

NOTE

Physopleurella floridana Blatchley, 1925, a Synonym of *Physopleurella mundula* (White, 1877) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Cimicoidea: Anthocoridae)

The genus *Physopleurella* Reuter (1884) was erected to contain *Cardiastethus mundulus* White, 1877, described from the Hawaiian Islands with no specific locality. *Physopleurella* now contains 13 species, including *P. floridana* Blatchley, 1925 (Ford 1979). The type species, *P. mundula* (White), is known to occur on the Hawaiian Islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, and Oahu (Zimmerman 1948; Nishida 1994, 1997, 2002). Zimmerman (1948) included an illustration of the adult of *P. mundula* and Hiura (1959) published on *P. armata* Poppius from Japan and included illustrations of the adult and other anatomical details. Herring (1967) reported this species from nine widely separated islands in Micronesia. Ford (1979) reported twelve other species of *Physopleurella* from Africa (Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Reunion, and Zaire), Australia, Fiji, Japan, New Guinea, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Taiwan, and *P. floridana* Blatchley from southern Florida and possibly from Central America. Carayon (1972) included *Physopleurella* in the Anthocoridae subfamily Lyctocorinae, tribe *Cardiastethini*, together with such genera as *Amphiareus* Distant, *Brachysteles* Mulsant and Rey, *Buchananiola* Reuter, *Cardiastethus* Fieber, *Dufouriellus* Kirkaldy, and *Tiare* Herring. Today, this assemblage of taxa, and others, are placed in the tribe Dufouriellini (Ford 1979, Schuh and Slater 1995).

Blatchley (1925) described *Physopleurella floridana* from Florida and added Panama as another locality in 1926. Henry repeated these records in 1988. The type of *Physopleurella floridana* Blatchley was made available through the kindness of A. Provonsha, Collection Manager of the Purdue Entomological Research Collection.

The type specimen is lacking the head, prothorax, front legs, mid- and hind legs on the left side, part of the left forewing and there has been some damage to the tip of the abdomen. The right side of the specimen is imbedded in glue on the point. The specimen has been examined previously as evidenced by a second hole in the locality label. The label reads as follows: Dunedin, Fla., Apr. 3, 1923. Provonsha indicated that the paratype was no longer in the collection of Purdue University (June 2004). A review of the species description in Blatchley's publication clearly indicates characters of *Physopleurella*: short beak, faint preapical transverse impression on pronotum, ostiolar canal curved backward (and continued in a forward direction as a narrow carina [see Herring 1965, fig. 18]), front femur enlarged with inner surface with a row of spinelike setae and another row of setae, the anterior tibia curved to fit against the femur, and the rugulose mesopleura. Blatchley's species description mentioned a faint fuscous band across the apical portion of the clavus and corium, legs yellow brown, punctures fine and irregular on the clavus, corium, embolium, with a small seta in each puncture, and size 2.8–3 mm. I have compared the remains of the type with recently collected specimens of *Physopleurella mundula* (White) from Oahu and other Hawaiian Islands (courtesy of the Bishop Museum, Honolulu), including a specimen I collected on Oahu, April, 2004) and find these two species to be identical. *Physopleurella floridana* Blatchley, 1925, is here considered a synonym of *Physopleurella mundula* (White, 1877) (**new synonymy**). A label has been placed on the type specimen of *P. floridana* that indicates the current status of Blatchley's species.

Specimens of *Physopleurella floridana* Blatchley and *P. mundula* (White) were received through the efforts of T.J. Henry. The three specimens had been identified by the late H.M. Harris (no date of identification cited), and were in the H.M. Harris Collection donated to the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (USNM) in 1977. The collection data follows: 1 ♀ Mexico intercept/Phila. Pa.//June 8, 1933/A.G. Wells//on banana leaf//*floridana*/H.M. Harris Coll. 1977; 1 ♀ Honduras on bananas//intercept N.Orleans 2-17-36//*floridana*, H.M.Harris Coll.; 1 ♂ (abdomen missing) Canal Zone; Barro Colorado, 18-vii-1924. N.Banks//*Physopleurella floridana* Det. H.M. Harris (no date)//*floridana* H.M.Harris Coll. 1977. The specimens of *P. mundula* (White) were identified by R.C. Froeschner in 1961 and had the following collection data: 1 ♂ Honolulu, Feb. 10-43//Ti leaf, hula skirt, Hawaii No. 842//lot No. 43-3889//*Physopleurella mundula* (White), det. Froeschner '61; 1 ♀ Barber Point, Oahu, Hawaii, 11-10-65//ex *Ficus retusa*//C.J.Davis Collector, ♂ Wahiawa, Oahu 7-58//light trap, E.J.Ford, Jr.; 1 ♂ (?) (abdomen missing) Honolulu, T.H. 1-23-43/Hawaii 821//Ti leaf hula skirt//lot H43-2001. As indicated above, *Physopleurella floridana* is considered to be a synonym of *P. mundula*, accordingly, the three specimens cited above have been identified as such and a label *Physopleurella mundula* (White) placed on each specimen. Note that the records of *P. mundula* from Mexico, Honduras, and the Canal Zone constitute new country records of *P. mundula*, and the Florida specimens of *P. floridana* (now *P. mundula*) also represent a new record (Florida) and add yet another non-indigenous species of Anthocoridae to the fauna of America north of Mexico.) The specimens from Oahu, Hawaiian Islands, will be included in a manuscript now in preparation on the Lasiocilidae, Lyctocoridae, and Anthocoridae of the Hawaiian Islands. Nishida (1997, 2002) reported *P. mundula* from the islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Molokai,

and Oahu. Elsewhere, this species has been reported from Guam (Usinger 1946), the Marshall Islands (Usinger 1951), and Fiji (Gross 1954).

Most records on habitats for this species stated that specimens were beaten from dead leaves of palmetto (Blatchley 1926); beating dead leaves and branches (Usinger 1946, 1951); banana leaves (USNM specimens), ti leaves of hula skirt(!); *Ficus retusa* (USNM specimens). Zimmerman (1948) reported a collection that included sugar cane, roofs of houses, dead cane leaves (preying on psocids and small leafhoppers) where it was most common where psocids occurred. The specimen I collected on Oahu was taken beating dead leaves. These habits and habitats are common to the habits of many Dufouriellini (e.g., Latrin 1999a, b).

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