

**Revision of the *Phthia* generic complex with a description
of four new genera (Hemiptera: Heteroptera:
Coreidae: Coreinae: Leptoscelini)**

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Abstract. The Neotropical genus *Phthia* Stål, 1862 in its current wide concept is revised and divided into five genera: *Phthia* s. str., *Phthiacnemia* gen. nov., *Phthiadema* gen. nov., *Phthiarella* gen. nov., and *Rhytidophthia* gen. nov. The following nine new combinations (all from *Phthia*) are proposed: *Phthiacnemia picta* (Drury, 1770), comb. nov.; *Phthiadema cyanea* (Signoret, 1862), comb. nov., *Ph. ornata* (Stål, 1865), comb. nov., and *Ph. smaragdina* (Walker, 1871), comb. nov.; *Phthiarella affinis* (Distant, 1901), comb. nov., *Ph. decorata* (Stål, 1865), comb. nov., *Ph. femorata* (Breddin, 1901), comb. nov., and *Ph. sponsa* (Breddin, 1901), comb. nov.; and *Rhytidophthia splendida* (Valdés, 1910), comb. nov.

Key words. Heteroptera, Coreidae, *Phthia* generic complex, new genera

Introduction

The genus *Phthia* Stål, 1862 has been used as a ‘catch-all taxon’ to which numerous species displaying superficial similarities have been added. Nonetheless, it is possible to recognize within that assemblage well-defined groups of species whose morphology and coloration justify their recognition as separate genera. The need for such separation had been noted by OSUNA (1981), PACKAUSKAS (1994a,b, 2008) and PACKAUSKAS & SCHAEFER (2001), but no action was taken.

Within the generic complex, some species are completely metallic, others with metallic coloration restricted to certain regions of the body, and still others without metallic colours. On some species the metathoracic peritreme is simple (Fig. 17), whereas on others it is bilobate (Fig. 16); the posttylar sulcus can be present or absent on different species; the tylus can be situated above or below the juga; the anterolateral margins of the pronotum can be smooth or dentate, and the posterolateral margins smooth or with the outer third dentate; the anterior lobe of the pronotum may or may not have a yellow transverse band; the dorsal surface of the hind femur can be smooth or tuberculate; the male hind tibiae can be armed or unarmed;

the abdominal sterna may be with or without a median furrow; and the posteroventral edge of male genital capsule as well as the paramere may be quite distinct.

The combination of characters in an extensive sample of specimens revealed the justification of four separate genera related to *Phthia* in a narrow sense, which are described below. All known species of *Phthia* in the wide sense are assigned to one of the five genera recognized in this contribution. Future papers will revise each genus separately, redescribe known species and describe new ones.

Results

Features common to all five genera

Head elongate, pentagonal, shorter than length of pronotum, porrect, non-declivent, dorsally flat, distinctly produced and surpassing antenniferous tubercles; tylus unarmed, apically globose, barely raised, extending anteriorly to juga; juga unarmed, subglobose; antenniferous tubercles unarmed, borders entire, almost circular, not prominent, widely separated; ocelli proximate to eyes; preocellar pit deep; ocellar tubercle barely raised; eyes globose, upper margin located almost at same level as frontal and vertex area; postocular tubercle indistinct, forming smooth outline continuous with eye; mandibular plate unarmed; buccula oval, raised, short, entire, not projecting beyond antenniferous tubercles, open posteriorly; rostral segment III shortest, segment IV longest, segments I and II subequal.

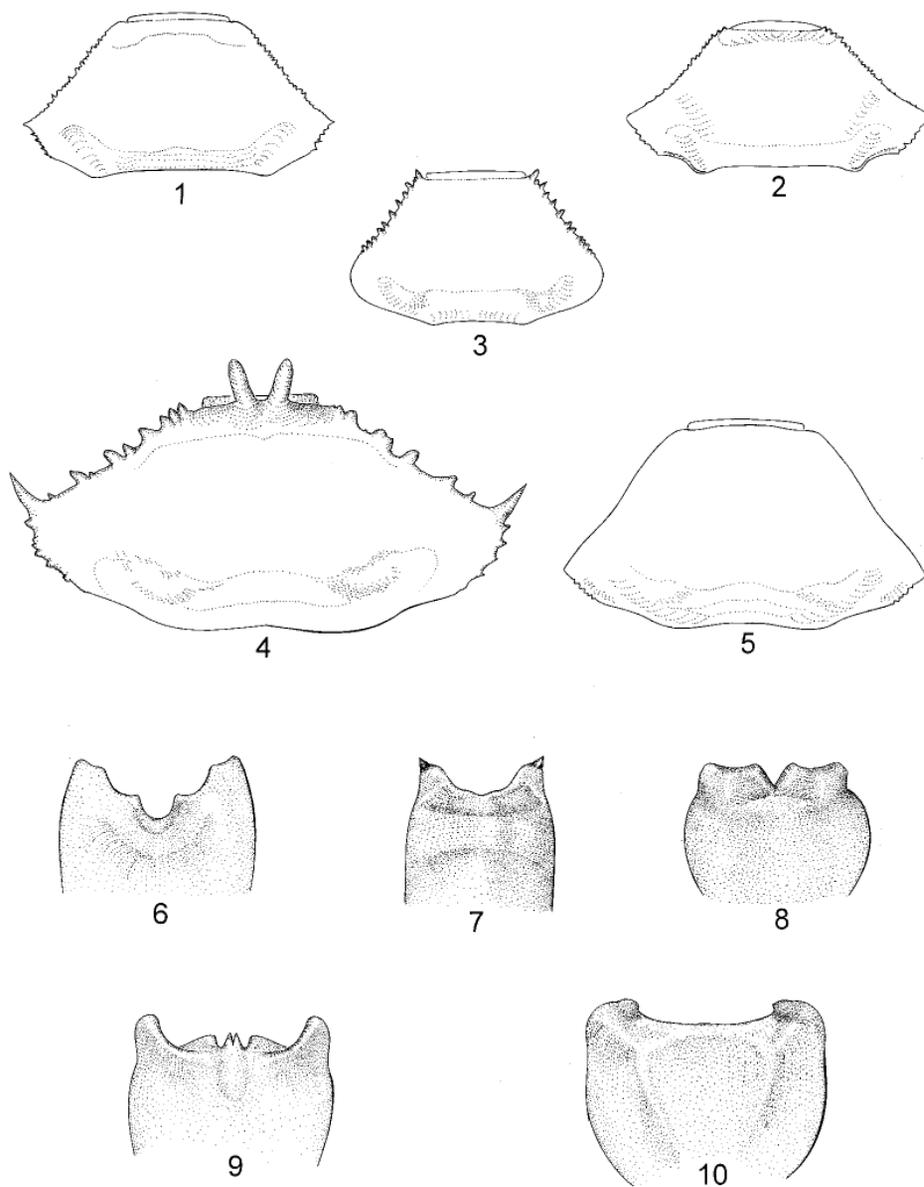
Thorax. Pronotum trapezoidal, gradually declivent; collar wide; anterior border almost straight, smooth; frontal angles rounded, not exposed, smooth; triangular process absent; prosternum with deep excavation; mesosternum with sulcus; metasternum entire; anterior margin of mesosternum in front of the area between fore legs truncate. Scutellum triangular, flat, apically subacute or truncate. Hemelytra macropterous, extending beyond apex of last abdominal segment; costal margin emarginated, unarmed; apical margin sinuate, with apical angle slender, extending beyond middle third of membrane.

