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DIPLATYS SUMATRANUS, A NEW EARWIG FROM SUMATRA

by

Dr. M. BOESEMAN

Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden

A study of the collection of Dermaptera in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie at Leiden has been made by the author during the years 1942 and 1943, but publication of the results had to be postponed for several years on account of various difficulties arising during and since the war.

These investigations yielded some interesting results, including the descriptions of several new species. It is intended to publish these descriptions in the near future after a study of the literature of the group that has appeared since 1943.

Of the subfamily Diplatyinae the material of the Leiden Museum contains specimens of two forms that proved to belong to hitherto undescribed species. Together with other representatives of this subfamily these specimens were sent to Dr. W. D. Hincks of the Manchester Museum, for comparison with the material that formed the basis for his nearly completed revision of the group. Of the two forms referred to above, one appeared to be conspecific with a species to be described by Dr. Hincks in the near future, the other is described in the present paper, in order that notes on this species may be incorporated into the revision of the group.

***Diplatys sumatranus* nov. spec.**

1 ♂, Air Njuruk, Dempu, Sumatra, 1400 m, VIII 1916, coll. E. Jacobson.

The present specimen is small and slender, of the usual general appearance in this genus (see fig. 1).

Colouration: the head and the prozona of the pronotum are castaneous;

the same colour, though less dark generally, is shown by the median part of the metazona, the elytra, a band along the outer margins of the wing-scales,

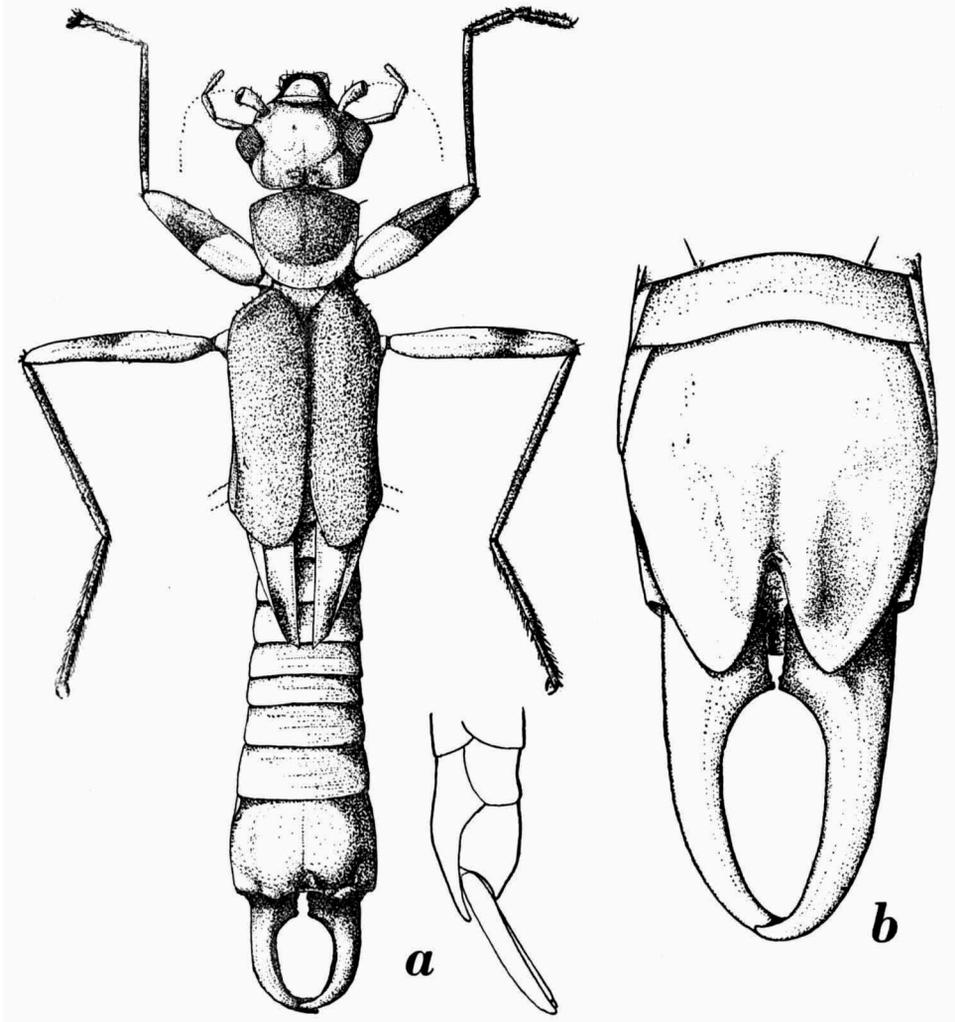


Fig. 1. *Diplatys sumatranus* nov. spec. *a*, habitus of male, and end of abdomen in lateral view, from the left; *b*, penultimate segment and forceps of male in ventral view.
a, $\times 13$; *b*, $\times 30$.

the abdomen, and the forceps, the latter two being slightly but distinctly darker.

