

A new Tropicuchid (Homoptera, Fulgoroidea) infesting *Chamaedorea* (Palmaceae)

R. G. FENNAH

Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, c/o British Museum (Nat. Hist.), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD

Abstract

A new species of Tropicuchidae, *Biruga chariclo*, is described from adults and nymphs intercepted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on palm fronds imported from Mexico, and the genus is redefined.

Introduction

A series of Tropicuchidae intercepted by the Plant Quarantine Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at San Antonio, Texas, on palm fronds from Mexico, has proved to represent a new species of *Biruga* Fennah, hitherto known only from the type-species. This material has made possible a re-evaluation of the characters used for definition of the genus, and the following revised definition is now offered.

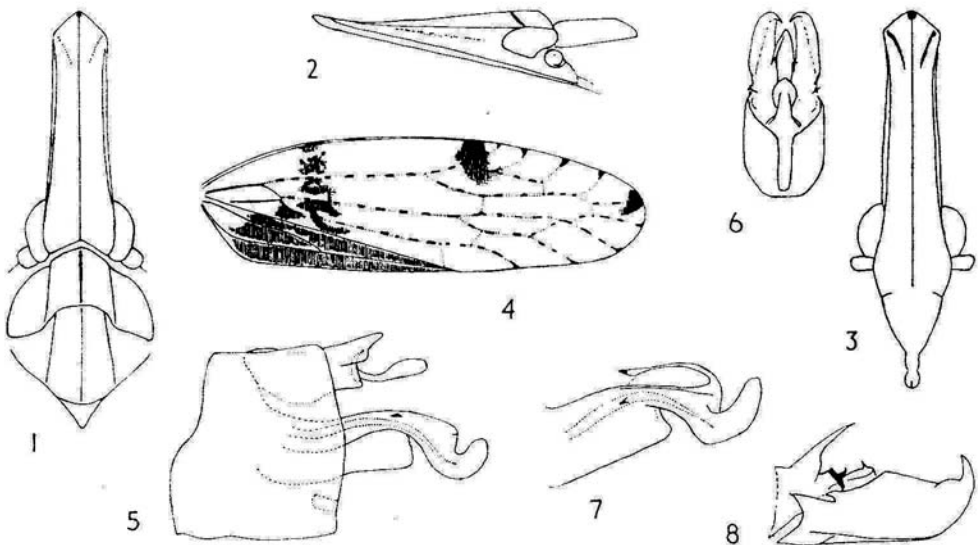


Fig. 1-8.—*Biruga chariclo* sp. n. 1, head and thorax, dorsal view; 2, head and pronotum in profile; 3, frons and clypeus; 4, tegmen; 5, pygofer, anal segment and aedeagus, left side; 6, male genitalia, dorsal view, showing the deeply excavate dorsal surface; 7, apical part of aedeagus, in anterodorsal view from left side; 8, left genital style, side view.

Biruga Fennah

Fennah, 1944, 6. Type-species, *Biruga chapadae* Fennah.

Vertex three or four times as long as an eye, longer in middle than greatest width (1.7–3.3:1), anterior margin strongly curved or angulate, lateral margins straight, carinate or foliaceous, slightly converging distad, posterior margin angularly excavate, disc depressed, median carina fine, distinct; frons longer than broad (2.0–3.5:1), widest at about level of antennae, lateral margins gradually diverging to level of antennae or slightly below it, then incurved to suture, median carina present throughout or in basal four-fifths; clypeus ecarinate, rostrum short, eyes elongate, antennae short, with second segment ovoid. Pronotum in middle half as long as mesonotum with mesoscutellum, disc tricarinate, with carinae parallel, all reaching hind margin; a thin carina laterally between eye and tegula. Mesonotum broader than long, tricarinate, with lateral carinae moderately diverging basad. Post-tibiae with two stout spines laterally in distal third and sometimes a minute spine basally. Tegmina longer than broad (about 3:1), Sc + R forked at or near level of stigma, M forked a little basad of R-M and M-Cu veins, Cu₁ forked once, eight or nine apical cells including stigmal cell. Wings with R, and usually M, simple to apical margin. Pygofer with lateral margins strongly produced, and thus appearing deeply cleft dorsally. Aedeagus stout, decurved distad, armed with simple spinose processes. Genital styles with lobes dorsally and at base furnished with processes, some of which are long.

