

Review of the Oriental species of the genus *Brachycerocoris* Costa, 1863 (Hemiptera: Pentatomoidea: Pentatomidae: Podopinae s.l.) with description of two new species

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Abstract

The Oriental species belonging to genus *Brachycerocoris* Costa, 1863 (Hemiptera: Pentatomoidea: Pentatomidae: Podopinae s.l.) are revised with description of two new species, *B. petrii* **sp. nov.** and *B. davidii* **sp. nov.** from India and Philippines respectively. *Brachycerocoris camelus* Costa, 1863 is diagnosed and illustrated for female genitalia and *B. dromedarius* (Vollenhoven, 1863) is diagnosed and illustrated for both male and female genitalia. Additionally, host record, bionomics of *B. petrii* **sp. nov.** and a key to the Oriental species are provided.

Key words: *Vitex*, Lamiaceae, India, Karnataka, Philippines, *Brachycerocoris* genus-group, *B. petrii*, *B. davidii*

Introduction

Brachycerocoris Costa, 1863 belongs to the *Brachycerocoris* genus-group (*Brachycerocorini sensu* Davidová-Viliánová & Štys, 1994 [*nomina nuda*]), one of the five genus-groups in Podopinae *sensu lato* (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae), represented by 13 species under 3 genera across the world. The group is distributed in the Afrotropical, South-East Palearctic and Oriental regions (Rider *et al.* 2018). Members of this group are reported to occur on a wide spectrum of plants including Fabaceae, Rhamnaceae and Verbanaceae (Schaefer 1981, 1983, Linnavuori 1982). At present, the genus *Brachycerocoris* comprises five valid species: *B. afer* Stål, 1876, *B. camelus* Costa, 1863, *B. congoanus* Schouteden, 1905, *B. dromedarius* (Vollenhoven, 1863) and *B. patrizii* Mancini, 1939, of which, *B. afer*, *B. congoanus* and *B. patrizii* are African species and *B. camelus*, *B. dromedarius* are Asian species.

Costa (1863) originally described *Brachycerocoris* for *B. camelus* (type species by monotypy). Distant (1902) redescribed *B. camelus* and provided its distribution as Sri Lanka and China. Kirkaldy (1909) catalogued four species of *Brachycerocoris* along with their distribution. Chatterjee (1934) provided distribution of *B. camelus* in India (Tamil Nadu) and recorded it on the plant species *Canthium didymium* C. F. Gaertn (Rubiaceae), *Zizyphus oenoplia* (L.) Miller (Rhamnaceae) and *Pterolobium hexapetalum* (Roth) Santapau & Wagh. (Fabaceae). Hsiao *et al.* (1977) briefly redescribed *B. camelus* based on external morphology and colouration, and reported this species from Sri Lanka and various locations within China. Schaefer *et al.* (1996) redescribed *B. camelus* and *B. dromedarius* and illustrated the male genitalia of *B. camelus* and *B. dromedarius* based on specimens from China and Philippines respectively. They discussed the variation in spermathecal bulb within *B. camelus*, apart from mentioning the differences between both the species. However the dissected male genitalia (genital capsule and paramere) of identified species of *B. dromedarius* (provided in this paper) when compared with those given by Schaefer *et al.* (1996: Fig. 3. C & D) revealed the probable interchange of the images between *B. camelus* and *B. dromedarius*. Later, Schaefer (1997) after studying specimens from India (Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu) mentioned that it closely resembled the specimens of *B. camelus* from China but varied in several characters viz., central tubercle on pronotum, medial tubercle on scutellum and the tubercle between the eyes are more rounded in Indian species when compared with