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A remarkable *Macrophthalmothrips* Karny, 1922 from Laos (Thysanoptera, Phlaeothripidae)

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PELIKÁN J. 2003: A remarkable *Macrophthalmothrips* Karny, 1922 from Laos (Thysanoptera, Phlaeothripidae). *Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae biologicae* (Brno) **88:** 1–4. – *Macrophthalmothrips pacholatkoi* sp.nov. (Phlaeothripidae) from Laos is described. The new species belongs in the vicinity of *Macrophthalmothrips flavafemora* Moulton, 1947 and *M. argus* (Karny, 1920).

Key words. Thysanoptera, Phlaeothripidae, *Macrophthalmothrips pacholatkoi* sp.nov., Laos

Macrophthalmothrips pacholatkoi sp.nov.

Material examined. Holotype female and 7 female paratypes: "Central Laos, Khammouan province, Ban Khoun Ngeun, 18.07N, 184.29E, 250 m, 4–30.xi.2000, P. Pacholátko leg." The type material is deposited in the Department of Entomology of the Moravian Museum, Brno, Czech Republic.

Description. *) (Based on the holotype, macropterous female.)

Total L. of the body 2.3 mm.

With typical holoptic eyes. Body brown to dark brown with lateral longitudinal chalky-white stripes. Head nearly cylindrical, not flattened dorsoventrally, whole ventral aspect chalky white, dorsum with white lateral stripes and a brown medial stripe lighter along maxillary stillets. Posterior margin of the brown medial stripe with distinct, black, spine-like projection on each side. Mouth cone long, flattened, pronotal plates dark brown with lighter connecting membranes. Pterothorax dark brown, surrounding of pelta light brown. Abdomen dark brown, segments II–VI with white lateral spots, i.e. segment II with eroded posteroangular white marking, III–VI brown with antero- and posteroangular white spots, VII–X whole brown. Hypodermal pigment red. Antennal segment II uniformly greyish yellow, III with infumated apical third, IV–VI with apical half brownish, VII and VIII completely brown. Fore-femora brown along sides, fore-tibiae yellow with brown sides in the centre, middle and hind femora brown with yellow tips, middle and hind tibiae brown, apart from yellow bases and tips. All tarsi yellow with dark brown tips. Wings slightly shaded, each with brown longitudinal vein, forewings with a greyish, granulated sub-basal spot. Body bristles colourless, but shaded on four last abdominal segments.

Head longer than wide, tapering basad, dorsal L. 235, g.W. 208, W. across the middle 204, at posterior margin 170. Eyes extremely large, L. 155, nearly holoptic, W.

*) Abbreviations: L. = length, W. = width, g.W. = greatest width, W.a. = width across apex, W.b. = width across base, all measurements in micrometres.

across both eyes 175, frontal projection between eyes with 3 pairs of spine-like setulae, bent outward at the top of the bump, L. 15–22. Postocular setae only 5–8 long, thick, blunt at tip. Mouth cone very long and slender, depressed, reaching to posterior margin of mesosternum, total ventral L. of head 795. Cheeks smooth, without bristles or spines, lateral white margin 24–30, dorsal longitudinal brown stripe 155 wide. Antennae fairly long, segment I hidden under the head, sum of segment II–VIII lengths 453–477. L. (and W.) of segments: II 46–52(33–35), III 112–115(27–30), IV 84–87(27–30), V 70–74(22–25), VI 70–74(24–27), VII 49–51(19–22), VIII. 22–24(8–11), bristles at tip 11–14, Segment III with 2, IV with 3 sensory cones (Figs 1–3).

Pronotum. L. of pronotal plate 170, g.W. 300–312, anterior margin as well as the whole plate with dense transverse ridges between them, with very thin fragmented lines. L. of anteroangular setae 22, anteromarginals 27–30, laterals 16–19, posteromarginals 13–16, epimerals 63–64, All setae rather thick, expanded at tip. Basantra membranous, not sclerotized, both fernal plates situated close together.

Pterothorax L.(W.) 370(350), metanotum with one pair of short anteromarginal setulae, set well back from anterior margin. Metanotal plate with dense, longitudinal fragmented ridges, with numerous fine dots between them. This sculpture is especially conspicuous on the posterior, triangular part of the notum. Sternopleural suture short, incomplete, slightly bent outwards. Legs narrow, L. (and W.) of femur, tibia and tarsus: fore- 205(96), 180(40–48), 54(24–30), middle 168(50), 168(40), 72(24), hind 230(66), 192(36), 78(24); covered with small setae, situated on indistinct warts on inner margin of fore tibiae. Margins lacking long bristles, spines or horns.

Wings 935 long, g.W. at base 60, across the middle 30, at tip 58, least W. behind base 30, number of interstitial setae 7–10, marginal bristles at larger intervals, 10 bristles on fore-margin 120 apart. Longitudinal vein dark on both wings with a row of round imprints, vein shifted towards the hind margin of the wing. Three sub-basal bristles 33, 43–46 and 38–41 long, all expanded at tip.

Abdomen. Pelta (Fig. 4) L.84–87 (W.b. 79–82, W.a. 71), triangular, anterior two thirds totally eroded, yellow, posterior third slightly chitinized, with very specific sculpture. Only the two posterior angles have a few, distinctly limited, scales. In front of these and among them are 3–4 rows of indistinct transverse scales, their fore-margins convex, bent slightly cephalad. In front of these lies just one transverse row of very distinct scales is developed, with have very dark fore-tips, darker than all the remaining peltal sculpture. Preceding the dark scales, 3–4 rows of indistinct transverse scales are visible, each of them with a few groups of very short, broken transverse lines. Posterior margin of pelta close to the anterior margin of abdominal segment II. Fore-margin of pelta with dark distinct transverse apodeme.