Abdomen. Connexivum raised above tergum, not spined posteroapically at lateral edge; abdominal spiracles circular, small, closest to posterior border, remote from upper border of connexivum; abdominal spiracle II not visible.

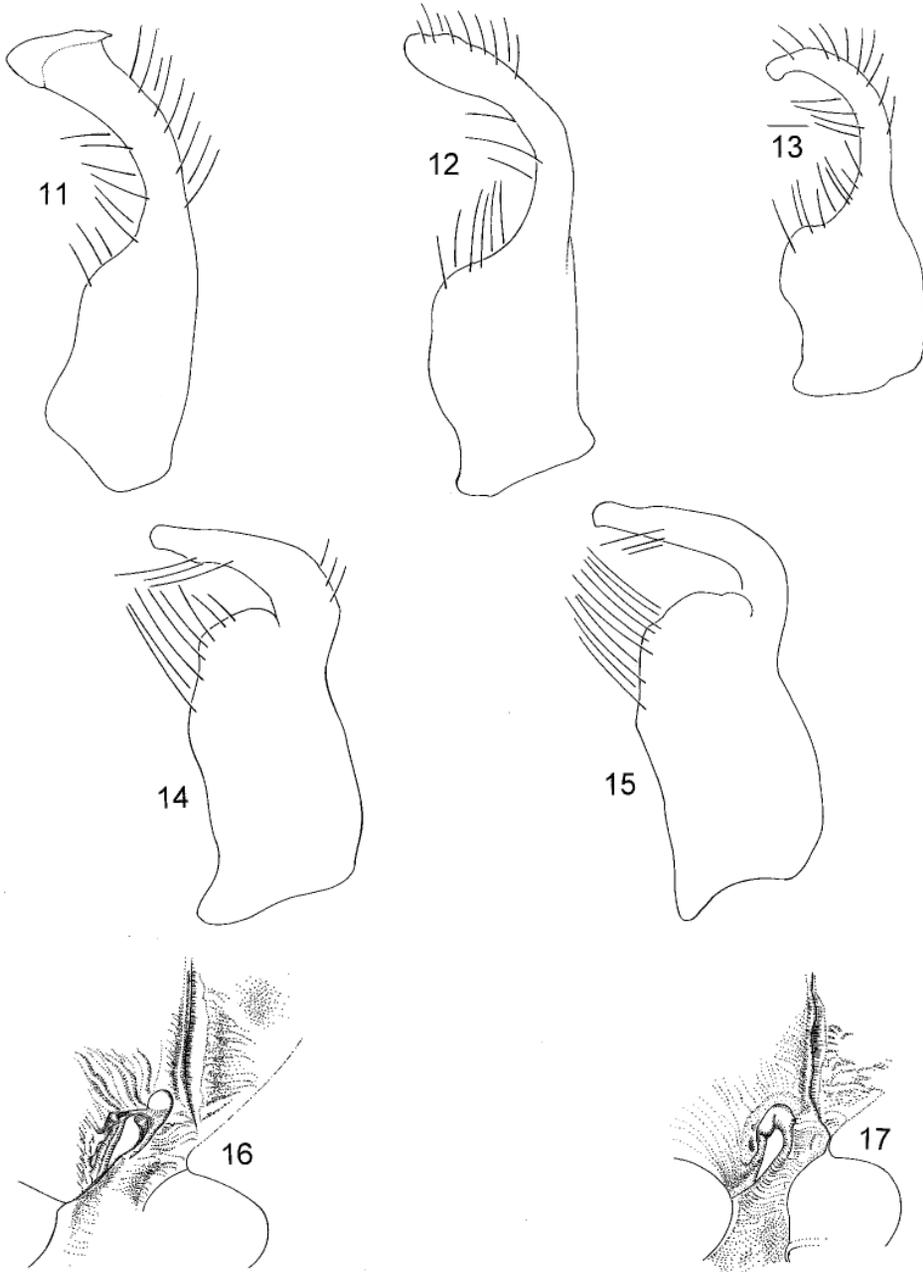
Female genitalia. Abdominal sternite VII with plica and fissura; paratergite VIII subquadrate, spiracle visible; paratergite IX broad, squarish, longer than paratergite VIII.

