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***Paraedessa*, a new genus of Edessinae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae)**

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Abstract

The new genus *Paraedessa* is proposed, to include four species previously placed in *Edessa*. The new genus is characterized by males with the pygophore showing a lateral expansion of proctiger, and females with gonocoxites 8 reduced; gonapophyses 8 exposed and sclerotized. The species are very similar and their identification is possible only by comparing genitalia. New combinations proposed are *Paraedessa stolidus* (Linnaeus) from Suriname and Brazil; *P. heymonsi* (Bred-din) from Peru and Bolivia; *P. verhoeffi* (Bred-din) from Venezuela, Colombia, Peru and Brazil and *P. paravinula* (Barber) from Puerto Rico. New species proposed are *P. albomaculata* from Suriname; *P. cyanodorsata* from Costa Rica, Panama and Venezuela; *P. ecuadoriensis* from Colombia and Ecuador; *P. silvicola* from French Guiana; *P. subretangulata* from Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia and Venezuela. The species were illustrated and photographed. Descriptions were made using mostly male and female genitalia external morphological characters. A key and distribution map for the species are also provided.

Key words: *Edessa*, Neotropical region, new combination, new species, taxonomy

Introduction

The subfamily Edessinae Amyot & Serville (1843) has six genera: *Edessa* Fabricius, 1803 (261 species); *Brachystethus* Laporte, 1832 (10 species); *Peromatus* Amyot & Serville, 1843 (8 species); *Olbia* Stål, 1862 (3 species); *Pantochlora* Stål, 1870 (1 species) and *Doesburgedessa* Fernandes, 2010 (5 species). The genus *Brachystethus* is recognized by the anterior apex of the metasternal process truncate and not clearly bifurcate. *Peromatus* has only four antennal segments. *Olbia* has a pair of spines on the posterior margin of the pronotum, near the scutellum base. *Pantochlora* is characterized by the anterior apex of the metasternal process not bifurcate, projected between procoxae, laterally flattened and attached to the sternum. *Doesburgedessa* is recognized by a metasternal process with a single conical anterior projection which is detached from the mesosternum. *Edessa* is composed of several groups of species with the metasternal process clearly bifurcate anteriorly, but variable in many other characteristics (Fernandes 2010). One of these groups is here described as a new genus.

Linnaeus (1758) described *Cimex stolidus* based on a single male, probably from Surinam. This species was cited by Linnaeus (1764; 1767), Fabricius (1775; 1781; 1787; 1794), Goeze (1778) and Gmelin (1789). Fabricius (1803) transferred *Cimex stolidus* to the genus *Tetyra*. Stål (1872) transferred *T. stolidus* to *Edessa*, including it in the division “r”, named **Hypoxys**, and compared *Edessa stolidus* to *E. affinis* Dallas, 1851. *Edessa stolidus* is mentioned in the catalog of Lethierry & Severin (1893).

Bred-din (1904) described *Edessa heymonsi* based on a female and a male from Marcapata, Peru, and compared it to *Edessa affinis*. In the same study Bred-din described *E. verhoeffi* based on a single female from Colombia. Bred-din (1907) described the female genitalia of *E. heymonsi* in details but did not compare it to other species. Bergroth (1908) cited *E. heymonsi* and *E. verhoeffi* in his catalog. *Edessa stolidus*, *E. heymonsi* and *E. verhoeffi* were mentioned in Kirkaldy’s (1909) catalog.

Wolcott (1922; 1923) identified a species collected in Puerto Rico as *Edessa affinis*. However, Barber (1923)