Sum of segment lengths II–X=1.260, segment II with white eroded posteroangular spot L.(W.) 41(98), lateral seta 54–57.

Segment IX L. 82, (W.b. 137, W.a. 82), tube 147, 68, 36. Lateral setae on segment VIII: 137, on IX: S1=55, S2=60, S3=137–142. On segment X: terminal setae S1, S2=82–87, S3=95.

Distribution. Central Laos.

Name derivation. The species is dedicated to my friend Petr Pacholátko, the collector of the species. In Czech, "pacholátko" means something like "a nice little baby". In contrast, Mr. Pacholátko is actually a hefty man.

Differential diagnosis. To date, nearly twenty species have been described in the genus *Macrophthalmothrips* Karny, 1922, half of them from the New World, the other half from the Old World. Species of the latter group, to which *M. pacholatkoi* sp.nov. belongs, have the pelta closely attached to the abdominal segment II (see MOUND 1972: 79). The new species has unarmed fore-legs, without any special setae, spines or horns. According to the key by MOUND (1972), *M. pacholatkoi* sp.nov. lies in the vicinity of *M. flavafemora* Moulton, 1947 and *M. argus* (Karny, 1920). Fine fragmented stripes occur between the lines of sculpture on the pronotum,. The sculpture on the pelta is very specific and distinct; only one row of scales has very dark tips on the fore-margins and a dark apodeme in the fore-margin of the pelta. *M. argus* has no dots between the lines of the pronotum. *M. flavafemora* has dots, but no transversal fragments of lines, as in *M. pacholatkoi* sp.nov. Differences from other species are evident from their descriptions (see References).

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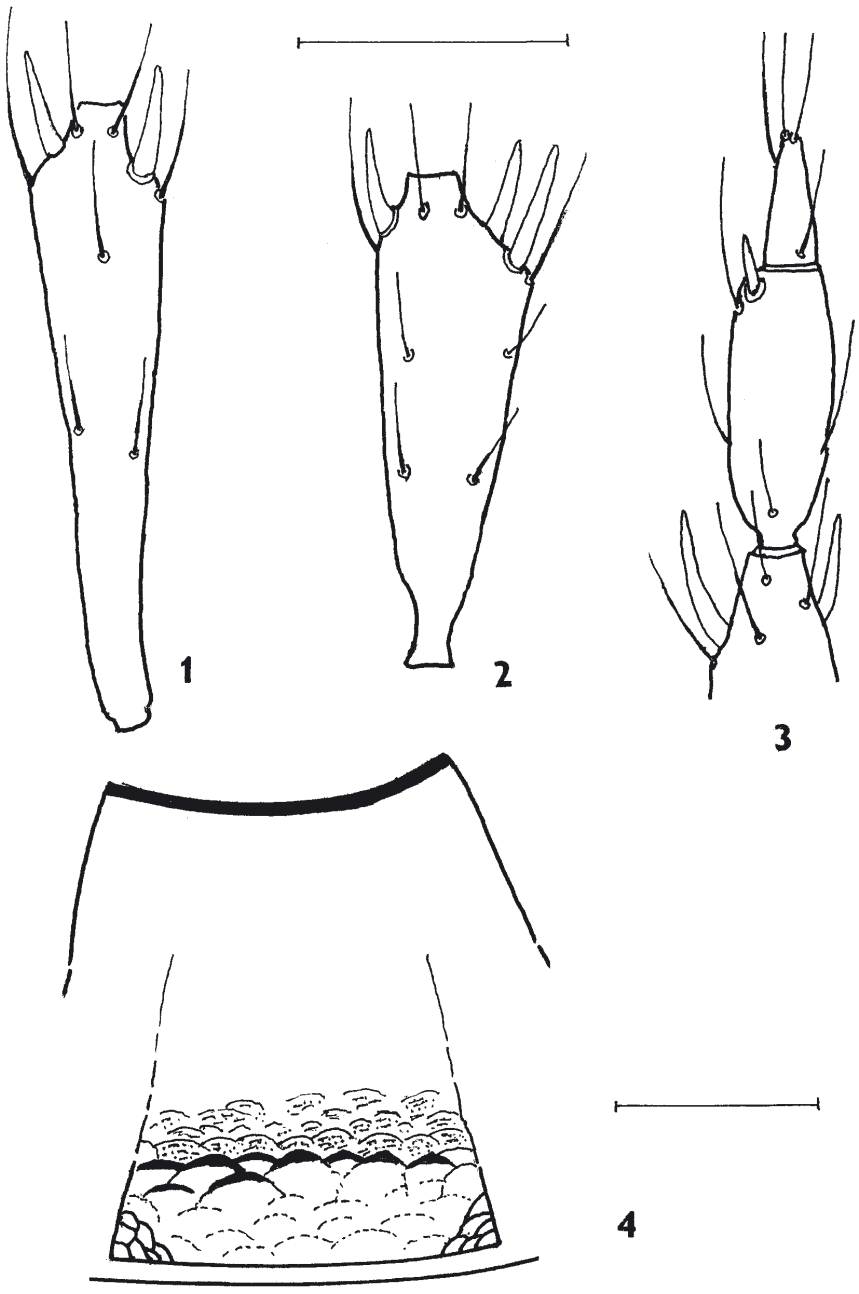
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Figs 1–4. *Macrophthalmothrips pacholatkoi* sp.nov., holotype female: 1, antennal segment III; 2, antennal segment IV; 3, antennal segments VII and VIII; 4, pelta. (Scale = 50 micrometres).