

A NOTE ON THE IDENTITY OF 'ACANTHONEVRA' INERMIS HERING (DIPTERA: TEPHRITIDAE: ACANTHONEVRINI)

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Abstract

Rioxoptilona inermis (Hering), **comb. n.**, described from southern India, is transferred from *Acanthonevra* Macquart and the female recorded for the first time. The type localities of *Lumirioxa affluens* (Hering), *L. ornatipennis* (Hering) and *Rioxoptilona ochropleura* (Hering) are confirmed as Kambaiti, northern Burma.

Introduction

Hancock (2011) retained the Indian fruit fly species *Acanthonevra inermis* Hering within that genus and placed it in a key to all known members of the *Acanthonevra* complex of genera as then defined. However, recent examination of the holotype male and two newly identified females (all located in the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH)), has revealed that Hering's (1951) illustration of the wing was misinterpreted with respect to the curvature of vein R_{2+3} , leading to its incorrect retention within *Acanthonevra* Macquart. Its correct placement is discussed below. It should also be noted that some specimens of *Ptilona conformis* Zia have a narrow, longitudinal hyaline streak in cell r_{4+5} below the stigmal/ r_{2+3} indentation that does not cross the cell; this should be considered when using the key.

Hancock (2011) also suggested that the type locality of *Rioxoptilona ochropleura* (Hering, 1951) was possibly incorrect and noted that those of *Lumirioxa affluens* (Hering, 1951) and *L. ornatipennis* (Hering, 1951) were merely recorded as 'Burma'; more precise details are provided below.

Rioxoptilona inermis (Hering, 1951), **comb. n.** (Figs 1-2)

Acanthonevra inermis Hering, 1951: 5. Type locality Anamalai Hills, S India. HT ♂ in BMNH; examined.

Material examined. INDIA: Holotype ♂, Anamalai Hills, S. India, 4000-5000', 27.ix.1946; 1 ♀, Naraikkadu, 2500-3000', Tinnevely Dist., S. India, 11-13.iii.1936; 1 ♀, Bababuddin Hills, Mysore, 4700', 1.vi.1915, Ramakrishna coll. (all in BMNH).

Discussion. In the male (Fig: 1), wing vein R_{2+3} is noticeably undulate but the tip reaches the costa at an acute angle, not almost perpendicularly as previously indicated. This vein is less undulate in the female (Fig. 2), which also has the hyaline indentations and discal spots more extensive than in the male, those near the apex of cell dm forming a broad band rather than two distinct spots. The female abdomen is medially fulvous on terga II and III.

This species keys to couplet 46 in Hancock (2011), differing from the otherwise similar *R. formosana* (Enderlein) and *R. setosifemora* (Hardy) in having a red-brown scutum without any indication of dark longitudinal vittae. It is known only from southern India.



Figs 1-2. *Rioxoptilona inermis* (Hering), wings of (1) holotype male; (2) female (with abdomen inverted). Photos by K. Goodger © Natural History Museum, London.

Type localities

Hering (1951) recorded the type localities of *Lumirioxa affluens* (Hering), *L. ornatipennis* (Hering) and *Rioxoptilona ochroleura* (Hering) as 'Burma' without further details. Holotypes of all three species are in BMNH and carry the following locality data which, despite doubts raised by Hancock (2011), must be assumed to be correct: 'N.E. Burma, Kambaiti, [R.] Malaise', with additional data '2000 m, 4.iv.1934' for *L. affluens*; '7000 ft, 28.iv.1934' for *L. ornatipennis*; and '1800 m, 17.vi.1934' for *R. ochroleura*.

Acknowledgement

I thank Kim Goodger (BMNH) for the photographs and access to specimens.

References

- HANCOCK, D.L. 2011. An annotated key to the species of *Acanthonevra* Macquart and allied genera. *Australian Entomologist* 38: 109-128.
- HERING, E.M. 1951. Neue Fruchtfliegen der Alten Welt. *Siruna Seva* 7: 1-16.