

## **Yemma pericarti sp. n. from South Tunis (Heteroptera, Berytidae)**

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Specimens of an interesting *Metacanthinae* species collected by Mr. Jean Péricart in an oasis in South Tunis were kindly sent for examination to the author. They are described below as a new species and named in honour of the collector. The author is greatly indebted to Mr. J. Péricart for the materials.

### **Yemma pericarti sp. n.**

(Figs. 1—19)

**Diagnosis.** The new species bears all the characters of the genus *Yemma* Horváth, 1905 and it is easily distinguishable from other described species of the genus by dark brown annulated antennae and legs. Fourth antennal joint is very short — 4.7 times shorter than second and 3.7 times shorter than third joint.

**Description.** Body very long and slender, approximately nine times longer than wide. General colour whitish stramineously yellow, antennae and legs with narrow dark brown spots and rings.

Head very long, 1.7 times longer than wide, especially its postocular portion considerably prolonged. Vertex only moderately convex. The distance between reddish ocelli is shorter than the distance between the posterior margin of an eye and an ocellus. Surface of head not quite smooth and only little polished. Eyes of medium size (not very large and not markedly small), reddish brown. Synthlipsis about 4.7 times wider than dorsal width of an eye in male and 5.5 times in female. Each side of postocular portion of head with two longitudinal, dark brown stripes laterally, the wider and more positive stripe is situated behind eye in the middle of lateral portion of head, the second stripe is very narrow and less strong, situated below level of under margin of eye lateroventrally. Antennae very thin, about 1.4 times longer than body. First antennal joint longer than half the body and shorter than second and third joints together; second longer than third, fourth joint spindle-like and only moderately widened. Fourth joint relatively small, about 4.7 times shorter than second, black with its apical third whitish. First antennal joint with about 6—7 dark brown narrow rings and brown apical clava (except its light extreme apex) second joint with about 6 rings which are lighter and less distinct, third