Key to genera related to *Phthia*

- 1 Metathoracic peritreme bilobate (Fig. 16); clavus and corium rather dull or scattered with metallic iridescence. 2
- Metathoracic peritreme undivided, not bilobate (Fig. 17); clavus and corium entirely with metallic green iridescence. *Phthiadema* gen. nov.
- 2 Body surface entirely rather dull; humeral angles truncate, not exposed (Fig. 19).
- Body surface scattered with metallic iridescence; humeral angles acute to subacute (Figs. 1, 4). *Phthiacnemis* gen. nov. 3



Figs. 1–10. 1–5 – pronotum: 1 – *Phthiarella decorata* (Stål, 1865); 2 – *Phthiadema cyanea* (Signoret, 1862); 3 – *Phthiacnemia picta* (Drury, 1770); 4 – *Rhytidophthia splendida* (Valdéz, 1910); 5 – *Phthia lunata* (Fabricius, 1787). 6–10 – male genital capsule in caudal view: 6 – *Phthiadema cyanea*; 7 – *Phthiacnemia picta*; 8 – *Rhytidophthia splendida*; 9 – *Phthia lunata*; 10 – *Phthiarella decorata*.



Figs. 11-17. 11-15 – paramere: 11-12 – *Phthia lunata* (Fabricius, 1787), 13 – *Phthiacnemia picta* (Drury, 1770), 14-15 – *Phthiadema cyanea* (Signoret, 1862), 16-17 – metathoracic scent gland peritreme: 16 – *Phthia lunata*, 17 – *Phthiadema cyanea*.

- 3 Posttylar depression absent; hind femora dorsally tuberculate; humeral angles remarkably expanded into large and acute spine directed outward and forward (Fig. 4); calli with two conspicuous projections (less developed in females) each lateral to midline.
 *Rhytidophthia* gen. nov.
- Posttylar depression forming single sulcus; hind femora dorsally smooth; humeral angles tapering into short or medium size acute to subacute spine, directed outward and never forward (Fig. 1, 5); calli without spine projections. 4
- 4 Dorsal surface of head entirely metallic green; anterolateral borders of pronotum dentate; posterior lobe of pronotal disk without longitudinal medial carinae; abdominal sterna III–VI lateral to midline without yellowish to reddish orange maculae.
 *Phthiarella* gen. nov.
- Dorsal surface of head entirely rather dull; anterolateral borders of pronotum smooth; posterior lobe of pronotal disk with low longitudinal carinae; abdominal sterna III–VI lateral to midline with rectangular yellowish to reddish orange maculae.
 *Phthia* Stål, 1862

Generic descriptions

Phthia Stål, 1862

(Figs. 5, 9, 11–12, 16, 18)

Phthia Stål, 1862: 294.

Phthia: LETHERRY & SEVERIN (1894): 51–52; BERGROTH (1913): 143.

Type species. *Cimex lunatus* Fabricius, 1787: 289.

Redescription. Head usually longer than wide; tylus in lateral view slightly higher than juga; posttylar depression forming single sulcus; antennal segment I slightly thicker than following segments, cylindrical, weakly curved outward, distally thickened above upper half, longer than head; segments II and III slender, cylindrical, segment IV fusiform; antennal segment IV longest, segment I usually shortest, segment II longer than III; rostrum reaching middle third of abdominal sternite III or anterior margin of sternite V; rostral segment I extending past base of head; rostral segment III shortest, segment IV longest, segments I and II subequal.

Thorax. Pronotum wider than long; anterolateral borders obliquely straight, smooth; humeral angles thick at base, tapering into short or large acute to subacute spine, slightly raised and pointing outward; posterolateral borders barely sinuate, outer third dentate, inner third smooth; posterior border straight to weakly convex, smooth; calli rounded, slightly raised, posteriorly with two pits, each lateral to midline; posterior lobe of pronotal disk with low longitudinal medial carinae (sometimes difficult to see); posterior margin with low transverse ridge (Fig. 5); mesosternum with deep sulcus; metathoracic peritreme bilobate (Fig. 16), with two well separated lobes, anterior lobe larger, semicircular, posterior lobe shorter, subacute; opening obliquely directed. Scutellum variable in length, wider than long or longer than wide.

Legs. Fore and middle femora ventrally armed with two subapical spines and one row of obtuse denticles, dorsally smooth; hind femur gradually incrassate (less so in females), ventrally armed with two subapical spines and two rows of large and stout spines, dorsally

smooth; fore and middle tibiae slender, unarmed, sulcate; male hind tibiae slender, sulcate and ventrally armed with two irregular rows of stout spines; female hind tibiae slender, sulcate and unarmed.

Abdomen. Abdominal sterna with medial furrow.

Male genitalia. Posteroventral edge of genital capsule gently concave, bearing two broad spines on either side of midline, lateral angles quadrate (Fig. 9). Paramere as in Figs. 11–12.

Female genitalia. Abdominal sternite VII with fissura short, covering one third of length of sternite; plica quadrate, apically straight; gonocoxae I subtriangular, inner margin close, upper and outer margins rounded and continuous.

