

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF THYSANOPTERA FROM SOUTH INDIA.

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Since the publication of his memoir¹ on Indian Thysanoptera and of a recent supplementary paper² on the same subject, the author has come across a very interesting Thysanopteron which appears to be not only a new species but exhibits characters that have not been noted in any of the genera known to the author. The insect belongs to the Tubuliferous section of the Order and the strongly developed forelegs appear to be unique in this form. It is described below under the name "*Vēērabahuthrips*".³ This genus must be placed in the subfamily Megathripinae erected by Priesner⁴ in 1926. In having all the three distal joints of the fore limb-femur, tibia and tarsus distinctly armed it approaches the genus *Ischyrothrips*, Sch., but the femoral and tibial teeth in *Ischyrothrips* are very small and feeble compared to the distinct and sharp armature in the new genus. In this feature the latter also differs from the allied genera *Machtaetothrips*, B., *Diceratothrips*, B. and other genera of the group Macrothripinae Karny. In Karny's synoptical table of the Macrothripinae⁵ this new genus will occupy the position as the type of a new section, viz., 1" Fore-femur at the inner margin with more than one tooth.

Vēērabahuthrips, gen. nov.

♀ ♂. Macropterous. Body elongate. Head narrow, very long, more than twice as long as broad, and more than one and a half times the length of prothorax. Antennae 8 jointed. Vertex very slightly drawn forwards in front of the large and elongate eyes. Ocelli distinct; cheeks on either side behind the eye are suddenly constricted, while beyond the constriction they are slightly convex and run almost parallel to meet the prothorax. No conspicuous bristles on cheeks or head. Prothorax comparatively small, rhomboidal, very feebly armed. Front legs remarkably developed, quite disproportionate to the size of the body; fore-femur very stout, almost as long and just as broad as the head; along the inner margin towards its apex it bears four very strong teeth of which the first is the longest and very conspicuous; the fore tibia is broad, stoutly built and possesses along its distal inner margin a series of four short but distinct tubercles; the fore-tarsus has also

¹ Ayyar, T. V. Ramakrishna. A Contribution to our Knowledge of the Thysanoptera of India. *Mem. Dept. Agricul. India*, X, pp. 217-316 (1928).

² Ayyar, T. V. Ramakrishna and V. Margabandhu. Notes on Indian *Thysanoptera* with brief descriptions of new species. *Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* XXXIV, pp. 1029-1040 (1931).

³ *Vēērabahu* in Sanskrit means "Powerful hands"

⁴ Priesner, H. *Thysanoptera of Europe* (1928).

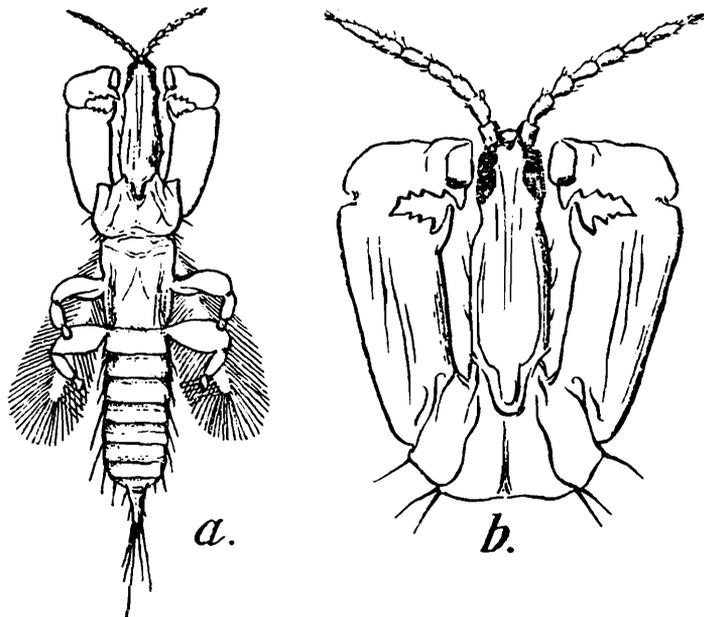
⁵ Karny, H. H. Beitrage zur Malayischen Thysanopterenfauna, *Treubia*, I, pp. 275-291 (1921).

a prominent broad and stout tooth at its base. Of all the teeth the first femoral and the tarsal are the biggest. In the natural resting posture of the insect the femoral teeth remain interlocked with the tibial tubercles and the tarsal tooth, and the arrangement looks more or less as in the pedipalpi of some crabs. The other legs are short, but have the normal form and structure. Wings are well developed and not narrowed at the middle and the anterior ones have four to six duplicate hairs at their tips. The abdomen is just as long as the head and thorax together, though in some specimens it is a little shorter; in breadth it is as broad as or very slightly broader than the prothorax. The tube short, less than a third of the length of head, and shorter than prothorax.