Rather distinct annuli of a more or less dark castaneous colouration can be

seen around the femora, especially on those of the anterior pair of legs; the tibiae have the proximal and distal parts lighter only, the tarsi are light brownish.

On the ventral surface, the prosternum (except the margins), the central part of the mesosternum, and, to a certain degree, the antero-lateral parts of the metasternum are brownish.

The remaining parts are of a light yellowish colouration.

Hairiness: although seemingly smooth, the specimen has quite a thickset, but very short and consequently inconspicuous cover of hair on head, body, legs, and forceps. Some sparse and considerably stronger hairs are distributed along the margins of the pronotum, while there are also two parallel longitudinal series to be seen along the ventral surface of the abdomen, viz., a pair of rather strong hairs implanted close to the posterior margin of each segment and on either side of the median line. Some shorter but very thick hairs can be found on the proximal parts of the femora, some bristles on the shoulders.

The head is distinctly pentagonal, with the sides converging backwards, the posterior margin somewhat notched in centre. The interorbital space is convex with two indistinct small points situated near its centre and placed side by side. The transverse suture bordering this convexity backwards is strongly curved and is much less conspicuous than the short median suture running along the median part of the occiput towards the posterior notch. On both sides of this longitudinal suture, the surface of the occiput is slightly concave, bordered laterally by occipital crests running backwards from close to the innermost point of the eyes to close before the posterior margin of the head, and posteriorly by a distinctly crested part of that margin.

The greyish eyes are strongly prominent, their diameter about equals the length of the postocular part of the head.

The antennae are mutilated, the basal segment is slightly shorter than the diameter of the eye and has the proximal part coloured castaneous, the further segments of the antennae (as far as present; unfortunately these segments had become lost when the drawing was made) being yellowish or light brown, the segments lengthening from the third onwards.

The pronotum is more or less rounded, with the lateral margins converging backwards. It is slightly longer than broad. The prozona is distinctly convex and separated from the flat metazona and the upcurved lateral parts by a distinct transverse and curved furrow, and by the abrupt lighter colouration of these lateral parts of the pronotum. The median longitudinal line is quite distinct. The anterior width almost equals that of the head without the protruding eyes.

There is a distinct triangular scutellum showing the same light colouration as the posterior part of the pronotum.

The unicolourous elytra are long, broad, narrowed anteriorly, and consequently exposing the distinct scutellum. The posterior margin is oblique and rounded. The wings are well developed, with the exposed wing-scales about as long as the pronotum, and with the short apical margin truncate. On this exposed part, there is a longitudinal and rather vague brownish apical spot.

The abdomen is slender, cylindrical, slightly broadening backwards. The anterior tergites, which are covered by the wing-scales, show a slightly lighter, more yellowish colouration. The rest of the abdomen is castaneous, with the posterior margins of each segment increasingly dark. The previously mentioned two rows of hairs near the ventral median line are implanted on two rows of very small tubercles, all situated close to the posterior free margins of the sternites.

The posterior tergite is very convex, broad, and quadrate. On the granulate surface a median longitudinal line can be distinguished, the posterior part of which forms a distinct furrow or concave part ending backwards at a weak marginal ridge. On each side of the shallow median emargination of the posterior margin, there are short protuberances above the bases of the forceps; beyond these, the posterior margin is oblique.

The pro-, meso-, and metasternum show no characters of particular interest. The penultimate ventral segment, however, is very characteristic. It is much longer than broad and has the posterior margin deeply incised, consequently forming two distinct flaps protruding beneath the bases of the forceps, and almost reaching to the end of the dilated parts of these. In front of this median incision there is a distinct but shallow furrow.

The forceps, which in our specimen are shorter than the penultimate ventral segment, are rounded except the dilated basal quarter. This dilated part also is distinguished by being the only part showing dentification, the posterior teeth being the strongest.

Except the apical parts, which are distinctly curved inwards, the forceps are almost straight, surrounding an oval space.

The legs are slender, the anterior pair of femora shorter and somewhat thicker than the second and third pairs (the third pair not drawn in the figure), and with much more distinct and darker annuli completely surrounding the femora; on the second and third pairs of femora, the annuli are less dark, more vague, and interrupted dorsally.

Total length 9.3 mm, length of forceps 1.3 mm.

On account of the present, very unsatisfactory knowledge of the various

species of this subfamily, the majority of which is known to me only from generally rather insufficient descriptions, it seems quite hazardous to give any opinion on the relationship of this new species. However, I may be allowed to state that there seems to be a rather narrow relationship with *D. fallax* Borelli and *D. greeni* Burr, although a close investigation of the male genitalia may prove otherwise.

This species can easily be discriminated from related species occurring in the same area by the characteristic shape of its penultimate ventral segment.