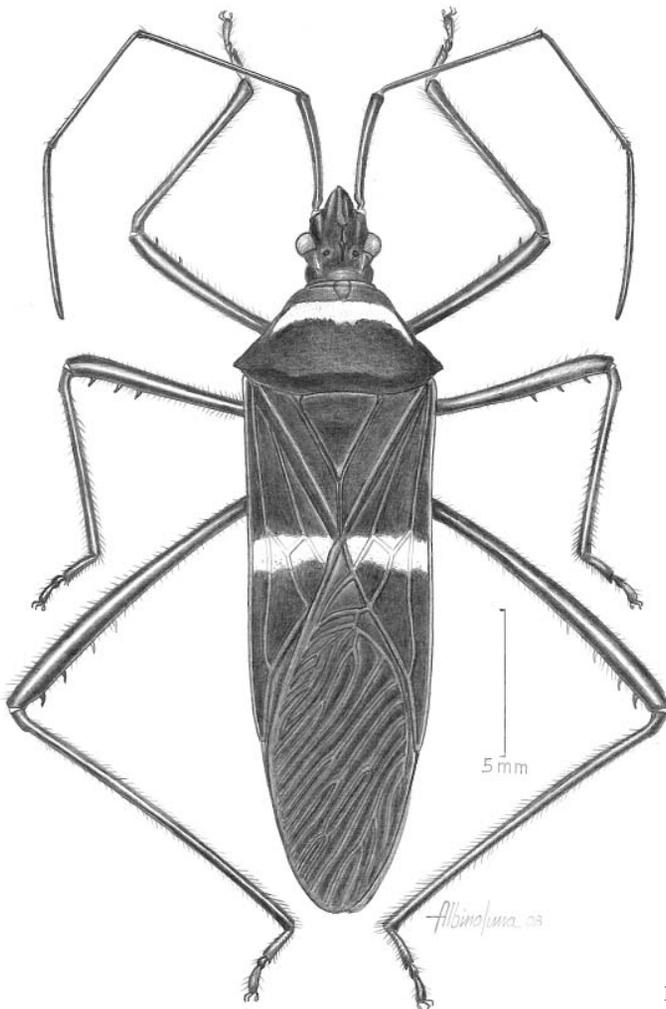


Fig. 18. Dorsal view of *Phthia lunata* (Fabricius, 1787).

Integument. Body surface rather dull, sometimes with metallic iridescence restricted to ventral surface of head, calli, thorax, coxae, abdominal segments III–VI and lateral margins of abdominal sterna III–VII; anterior lobe of pronotal disk with narrow, arcuate, yellow transverse fascia; corium behind claval commissure with yellow transverse fascia; dorsally and ventrally clothed with short, erect, golden to silvery pubescence; pronotal disk, clavus, corium, scutellum, acetabulae, great portion of propleura and posterior margin of mesopleura and metapleura densely and finely punctate; head, calli, anterior and middle margin of mesopleura and metapleura, pro-, meso- and metasternum, abdominal sterna, male genital capsule and female genital plates impunctate; antennal segments I–III densely covered with short, erect setae, segment IV with dense adpressed setae; legs clothed with large, erect, bristle-like setae.

Differential diagnosis. *Phthia* can be distinguished from other genera included in the tribe Leptoscelini by having the hind tibiae simple, mesopleura and metapleura without a black median macula (present in *Malvana* Stål, 1865), the metathoracic peritreme bilobate, antennal segment I longer than head (shorter in *Amblyomia* Stål, 1870), anterior lobe of pronotal disk with narrow, arcuate, yellowish to orange-red, transverse fascia, corium behind the claval commissure with yellowish to orange-red transverse fascia, thoracic pleura with at least three strongly contrasting yellowish to orange-red maculae, abdominal sterna III–VI lateral to midline with yellowish to orange-red rectangular to quadrate maculae, and the metallic iridescence restricted to ventral surface of head, calli, thorax, coxae, dorsal abdominal segments III–VI and abdominal sterna III–VII.

Phthia has been heterogeneous since its original description, and at least 15 species have been included in it. From that number only six now remain in *Phthia* since *Ph. affinis* Distant, 1901, *Ph. cyanea* (Signoret, 1862), *Ph. decorata* Stål, 1865, *Ph. femorata* (Breddin, 1901), *Ph. ornata* Stål, 1865, *Ph. picta* (Drury, 1770), *Ph. smaragdina* (Walker, 1871), *Ph. splendida* Valdés, 1910, and *Ph. sponsa* (Breddin, 1901) are transferred to the four new genera described below.

Distribution. Widespread through Mexico, Central America (Guatemala, Costa Rica), Great Antilles (Cuba, Puerto Rico), Colombia, French Guyana, Surinam, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Argentina.

Included species. *Phthia cantharidina* Bergroth, 1893, *Ph. concinna* Walker, 1871, *Ph. lunata* (Fabricius, 1787), *Ph. pulchella* (Dallas, 1852), *Ph. rubropicta* (Westwood, 1842), and *Ph. ventralis* (Guérin, 1857).

Phthiacnemia gen. nov.

(Figs. 3, 7, 13, 19)

Type species. *Cimex picta* Drury, 1770: 107.

Description. Head usually longer than wide; tylus in lateral view higher than juga; posttylar depression absent; antennal segment I thicker than following segments, cylindrical, weakly curved outward, thickened gradually from base to apex, longer than head; antennal segments II and III slender, cylindrical, segment IV fusiform; segment IV usually longest, segment I shortest, segment II longer than III; rostrum reaching posterior margin of abdominal sternite III or middle third of sternite IV; rostral segment I at most slightly extending beyond base of head; rostral segment III shortest, segment IV longest, segments I and II subequal.

