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A new tribe of the family Coccinellidae (Coleoptera)

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Introduction

During a survey of scale insects and their natural enemies in Pakistan, a Coccinellid was collected feeding on eggs and nymphs of *Cerococcus hibisci* Green on *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* and *H. syriacus* at Karachi. It was determined as new genus near *Telsimia* Casey (1899) and new species by Dr. E. A. Chapin of the United States Department of Agriculture, West Medway, Mass. Dr. R. Gordon, Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Washington, subsequently examined the specimens and stated that the species seems to occupy an intermediate position between Telsimiini (Casey, 1899) and Sticholotini (Weise, 1900). It differs from species of the former tribe in structure of head capsule and from those of the latter in the shape of pronotum and epipleura. Therefore, a new tribe and a new genus are defined for reception of this species.

GHANIINI trib.n.

Body elongate, oval, pubescent. Head with clypeus extended laterally, antennal insertions not entirely hidden but distinctly visible in the lateral aspect; antennae short with distinct club; maxillary palp long, terminal segment elongate, not distinctly broadening apically; eyes finely faceted. Prosternum without carinae. Epipleura not excavate. Mesocoxae widely separated. Abdomen with six visible sternites, fifth much longer than each of the preceding three segments, sixth very small.

Many characters of the Ghaniini fall within the subfamily Chilocorinae but the structure of the head capsule, particularly the shape of clypeus, is different from the rest of the subfamily. The tribe has relatively close affinity with the Telsimiini, but differs in the features of antennae, epipleura and numbers of abdominal segments; it also resembles the Sticholotini, differing principally in the formation of the clypeus.

Type-genus, *Ghanius* gen. n.

Ghanius gen.n.

Body elongate-oval, convex, finely pubescent. Head transverse; antenna nine-segmented, first and second segment strongly inflated, fifth to ninth segments forming a fusiform club; maxillary palp four-segmented, terminal segment obliquely truncate; labial palp two-segmented, terminal segment subcylindrical. Prosternum not produced anteriorly to cover mouthparts; carinae absent; prosternal lobe somewhat flat between coxae. Meso- and meta-sternum transverse. Elytral epipleura not excavate for reception of femora. Mesocoxae widely separated. Tibial spur absent. Abdomen with six visible sternites, sixth small; coxal plate of first abdominal segment with oblique line and incomplete arc. Male genitalia with aedeagus symmetrical.

The genus comes close to *Telsimia* Casey (1899), but differs mainly in the number of antennal segments, width of head between eyes and shape of metocoxal plates. It also resembles in some characters the genus *Promecopharus* Sicard (1910), but differs in the features of the clypeus and prosternal structures.

Type-species, *Ghanius karachiensis* gen. et sp.n.

