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A NEW SPECIES OF *SPHINGONOTUS* FIEBER (OEDIPODINAE: ACRIDIDAE: ORTHOPTERA) FROM PAKISTAN*

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Abstract

Sphingonotus akbari n.sp is described from Pakistan.

Key words: Oedipodinae, *Sphingonotus akbari*. new species, Pakistan

Introduction

A new species *Sphingonotus akbari* is described from Pakistan and is difficult to place in any of the groups recognized by Mishchenko (1936).

Sphingonotus akbari n.sp.

Diagnosis. Related to *Sphingonotus lavandulus* Popov, but smaller in size. In *S.lavandulus* the metazoan is about twice the length of prozona and the lophal lobe of epiphallus is broader than long but in this new species metazona is about the length of prozona and the lophal lobe of epiphallus is longer than broad.

Description of holotype male. Size small. Antenna slender slightly longer than head and pronotum together. Head (fig.1.a) moderately projecting above pronotum. Eyes large, prominent, their vertical diameter slightly longer than subocular distance. Face weakly oblique, almost vertical. Frontal ridge weakly projecting between antennae, concave, below ocellus with thick raised margins, its width between antennae less than half width of vertex between the eyes. Fastigium of vertex somewhat narrow, with low well defined margins and without carinula; transverse groove well developed, fastigial foveolae absent. Pronotum (fig.1.b,c) constricted in prozona; anterior margin somewhat sinute; median carina obsolete in prozona, linear but distinct in metazona; metazona well raised very slightly longer than prozona, its posterior margin broadly rounded. Lateral lobes with lower margin almost straight; posterior angle almost rounded anterior angle obtuse. Tegmina long and narrow, with parallel sides dense venation and reticulation. Hind femur more than four times longer than broad, hind tibia shorter than femur with 10 inner and 8 outer spines. Epiphallus (fig. 1,d) bridge shaped, lophal lobe longer than broad, ancorae elongated, sharply curved inward and pointed apically.

General coloration: Greyish brown with scattered black spots on head, pronotum, tegmina, legs. Wings without any dark fasciae veins slightly grayish in colour. Inner face of hind femur grayish brown, without any fascaition. Hind tibia grayish in colour.

Allotype

As the holotype, but some what larger, median carina of pronotum distinct in prozona, venation of the tegmen as in the male.

Paratype

In every respect like the holotype and allotype except that the maculation is indistinct rather absent.

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Measurements (mm)

	Holotype Male	Allotype Female	Paratype Female
Antennal length	7.5	7.7	--
Pronotal length	2.8	3.5	3.6
Tegminal length	13.3	18.9	18.2
Tegminal width	9.1	11.5	11.5
Hind femur length	2.0	2.6	2.5
Hind femur depth	2.1	2.6	2.6
Hind tibia length	7.7	8.4	8.4
Total length	17.5	20.3	19.6

Material examined: Islamabad: 1 male holotype, 2 female allotype & paratype, nr. Simly Dam, 18.x.97. (M.S. Wagan).

Etymology

This new species is named in the honour of Dr.S.S.Akbar, former Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro Pakistan.

Repository

The type material is deposited in Museum, Department of Zoology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro Pakistan.

References:

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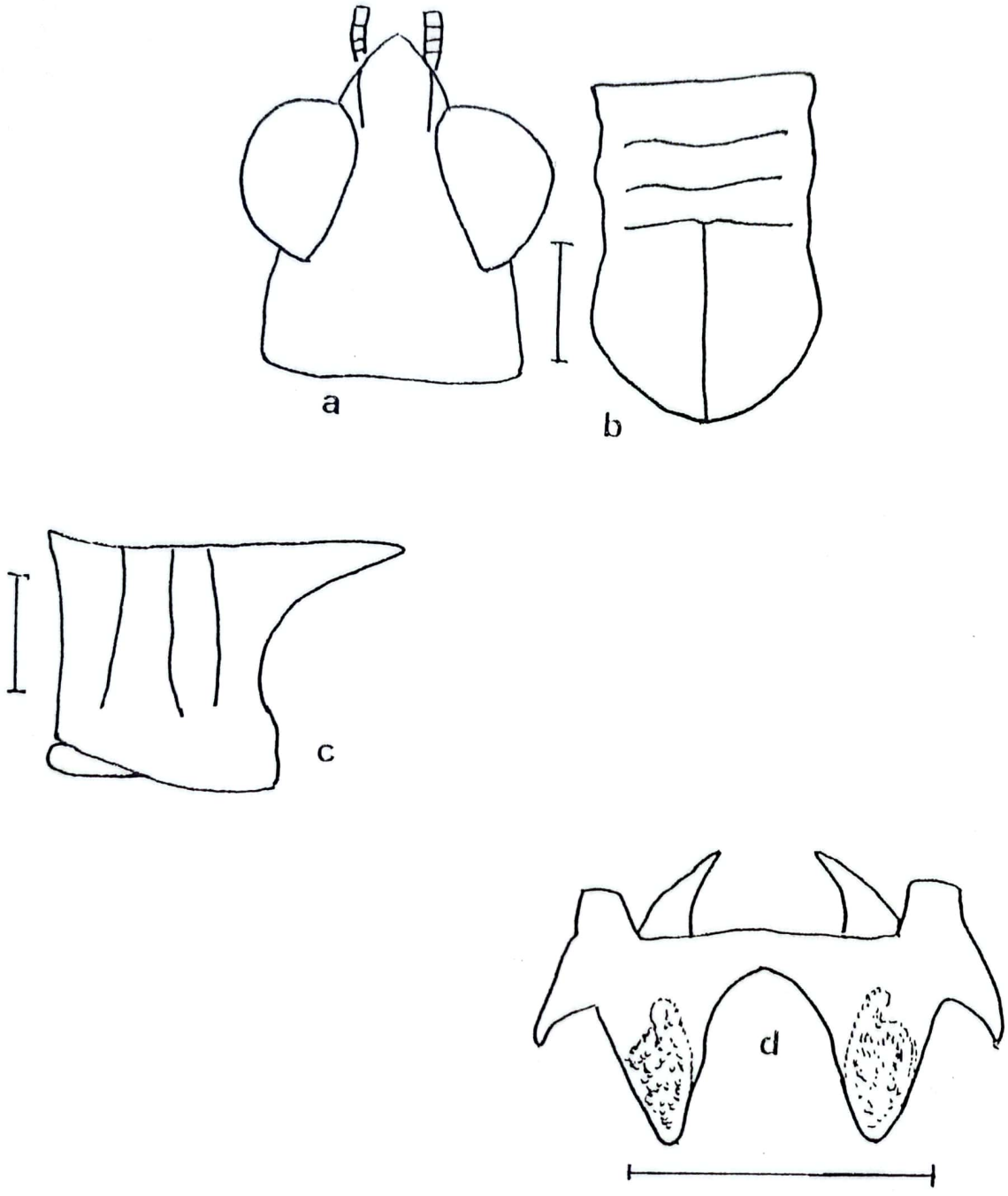


Fig.1. Male holotype *Sphingonotus akbari* n.sp. a dorsal view of head;

b. dorsal view of pronotum; c. lateral view of pronotum

d. dorsal view of Epiphallus Scale bar = 1mm