as wide and 4.37 times longer than cumulative length of vertex and pronotum in mid line; median, lateral and anterolateral carinae clearly visible, median and lateral carinae reaching to posterior margin, lateral carinae connected at base with median one; lateral carina connected with anterolateral carina a little after the lateral angles of mesonotum.

Tegmina elongated, 1.93 times longer than wide; anterior margin straight and almost parallel to posterior one; apical and claval angles broadly rounded; apical margin arcuate. Costal membrane about as wide as costal cell with dense transverse veinlets;



1



2



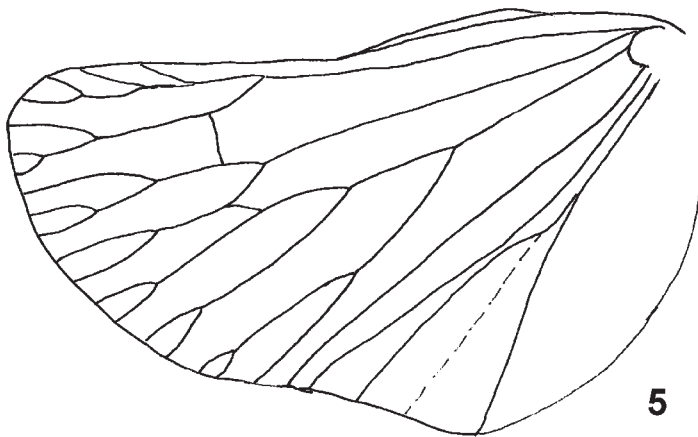
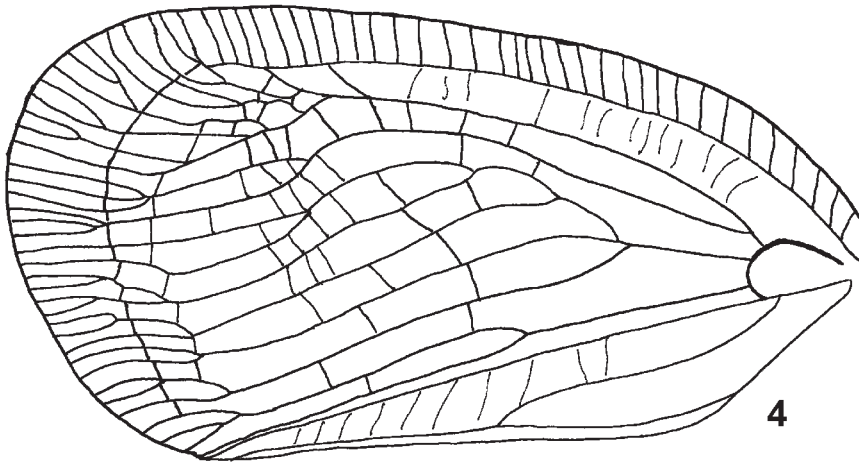
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1-3. *Pochazoides szwedoi* n. sp., ♀. 1 – ventral view; 2 – dorsal view; 3 – specimen on slide, dorsal view

costal cell with numerous, weakly visible, almost straight and delicate transverse veinlets; longitudinal veins of tegmina dense and wave-shaped; Sc+R leaving basal cell by very short common stem, MA and MP leaving basal cell with common stem, median portion of tegmina with row of single veinlets (pseudonodal line); apical part with 2 well visible transverse lines; apical cell more than twice longer than subapical; clavus with a few and straight transverse veinlets.

Wing with very long and narrow precostal cell and with 2 transverse veinlets: r-m, m-cu.

Hind tibiae very short in apical part wider than basal and with 2 lateral spines and row of 6 apical spines; basitarsomere very short, with a row of 6 apical spines; right tibia destroyed.



4-5. *Pochazoides szwedoi* n. sp., ♀: 4 – left tegmina; 5 – left wing

MALE. Unknown.

FEMALE. Last pregenital sternite with well developed lateral lobes; anterior margin weakly arcuate; posterior well arcuate. Anal tube not well visible and partly deformed, not reaching the half of upper margin of gonoplac. Gonoplac normally developed, posterior margin with 2 rows of dense teeth. Gonophysis VIII normally developed with teeth at the dorsal margin.

COLOURATION (Figs 1-3). Vertex, pronotum and mesonotum brown. Frons ochraceous or light brown with very small and irregular patches on disc, near the clypeal suture with transverse black band; compound eyes silver. Lateral part of head light brown with small black patch before ocelli and upper margin. Abdomen brown; sternites brown, tergites: posterior margin darker than anterior one. Colouration of tegmina as in Figs 1-2; wings hyaline.

TYPE

Holotype, female: [Gum Copal Inclusa Ricaniidae Homoptera E. Africa 83-34 In. 17676 Brit. Mus. (N. H.) G.D.]. Specimen deposited in Department of Paleontology, Natural History Museum, London.

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