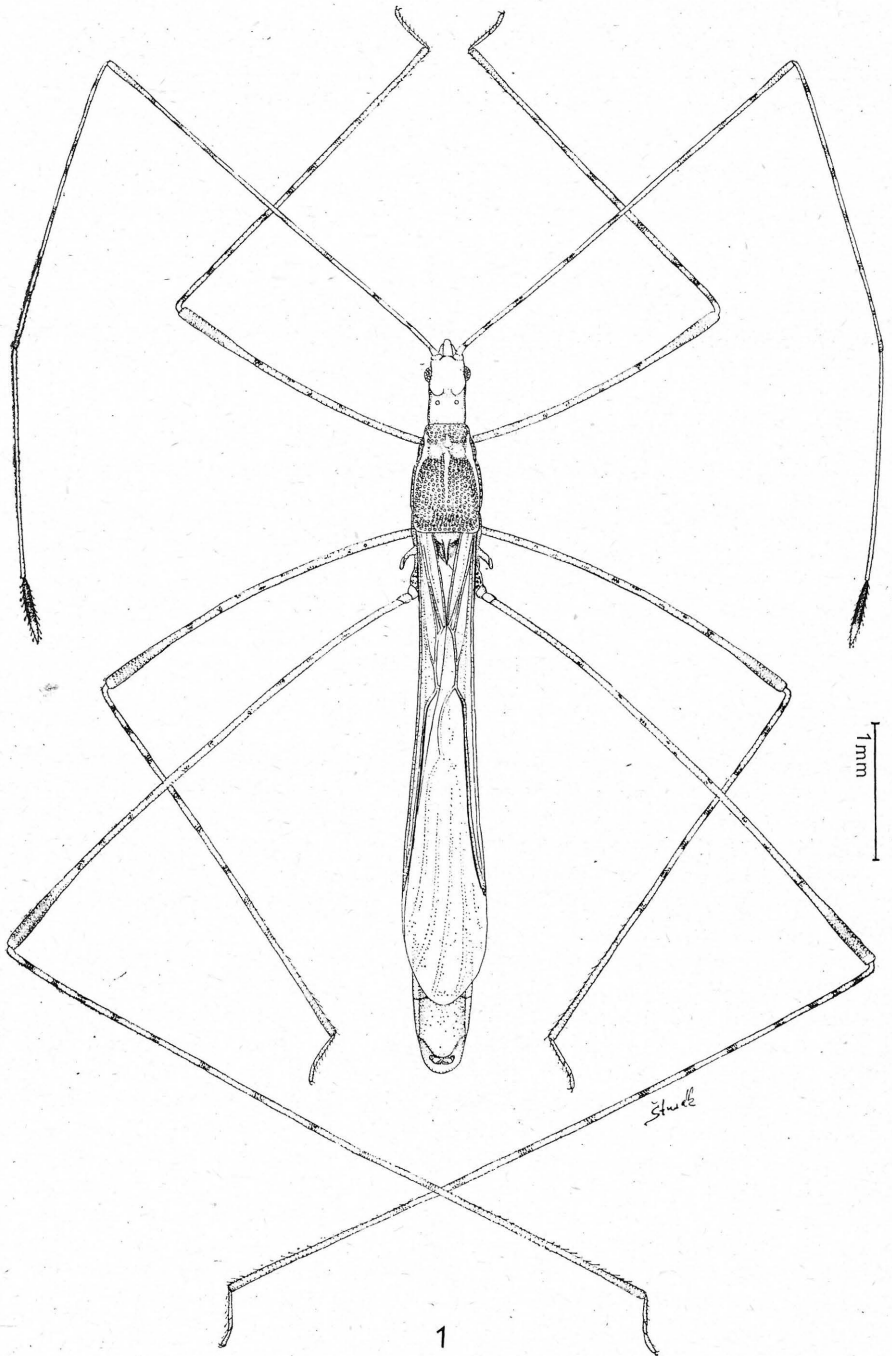


Fig. 1. *Yemma pericarti* sp. n., holotype.

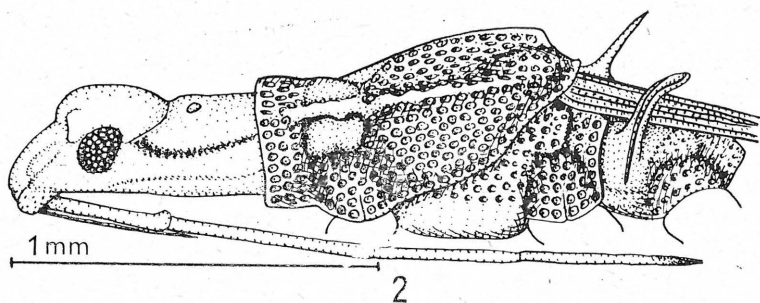


Fig. 2. *Yemma pericarti* sp. n., head and thorax, lateral view.

joint without dark rings. Rostrum reaching between posterior coxae is light with piceous tip. First labial joint hardly reaches level of ocelli, second labial joint reaches posterior margin of anterior coxae. Labrum reaching almost first fifth of second labial joint. Relation of labial joints in mm: I : II : III : IV = 0.42 : 0.58 : 0.40 : 0.51.

Pronotum 1.6 times longer than wide, structured with tiny hexagons as usual in *Metacanthinae*, its anterior margin almost straight (indistinctly convex), posterior margin very little concave medially (almost straight). Region of callosities with two close to each other situated circular smooth formations. Longitudinal carinae of pronotum (two lateral, one median) callous and somewhat lighter than remaining pronotal portions, they do not start at the anterior pronotal margin but begin just between the anterior margin of pronotum and anterior margin of callosities, gradually narrowing in caudal direction. The median carina is shortly interrupted between the two circular callosities and is widest and highest at the posterior margin of callosities as well as the lateral carinae. Humeral angles and median tubercle relatively little elevated. Posterior lobuli of pronotum very moderately developed. Scutellum wider than long, its posterior margin arch-like convex. Scutellar spine rather long, directed obliquely upwards.

Lateral portions of prothorax structured in the same way as pronotal disc except the darkly bordered callosity which is situated above prothoracic supra-coxal lobe. Also supra-coxal lobes of mesothorax and metathorax structured. Lateral portions of mesothorax very coarsely punctured. Metathorax smooth (unstructured) laterally except its supra-coxal lobe. Perithreme long, reaching considerably beyond level of hemelytra, its apex moderately curved caudad.

Hemelytra hyaline, moderately shorter than abdomen, approximately reaching posterior margin of VI<sup>th</sup> tergite (reaching a little beyond in males). Inner margin of prolonged portion of corium with narrow piceous line. Caudal portion of clavus darkened in some specimens.

Legs very thin and long, with dark brown spots and rings which are much narrower than the light spaces among them. Apical clavae of femora, apices of tibiae and tarsi dark brown. Femora with spots or incomplete rings which are not so strongly marked, anterior and middle tibiae with about 7—8 narrow dark brown rings, posterior tibiae approximately with 9—10 rings. Rings on apical fourth of tibiae almost indistinct or absent.

Abdomen with a dark, rather wide median stripe dorsally. Pygophore as in Figs. 5, 6, right paramere as in Figs. 9—19.