Thorax. Pronotum wider than long; anterolateral borders obliquely straight, dentate, teeth relatively stout and acute; humeral angles obtuse, truncate (Fig. 3) or gently subacute (Fig. 19); posterolateral borders straight, smooth; posterior border straight to weakly concave, smooth; calli rounded, slightly raised, anteriorly with two small spines, each lateral to midline, and posteriorly with two deep pits, each lateral to midline; posterior lobe of pronotal disk with low longitudinal medial carinae; posterior margin with low transverse ridge (Fig. 3); meso-

sternum with shallow sulcus; metathoracic peritreme bilobate, with two well separated lobes, anterior one longer, semicircular, posterior one shorter, subacute; opening obliquely directed. Scutellum longer than wide.

Legs. Male: Fore and middle femora ventrally armed with two subapical spines and one row of obtuse spines, dorsally almost smooth; hind femur gradually incrassate, armed with two subapical spines and two rows of large and stout spines, dorsal surface densely tuberculate; fore and middle tibiae slender, unarmed, sulcate; hind tibiae robust, sulcate, ventral face armed with two rows of irregular and stout spines, dorsal face with one row of small tubercles or spines. Female: Fore femur ventrally armed with two short, subapical spines; middle femur ventrally armed with two short subapical spines, and one row of 2–3 short denticles; hind femur gradually incrassate (less than in males), ventrally with two subapical spines and one row of 3–4 narrow spines; tibiae unarmed, sulcate.

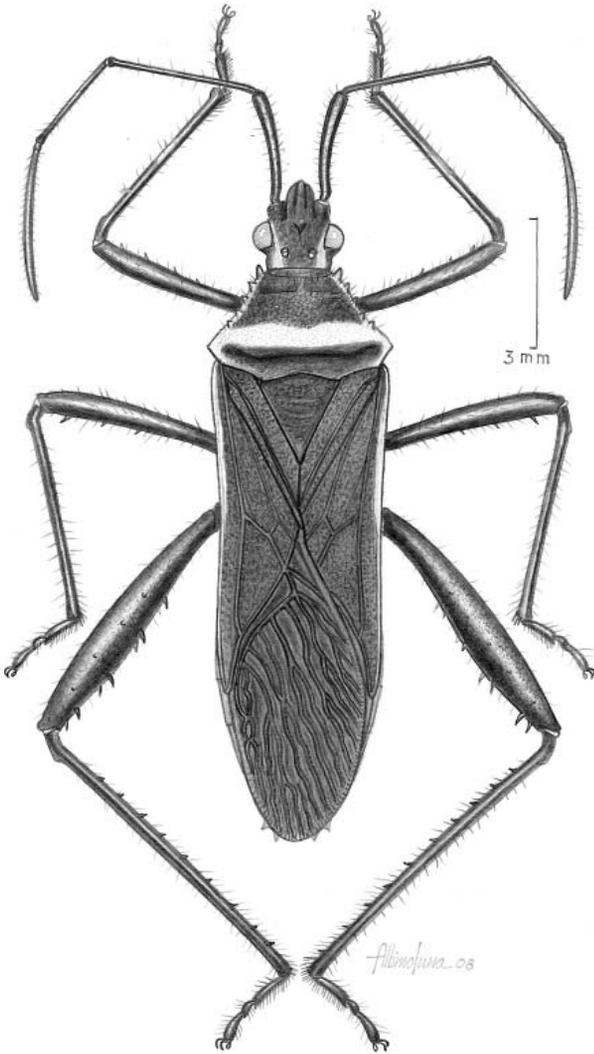


Fig. 19. Dorsal view of *Phthiacnemis picta* (Drury, 1770).

Abdomen. Abdominal sterna with medial furrow.

Male genitalia. Posteroventral edge of genital capsule with deep median notch, entire posterior edge gradually produced over curvature of capsule, with lateral angles acutely projected (Fig. 7). Paramere as in Fig. 13.

Female genitalia. Abdominal sternite VII with fissura short, covering one third of length of sternite; plica quadrate, apically straight; gonocoxae I subtriangular, inner margin open, upper and outer margins rounded and continuous, in lateral view slightly convex.

Integument. Body surface rather dull, without metallic iridescence; dorsally and ventrally clothed with short, erect, golden to silvery pubescence; pronotal disk, clavus, corium, scutellum, acetabulae, great portion of propleura, and posterior margin of mesopleura and metapleura dense and finely punctate; head, calli, anterior and middle margin of mesopleura and metapleura, pro-, meso- and metasternum, abdominal sterna, male genital capsule and female genital plates impunctate; antennal segments I–III densely covered with short, erect setae, segment IV with dense adpressed setae; legs clothed with large, erect, bristle-like setae.

Differential diagnosis. *Phthiacnemia* gen. nov., like *Phthia*, has the metathoracic peritreme bilobate, tylus laterally higher than juga, shortest antennal segment I, posterior lobe of pronotal disk with low longitudinal medial carinae, anterior margin of mesosternum in front of the area between fore legs truncate, and abdominal sterna with a medial furrow.

The new genus can be distinguished by having the body surface without metallic iridescence, posttylar depression absent, antennal segment I thickening gradually from base to apex, anterior lobe of pronotal disk without a narrow, arcuate, yellow transverse fascia, humeral angles obtuse, truncate or gently subacute, anterolateral borders of pronotum dentate and posterolateral borders entirely smooth, calli anteriorly with two small spines, each lateral to midline, and posteriorly with two deep pits, each lateral to midline, corium behind claval commissure without yellow transverse fascia, male hind tibiae robust and armed, and posteroventral edge of male genital capsule with deep median notch and lateral angles acutely projected (Fig. 7).