Genotype.—*Vēerabahuthrips bambusae*, sp. nov.

***Vēerabahuthrips bambusae*, sp. nov.**

Macropterous. Length about 2 mm. (Fig. 1, *a*). General colour light yellow, major portion of the head, prothorax and legs of a brighter hue. Vertex of head between and in front of eyes, constricted portion of the cheek on each side, piercing tip of the mouth-cone, tarsal tips of the limbs and whole tube except the base dark brown. Eyes black; ocelli with reddish pigment cups. Antennal joints 1-5 of the same colour as the body, 6 suffused with grey brown; 7 and 8 almost entirely dark brown. Wings nearly transparent with a very light infumation; fringes grey brown.



TEXT-FIG. 1.—*Vēerabahuthrips bambusae*, sp. nov. *a*. Whole animal, dorsal view.
b. Head.

Head (Fig. 1, *b*) very elongated, narrow, more than twice as long as broad; from the front margin of head to tip of mouth cone twice as long as prothorax; vertex projects very slightly beyond the eyes. Eyes large, boat-shaped, inner margin convex, outer almost straight. Ocelli conspicuous, situated towards the anterior margin of the eyes. Head surface smooth, with very few minute, isolated setae. Cheeks with four or five very inconspicuous transparent bristles at intervals, of these the one just behind the eye is the largest. Mouth-cone short,

bluntly rounded, with the piercing apparatus inside the cone sharply pointed; cone not reaching the middle of the prosternum. Antennae elongate, almost as long as head, 8 jointed; 1st joint short, cup-shaped, as broad as long, unarmed; 2nd ovoid, slightly crenate at apex, with a distinct sense cone on inner margin, slightly constricted at base, longer than 1st, broadest at the apex; 3 to 6 almost of the same shape and length, narrowed at base, ovoid, broadest towards apex, third longest of the four; 7th elongate, cylindrical, very slightly narrowed at base, as long as or slightly longer than the 3rd; 8th narrow, elongated cone-shaped, a little longer than 1st joint; joints 3 to 8 have sense cones on each. Prothorax broader than head though only about half its length; very feebly armed with two medium sized, pointed, transparent bristles in postero-lateral region on either side. Fore legs, as noted in the description of the genus above, remarkably developed. Front femur as broad as and about three fourths the length of the head; four distinct pointed teeth situated at its inner margin towards the apex. Tibia stout, curved inwards; the four tubercular teeth are situated along its inner margin towards the apex; these are shorter than the femoral teeth. Tarsus with a distinct, broad-based, curved tooth at its base; this is shorter and stouter and only slightly smaller than the big tooth of the femur. No conspicuous bristles or hairs on the limb surface, middle and hind legs short and stout. Pterothorax longer than prothorax, as broad as long, with the sides more or less parallel. Wings well developed, not narrowed in the middle. Anterior wings with six duplicated hairs at apex; the three basal bristles short though distinct.

Abdomen elongate, never longer than head and thorax together and not broader than pterothorax; middle segments show two pairs of curved wing retaining spines of which the posterior is much the larger; there are one or two short and pointed bristles at each posterior angle of the abdominal segments, those on the 9th segment almost as long as the tube. Tube less than $\frac{1}{3}$ the length of head; two or three bristles at its apex dark and longer than the tube itself.

Measurements.—Total length of Type ♀ 1.980 mm.; head length .352 mm.; breadth .154 mm.; prothorax, length .220 mm.; abdomen length .924 mm.; breadth .286 mm.; tube length .110 mm. Antennal length .330 mm.; length of antennal joints:—1st joint 45μ , 2nd 60μ , 3rd 60μ , 4th 45μ , 5th 45μ , 6th 50μ , 7th 65μ , and 8th 40μ .

A few males examined; these resemble the females but are shorter, and their abdomen is distinctly shorter than the head and thorax together. Described from numerous female and a few male specimens discovered on bamboo leaves on the Coimbatore farm by Mr. N. Krishna Menon during July-August 1931. The specimens were found in company with some Coccids of the genus *Asterolecanium* which are usually found on bamboos. It is not yet clear whether the thrips are merely Cocciphilous or Coccidophagous, but in view of the strong armature of the fore legs it is not unlikely that they are Coccidophagus; this view also gains force from the previous records in America of the habits of the species *Aleurodothrips fasciatus*, F. which has a few teeth on the front tibiae, and which feeds on Coccids and Mealy wings.

Type No. $\frac{423}{H3}$ in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India.