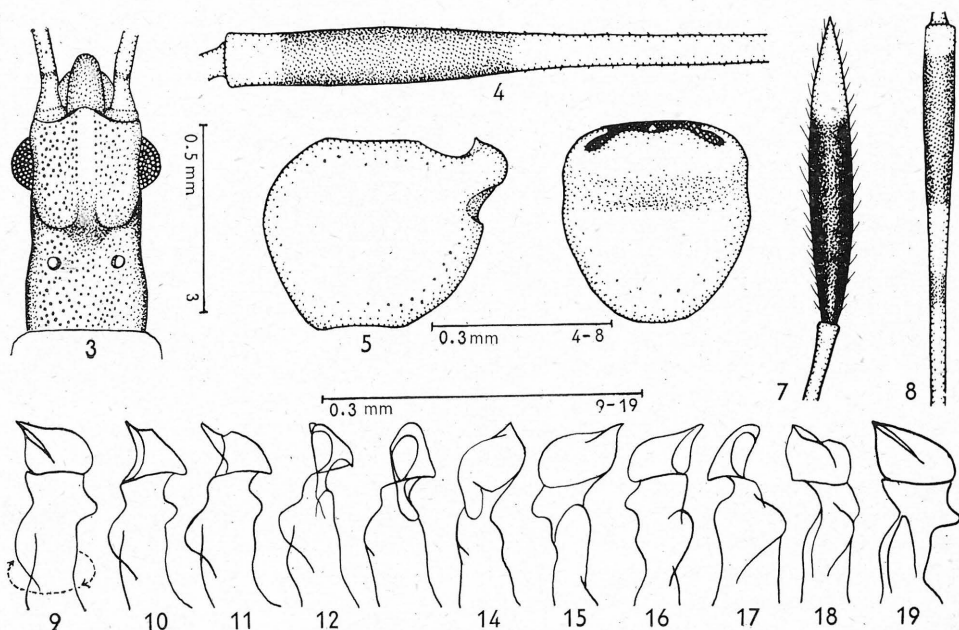
Measurements in mm (holotype): Length of body 5.47, length of head 0.67, width of head 0.37, distance between eyes 0.26, distance between ocelli 0.13, length of antenna 7.82 (I:II:III:IV = 3.40:2.21:1.74:0.47), length of pronotum 0.87, width of pronotum 0.53, length of hemelytron 3.53, width of hemelytron 0.60.

leg	femur	tibia	tarsus
anterior	2.13	2.81	0.43
middle	2.72	3.27	0.47
posterior	4.25	5.57	0.49

There are no substantial differences in size of the type-series.

Holotype ♂, allotype ♀ and 9 paratypes: South Tunis, Oasis de Tozeur, March 30, 1979, on *Ambrosia maritima* L. (Asteraceae), leg. J. Péricart.

Holotype and 6 paratypes in coll. J. Péricart, allotype and 3 paratypes (2 ♂♂, 1 ♀) in coll. J. M. Štusák.



Figs. 3—19. *Yemma pericarti* sp. n. 3 — Head, 4 — Apical portion of posterior femur, 5 — Pygophore, lateral view, 6 — Pygophore, posterior view, 7 — Fourth antennal segment, 8 — Apical portion of first antennal segment, 9—19 — Right paramere twisted along its longitudinal axis.

#### Distinguishing notes.

Although the new species is rather similar to species of *Metacanthus* Costa, 1838 in its general appearance, it entirely agrees with the description

of the genus *Yemma* Horváth, 1905. This genus was erected by Horváth (1905) to include species of *Metacanthinae* differing from *Metacanthus* in considerably elongate postocular portion of the head, in having the distance between ocelli shorter than the distance of an ocellus from the posterior margin of eye, in having the second labial segment extraordinary long and the first segment very short. The new species agrees with all the above mentioned characters of the genus *Yemma*, only the first labial segment is not very short as it is in *Y. exilis* Horv. — the type species of the genus. Further investigations of this difficult group may show that *Yemma* Horv. could be only a subgenus of *Metacanthus* Costa but it is impossible to solve the question definitely at the present.

Three species have been known before in the genus *Yemma* Horv., namely *Y. exilis* Horváth, 1905 [Japan; Korea (Josifov & Kerzhner, 1978)], *Y. javanica* Blöte, 1945 (Java) and *Y. signata* (Hsiao, 1974), (China, Peking) originally described in *Metacanthus* C. and later (Hsiao & al., 1977) transferred to *Yemma* Horv. *Y. pericarti* sp. n. differs from all these species mainly in having antennae and legs annulated with dark brown, in longer first labial segment and in having very short fourth antennal segment. Also its total body length is a little less than in the others.

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#### Abstract

*Yemma pericarti* sp. n. described and figured from South Tunis. It was collected on *Ambrosia maritima* L. (Asteraceae). Distinguishing features of the new species from the others (*Y. exilis* Horv., *Y. javanica* Blöte, *Y. signata* (Hsiao)) are given. Distinguishing characters of the genus *Yemma* Horv. are reviewed and it seems probable that *Yemma* Horv. could represent only a subgenus of *Metacanthus* Costa.

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