In *Phthia* the body surface is rather dull with metallic iridescence restricted to the ventral surface of head, calli, thorax, coxae, abdominal segments III–VI and lateral margins of abdominal sterna III–VII, posttylar depression forming single sulcus, antennal segment I distally thickened above the upper half, anterior lobe of pronotal disk with narrow, arcuate, yellow transverse fascia, humeral angles acute to subacute, slightly raised and extending laterally, anterolateral borders of pronotum smooth and posterolateral borders with outer third dentate and inner third smooth, calli anteriorly without two small spines each lateral to midline, corium behind claval commissure with yellow transverse fascia, male hind tibiae slender and armed, and male genital capsule with posteroventral edge of gently concave, bearing two broad spines on either side of midline, and lateral angles quadrate (Fig. 9).

Etymology. Named for its similarity to *Phthia*; gender feminine.

Distribution. Widespread through the south of the United States of America, Mexico, Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica), Great Antilles (Cuba), Colombia, Venezuela, Surinam, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina.

Included species. Only one species is known in the genus: *Phthiacnemia picta* (Drury, 1770) comb. nov.

***Phthiadema* gen. nov.**

(Figs. 2, 6, 14–15, 17, 20)

Type species. *Leptoscelis cyanea* Signoret, 1862: 581.**Description.** Head usually longer than wide; tylus in lateral view slightly lower than juga; posttylar depression forming single sulcus; antennal segment I slightly thicker than following segments, cylindrical, weakly curved outward, thickening gradually from base to apex, longer than head; antennal segments II and III slender, cylindrical, segment IV fusiform; segment IV longest, segment III shortest, segment II longer than I; rostrum reaching posterior third of abdominal sternite III or middle third of sternite IV; rostral segment I at most slightly extending beyond base of head; rostral segment III shortest, segment IV longest, segments I and II subequal.

Thorax. Pronotum wider than long; anterolateral borders obliquely straight, dentate; humeral angles thick at base, tapering into short or large acute to subacute spine, pointing outward; posterolateral borders barely sinuate, outer third dentate, inner third smooth; posterior border straight to weakly concave, smooth (Fig. 2); calli rounded, slightly raised, posteriorly with two deep pits, each lateral to midline; pronotal disk without longitudinal medial carinae; posterior margin with low transverse ridge; mesosternum with shallow sulcus; metathoracic peritreme undivided, simple, not bilobate (Fig. 17); opening obliquely directed. Scutellum wider than long.

Legs. Fore femur with two tiny subapical spines and 1–2 spines in one row (difficult to see); middle femur with two subapical spines and one row with 3–4 short denticles; hind femora ventrally armed with two subdistal spines, two rows of stout and irregular spines, dorsally smooth; hind femur gradually incrassate in both sexes; fore and middle tibiae slender, unarmed, sulcate; hind tibiae ventrally armed with one row of stout and tiny denticles, sulcate, and longer than femur.

Abdomen. Abdominal sterna without medial furrow.

Male genitalia. Posteroventral edge of genital capsule with deep median notch, laterally bearing two short triangular expansions, each lateral to midline, lateral angles rounded, slightly folded inward (Fig. 6). Paramere as in Figs. 14–15.

Female genitalia. Abdominal sternite VII with fissura short, covering one third of length of sternite; plica subtriangular, apically truncate; gonocoxae I short, subquadrate, medially concave, inner margin open, raised and clearly exposed, upper and outer margins rounded and continuous.

Integument. Body surface shiny, metallic green with blue and purple iridescence; dorsally and ventrally clothed with short, erect, golden to silvery pubescence; pronotal disk, clavus and corium densely punctate; scutellum punctate and transversely striate; pro-, meso- and metacetabulae, propleura and posterior margin of mesopleura and metapleura finely punctate; head, calli, meso- and metapleura, pro-, meso- and metasternum, abdominal sterna, male genital capsule and female genital plates impunctate; antennal segments I–III clothed with short to medium size erect setae, segment IV with tiny adpressed setae; legs clothed with large, erect, bristle-like setae.

Differential diagnosis. *Phthiadema* gen. nov. can be distinguished from *Phthiacnemis* gen. nov. by having a shiny, metallic green body surface with blue and purple iridescence, a simple,