***Biruga chariclo* sp. n.** (Fig. 1–8)

Form narrow, elongate. Frons in middle line longer than broad (about 3.5:1), with lateral margins slightly converging distad in basal fifth, thence gradually diverging, becoming convex at level of antennae, disc flat, finely medially carinate, clypeus ecarinate, about as long as broad and about a quarter of length of frons, shallowly convex; rostrum very short, scarcely two-thirds as long as clypeus, with apical segment not longer than broad. Vertex much longer than broad at base (4:1), apical margin subrectangulately convex, lateral margins foliately elevated, converging distad to near apex, then diverging, basal margin shallowly angulately excavate, disc very shallowly tectiform, medially carinate. Eyes rather elongate; antennae short, with second segment ovoid. Pronotum relatively long, anterior margin shallowly convex, almost transverse, lateral margins convex, foliaceous, posterior margin strongly sinuate, with median portion shallowly concave, disc tricarinate, with lateral carinae longer than lateral carinae of mesonotum, parallel to median carina; lateral fields strongly hollowed. Mesonotum as broad as long, tricarinate. Post-tibiae with two spines laterally, six apically, basal metatarsal segment with five teeth, second segment with two teeth.

Stramineous, with margins of head and pronotum glassy clear; frons with a median spot and two oblique stripes basally, an oblique stripe on sides of head above eye, and a horizontal bar above antennae, black; a narrow median line dorsally from apex of head to base of mesoscutum, a stripe before each eye and from behind eye to lateral angles of mesonotum, a suffusion on each abdominal tergite posteriorly and sublaterally, orange-red; a diffuse band overlying median area of head and thorax, and widening posteriorly, postnotum, abdominal tergites except near margins, mesocoxae medially, pygofer dorsally, genital styles except mesoventrally, and aedeagus, fuscous; abdomen ventrally light yellowish brown. Tegmina hyaline, a diffuse transverse band in basal sixth and clavus, mottled fuscous, an ovate spot at stigma and a small suffusion at apex of tegmen, dark fuscous, almost piceous; veins hyaline with short fuscous dashes. Wings hyaline, veins R, M apically and Cu₁ in its distal half, fuscous.

Anal segment of male short, tubular, with whole length of anal style surpassing its apical margin. Pygofer a little constricted laterally near base, short in middle line dorsally, but sides strongly produced caudad, lateral margins feebly sinuate, almost straight, ventral margin transverse. Aedeagus stout, long, laterally compressed, curving

downwards, but twisted and recurved near apex, a broad-based short spinose process on left laterally at about one-third from base, a similar process on right side, slightly more distad and directed ventrad. Genital styles relatively large, in side view broad basally, moderately narrowing distad, each with apical angle produced dorsomesad, tapering to a blunt point; a shallow transverse lobe dorsally at base of each style, produced dorsally in two processes, the upper a simple rather long spine, the lower forked distally in two very short spines; a lobe arising inside dorsal margin of style, bearing two short curved spines, one directed laterad, the other latero-caudad.

Anal segment of female with style relatively large, triangular. Ovipositor with third valvulae relatively small, each with about five small teeth at apex dorsally. First valvulae thin, straight, strongly tapering to a point distad, irregularly toothed on dorsal margin; ventral margin narrowly bent laterad and very finely reticulate. First valvulae very thin, rather broad. Pregenital sternite with posterior margin obtusely angulate.

Male: length, 4.7 mm; tegmen, 3.75 mm.

Female: length, 5.8 mm; tegmen, 4.6 mm.

Material. Holotype. ♂, MEXICO, Guadalajara area, on fronds of *Chamaedorea*, intercepted at San Antonio, Texas, U.S.A. 28.ii.72. (*D. Johnston*), in U.S. National Museum. Paratypes. 3 ♂ 1 ♀, 9 nymphs, same data as holotype.

Comments. *Biruga chariclo* differs from the Brazilian *B. chapadae* in the head being relatively longer, the median frontal carina fine and percurrent, and the margins of the vertex and pronotum foliaceous, in the tegmina having relatively longer subapical and shorter apical cells, and veins maculate with fuscous, and in the aedeagus having a different profile and armature.

Reference

FENNAH, R. G. (1944). New neotropical Fulgoroidea.—*Am. Mus. Novit.* no. 1265, 1–9.

(Received 16 May 1973)

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