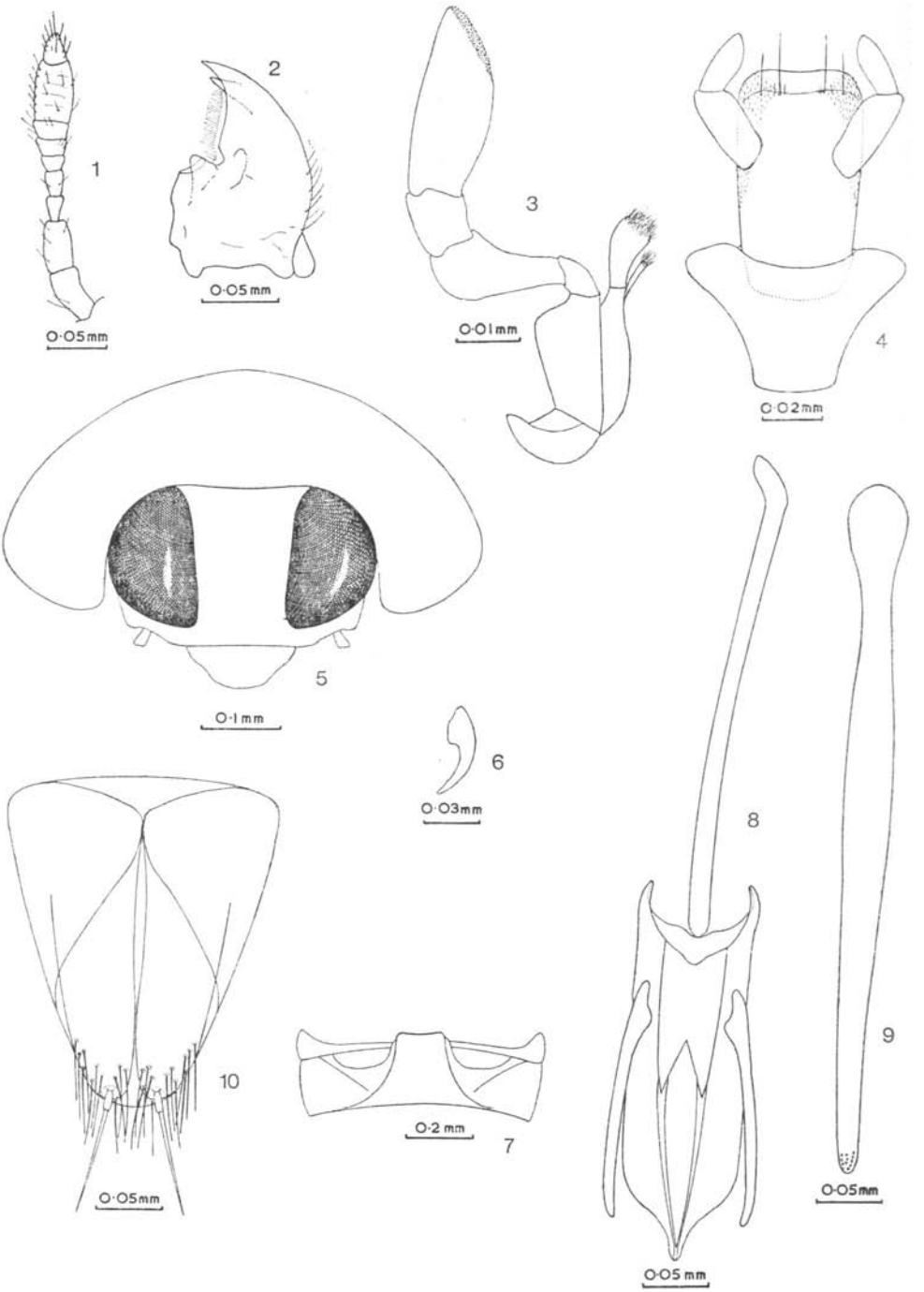

Fig. 1–10.—*Ghanius karachiensis* sp.n. 1, antenna; 2, mandible; 3, maxilla; 4, labium; 5, head, frontal view; 6, tarsal claw; 7, first abdominal sternite showing coxal arcs; 8, male genitalia, tegmen; 9, the same, sipho; 10, female, terminal abdominal segment.

Ghanius karachiensis sp.n. (Fig. 1–10)

Length 1·1–1·4 mm, breadth 0·8–0·9 mm. Body elongate-oval, moderately convex, shining, derm black above. Head between eyes about half as broad as an eye viewed in front, almost flat on disc; punctures more or less the same size as eye facets, separated by from one to three diameters, bearing fine setae, intervals between punctures smooth; eye with a few noticeable setae between facets; antenna 0·2 mm in length, first segment stout but longer than broad, second segment cylindrical and about twice as long as broad, third and fourth segments longer than broad, fifth to seventh segments each shorter than fourth, eighth segment longest and broadest, ninth segment conical; maxillary palp with basal segment small, second segment somewhat club-shaped, terminal segment with apex strongly oblique; labial palp with terminal segment subcylindrical, about as long as penultimate segment and slightly tapering apically; mandible bifid at apex, inner tooth slightly below apex. Pronotum with greatest breadth which is at hind angles slightly more than twice median length (32:15), anterior angles briefly rounded and slightly acute, posterior angles obtuse, posterior border arcuate medially, lateral margin slightly convergent; punctures deeper than those on head, more closely set along anterior margin, bearing setae similar to those on head. Elytra slightly longer than their greatest combined breadth (23:21), slightly arcuate laterally, greatest breadth shortly before middle, slightly narrowed from broadest point to bases, elliptically narrowed from broadest point to apices, greatest height at greatest breadth, elytral punctures about as large as eye facets, more or less evenly distributed, more deeply impressed than pronotal punctures, each bearing one seta. Tarsal claw somewhat falciform with basal portion broad. Coxal plate on first abdominal segment partially divided by an oblique line; arcs incomplete externally and ending at hind margin of segment.

Male genitalia: trabes about twice as long as median lobe, curved at the apex; basal ring broader than long; median lobe fairly wide at the base, longer than parameres (6:5), tapering abruptly after about two-thirds length from base, apex acuminate; parameres almost straight, each with 14–20 setae; sipho with siphonal capsule somewhat flat, slightly constricted behind capsule, wider in middle, gradually tapering towards apex.

Female genitalia: receptaculum and other parts of internal genitalia not sclerotised or pigmented.

Material studied. Holotype. ♂, PAKISTAN: Karachi, 25.v.1968, feeding on *Cerococcus hibisci* Green on *Hibiscus syriacus.* In U.S. National Museum. Paratypes. 1 ♂ 2 ♀, PAKISTAN: Karachi, 25.v.1968, feeding on *Cerococcus hibisci* on *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, in U.S. National Museum, 1 ♂ 1 ♀, same data except date, 11.x.1968, in British Museum (Nat. Hist.); 2 ♂ 1 ♀, same data except date, 4.xi.1968, in Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control (Pakistan Station).

Summary

A new tribe allied to the Telsimiini and Sticholotini and a new genus are erected for *Ghanius karachiensis* sp. n., a Coccinellid predator of *Cerococcus hibisci* Green in Pakistan.

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