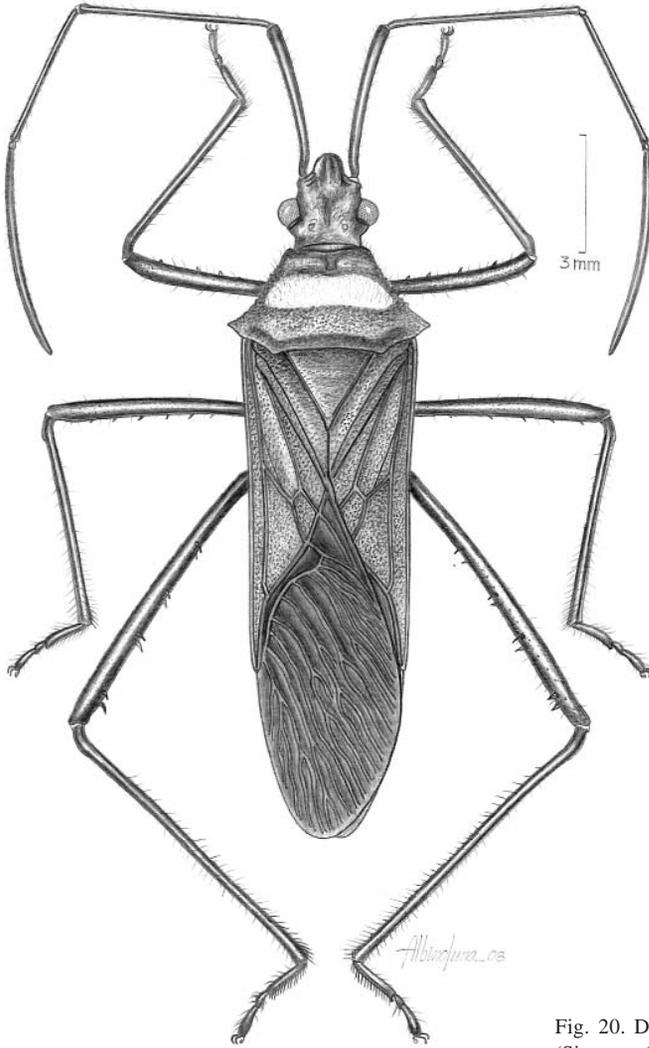


Fig. 20. Dorsal view of *Phthiadema cyanea* (Signoret, 1862).

undivided, not bilobate metathoracic peritreme (Fig. 17), dentate anterolateral borders of the pronotum (Fig. 2), a slightly lower tylus than juga, no longitudinal medial carina on the posterior lobe of pronotal disk, and no medial furrow on the abdominal sterna. In *Phthia* the body surface is rather dull, sometimes with metallic iridescence restricted to the ventral portion of head, calli, thorax, coxae, abdominal segments III–VI and abdominal sterna III–VII, the metathoracic peritreme is bilobate (Fig. 16), the anterolateral borders of pronotum are smooth (Fig. 5), the tylus slightly higher than juga, the posterior lobe of pronotal disk with a low medial carina (sometimes difficult to see), and the abdominal sterna with a medial furrow.

In *Phthiacnemia* gen. nov. the entire body surface is rather dull without metallic iridescence, the tylus higher than juga, the posttylar depression absent (present in *Phthiadema* gen. nov.), the metathoracic peritreme bilobate, and the humeral angles obtuse and truncate (acute to subacute in *Phthiadema* gen. nov.). Anterolateral borders of the pronotum are dentate in both genera.

Etymology. Named for its similarity to the genus *Phthia*; gender feminine.

Distribution. Distributed in the Transandian region of Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

Included species. *Phthiadema cyanea* (Signoret, 1862) comb. nov., *Ph. ornata* (Stål, 1865) comb. nov. and *Ph. smaragdina* (Walker, 1871) comb. nov.

Phthiarella gen. nov.

(Figs. 1, 10)

Type species. *Phthia decorata* Stål, 1865: 184.

Description. Head longer than or as long as wide; tylus in lateral view weakly lower than juga; posttylar depression forming single sulcus; antennal segment I slightly thicker than following segments, cylindrical, weakly curved outward, thickening gradually from base to apex, longer than head; antennal segments II and III slender, cylindrical, segment IV fusiform; segment IV longest, segment III shortest, segment II longer than I; rostrum reaching posterior third of abdominal sternite IV; rostral segment I at most slightly extending beyond base of head; rostral segment III shortest, segment IV longest, segments I and II subequal.

Thorax. Pronotum wider than long; anterolateral borders obliquely straight, finely dentate; humeral angles robust at base, tapering into short or large, acute to subacute spine, pointing outward; posterolateral borders barely sinuate, outer third dentate, inner third smooth; posterior border gently convex, smooth; calli rounded, slightly raised, posteriorly with two deep pits, each lateral to midline; triangular process absent; pronotal disk without longitudinal medial carinae; posterior margin with low transverse ridge (Fig. 1); mesosternum with shallow sulcus; metathoracic peritreme bilobate, with two well separated lobes, anterior one longer and semicircular, posterior one shorter and barely rounded; opening obliquely directed. Scutellum wider than long.

Legs. Fore femur with two short and stout subapical spines and 1–2 spines in one row; middle femur with two subapical spines and one row with 3–4 short and stout spines; hind femora ventrally armed with two subapical spines and two rows of stout and irregular spines, dorsally smooth; hind femur gradually incrassate in both sexes; fore and middle tibiae slender, unarmed, sulcate; hind tibiae ventrally armed with one row of stout and tiny denticles, sulcate.

Abdomen. Abdominal sterna without medial furrow.

Male genitalia. Posteroventral edge of genital capsule gently sinuate to straight, lateral angles rounded and slightly folded inward (Fig. 10).

Female genitalia. Abdominal sternite VII with fissura short, covering one third of length of sternite; plica subtriangular, apically truncate; gonocoxae I short, subquadrate, medially concave, inner margin open, raised and clearly exposed, upper and outer margins rounded and continuous.

Integument. Body surface shiny, metallic green with blue and purple iridescence; following areas rather dull: rectangular fascia at anterior lobe of pronotal disk, hemelytra (except punctures), dorsal abdominal segments, rostral segments, pro-, meso- and metasternum, lower margin of acetabulae, coxae, trochanter and abdominal sterna III and IV; antennal segments I–III with or without metallic iridescence; dorsally and ventrally clothed with short, erect, golden to silvery pubescence; pronotal disk, clavus and corium densely punctate; scutellum punctate and transversely striate; pro-, meso- and metacetabulae, propleura and posterior margin of mesopleura and metapleura finely punctate; head, calli, meso- and metapleura, pro-, meso- and metasternum, abdominal sterna, male genital capsule and female genital plates impunctate; antennal segments I–III clothed with short to moderately long, erect setae, segment IV with tiny adpressed setae; legs clothed with large, erect, bristle-like setae.

