

Studies on New Guinean giant stick-insects of the tribe Stephanacridini Günther, 1953, with the descriptions of a new genus and three new species of *Stephanacris* Redtenbacher, 1908 (Phasmatodea: “Anareolatae”)

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Abstract

The genus *Hermarchus* STÅL, 1875 (type-species: *Phibalosoma pythonius* Westwood, 1859) is an artificial taxon. The new genus *Macrophasma* **n. gen.** (type-species: *Hermarchus biroi* Redtenbacher, 1908) is described to contain all New Guinean species currently in *Hermarchus* Stål, as these differ considerably from the type-species of *Hermarchus* Stål from Fiji by various features of the insects and eggs. *Hermarchus biroi* Redtenbacher, 1908, *H. lyratus* Redtenbacher, 1908 and *H. oreitrephes* Günther, 1929 are transferred to *Macrophasma* **n. gen.**. *Hermarchus annulatus* Günther, 1929 and *H. muelleri* Redtenbacher, 1908 are shown to be synonyms of *H. biroi* Redtenbacher, 1908 (**n. syn.**). A lectotype is designated for *M. biroi* (Redtenbacher, 1908) with the egg described and illustrated. Three new species of the genus *Stephanacris* Redtenbacher, 1908 from New Guinea are described and illustrated from the ♀♀ and eggs: *Stephanacris draconius* **n. sp.** from Papua New Guinea, *Stephanacris multilobatus* **n. sp.** from southeast West Papua and *Stephanacris laeviceps* **n. sp.** from northwest West Papua. Holotypes are deposited in ZSMC and RMNH, paratypes in the first and second author’s collections.

Key words: Phasmatodea; Stephanacridini; *Macrophasma* n. gen.; *Stephanacris*; *Stephanacris draconius* **n. sp.**; *Stephanacris multilobatus* **n. sp.**; *Stephanacris laeviceps* n. sp.; lectotypes; new synonyms; New Guinea

Introduction

Although several of the world’s largest and most spectacular insects belong to the order Phasmatodea, even tribes such as the Australasian Stephanacridini Günther, 1953 which contain some of the longest known insects, have so far remained quite poorly known. Several species are only known from a single sex and even new taxa are frequently found.