Differential diagnosis. *Phthiarella* gen. nov. shares with *Phthiadema* gen. nov. the following characters: head, abdominal sterna V–VII, male genital capsule and female genital plates entirely metallic green with or without blue and purple iridescence, tylus slightly lower than juga, anterolateral borders of pronotum dentate, pronotal disk without longitudinal medial carinae, and the posttylar depression forming simple sulcus. In *Phthiarella* gen. nov., the metathoracic peritreme is bilobate (like in *Phthia*), and the posteroventral edge of male genital capsule gently sinuate to straight (Fig. 1). In *Phthiadema* gen. nov. the metathoracic peritreme is simple and the posteroventral edge of male genital capsule has a deep medial notch (Fig. 6).

Phthia is distinguished from *Phthiarella* gen. nov. by having the dorsal portion of head rather dull, the abdominal sterna V–VII dull and laterally with metallic iridescence, the anterolateral borders of pronotum smooth, the posterior lobe of pronotal disk with low longitudinal medial carinae (sometimes difficult to see) and the posteroventral edge of male genital capsule gently concave, bearing two broad spines on either side (Fig. 9).

Etymology. Named for its similarity to the genus *Phthia*; gender feminine.

Distribution. Recorded from Brazil, Ecuador and Peru.

Included species. *Phthiarella affinis* (Distant, 1901) comb. nov., *Ph. decorata* (Stål, 1865) comb. nov., *Ph. femorata* (Breddin, 1901) comb. nov., and *Ph. sponsa* (Breddin, 1901) comb. nov.

***Rhytidophthia* gen. nov.**

(Figs. 4, 8)

Type species. *Phthia splendida* Valdés, 1910: 431.

Description. Head longer than wide; tylus in lateral view weakly higher than juga; posttylar depression absent; antennal segment I slightly thicker than following segments, cylindrical, curved outward, narrow at base, then uniformly thickened and slightly compressed, longer (male) or shorter (female) than head; antennal segments II and III slender, cylindrical, segment IV fusiform; antennal segment IV longest, segment II longer than I, segments III and I subequal; rostrum reaching middle third of abdominal sternite III; rostral segment I extending beyond base of head; rostral segment III shortest, segment IV longest, segments I and II subequal.

Thorax. Pronotum wider than long; anterolateral borders obliquely straight, strongly dentate; humeral angles robust at base, tapering into large acute spine, directed outward and forward; posterolateral borders barely sinuate, outer third strongly dentate, inner third smooth;

posterior border straight, smooth; calli rounded, gently raised, with two expansions (remarkably large in males, shorter in females), each lateral to midline; posterior lobe of pronotal disk with low longitudinal medial carinae; posterior margin with low transverse ridge (Fig. 4); mesosternum with deep sulcus; metathoracic peritreme bilobate, with two well separated lobes, anterior one larger, semicircular, posterior one shorter and barely rounded; opening obliquely directed. Scutellum wider than long.

Legs. Fore and middle femora ventrally armed with two subapical spines and one row of one (fore leg) or three (middle leg) of short and stout denticles, dorsally smooth; hind femur gradually incrassate (less so in females), ventrally armed with two subapical spines and two rows of large and stout spines, dorsally tuberculate (less so in females); fore and middle tibiae slender, unarmed, sulcate; hind tibiae slender, ventrally armed with one irregular row of stout spines, sulcate.

Abdomen. Abdominal sterna with medial furrow.

Male genitalia. Posteroventral edge of genital capsule with V-shaped median notch, delimited by broad quadrate plates on either side of midline, lateral angles obliquely straight (Fig. 8).

Female genitalia. Abdominal sternite VII with fissura covering middle half of length of sternite; plica quadrate, apically sinuate; gonocoxae I subtriangular, inner margin close, upper and outer margins rounded and continuous, in lateral view exposed.

Integument. Body surface rather dull, with metallic blue and purple iridescence restricted to dorsal surface of head, calli, anterolateral borders of pronotum, scutellum, rostral segment I, acetabulae and legs; dorsally and ventrally clothed with short, erect, golden to silvery pubescence; pronotal disk, scutellum, clavus, corium, acetabulae, great portion of propleura and posterior margin of mesopleura and metapleura densely and finely punctate; head, calli, anterior and middle margin of mesopleura and metapleura, pro-, meso- and metasternum, abdominal sterna, male genital capsule and female genital plates impunctate; antennal segments I–III densely clothed with short erect and adpressed setae, segment IV with tiny adpressed setae; legs clothed with large, erect, bristle-like setae.

Differential diagnosis. *Rhytidophthia* gen. nov., like *Phthiacnemia* gen. nov., has the tylus slightly higher than juga, the posttylar depression absent, the posterior pronotal disk with low longitudinal carinae, the hind femur dorsally tuberculate, the male hind tibiae ventrally armed, the metathoracic peritreme bilobate, and the abdominal sterna with medial furrow.

Rhytidophthia gen. nov. is distinguished from *Phthiacnemia* by having a metallic bluish purple iridescence at the dorsal surface of the head, calli, anterolateral borders of pronotum, scutellum, rostral segment I, acetabulae and legs, each humeral angle remarkably expanded into a large and acute spine directed outward and forward, two large projections present at midline of the calli (shorter in females), scutellum wider than long, and a basally narrow, then uniformly thickened and slightly compressed antennal segment I. In *Phthiacnemia* gen. nov. the body surface is entirely rather dull, the humeral angles obtuse, truncate, the calli in both sexes anteriorly with two small spines, each lateral to midline, the scutellum longer than wide, and antennal segment I gradually incrassate from base to apex, not flattened.

Etymology. Named for its similarity to the genus *Phthia*; gender feminine.

Distribution. Only known from the Great Antilles (Cuba).

Included species. *Rhytidophthia splendida* (Valdés, 1910) comb. nov.

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