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Uwagi nad rodzajem *Aluntia* STÅL oraz opis nowego
gatunku *Aluntia hova* sp.n. z Madagaskaru
(Homoptera, Dictyopharidae).

Notes on the genus *Aluntia* STÅL with description
of a new species *Aluntia hova* sp. n. from Madagascar
(Homoptera, Dictyopharidae).

[With 3 text-figures].

The Mascarene fauna of *Dictyopharidae* seems to be extremely scarce and no more than two species have been recorded from Madagascar: *Lyncides coquereli* (SIGN. 1860) and *Dictyophara unicolor* SIGN. 1860, both endemic ones. Looking over some material of insects, collected during 1937/38 in Madagascar by Mr. B. KRECZMER (Polish Museum of Zoology) and Mr. A. FIEDLER, I have found a third species, *Aluntia hova* sp.n., description of which is given in the present paper.

Aluntia hova sp.n. [Fig. 1—3]. Body pale green, here and there with yellowish or greyish tint (probably due to alteration in colour after the death of the insect). Forewings dull whitish with green venation; the space between costa and subcosta + radius bright yellow and this colour continues to tegulae, the sides of pronotum and of head towards the eyes. Hindwings dull whitish, the venation white, the ends of nerves greenish. Cephalic process long and slender, longer than pronotum and scutellum together, nearly prismatic, its upper surface between the keels very narrow, the lower surface much broader, from the eyes it begins gradually to narrow, further

enlarges towards the apex and ends ovally; before the top, on each side an irregular brownish-black spot visible from above and beneath. Legs pale green, the last joint of fore and median tarsi, black. Length with the forewings 20—21 mm.

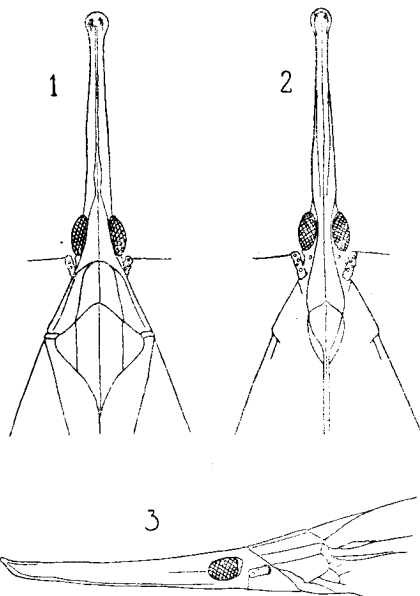


Fig. 1—3. *Aluntia hova* sp. n., holotype female, x 6. Fig. 1. Head and thorax from above; fig. 2. the same from below; fig. 3. the same from the left side.

Holotype female: Madagascar, Périnet, 8 I 1938, leg. B. KRECZMER and A. FIEDLER, in the collection of Polish Museum of Zoology, Warsaw.

Paratype female: the same data, in the collection of British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London.

The number of known species belonging to the genus *Aluntia* STÅL is now four; they are: *A. schimperi* (GUÉRIN 1849), described from Africa (haplotype of the genus), *A. ramosa* (MELICHAR 1903) from Ceylon, *A. borneensis* SCHMIDT 1915 from Borneo and *A. hova* sp. n. from Madagascar.

Having the opportunity to compare the above-described *A. hova* sp. n. with the other species of the genus *Aluntia* in the collections of the Polish Museum of Zoology and the British Museum, I am able to discuss some questions concerning the morphology and geographical distribution of this genus. The common characters in this genus are the head with a very long and narrow process and the presence of more or less numerous forked false veins (ramuli) in the forewing. The venation however is variable. Subcosta + radius runs either very near to the anterior margin of the forewing (*A. hova* sp. n.) or at a greater distance (other species). The false veins are very distinct and numerous on the whole surface of the forewing in *A. schimperi* (GUÉR.), *A. ramosa* (MEL.) and *A. hova* sp. n., but in *A. borneensis* SCHM. they are very scarce and restricted to the base, clavus, and the

space between costa and subcosta + radius. Nevertheless I have decided to consider provisionally all the above-mentioned species as belonging to the genus *Aluntia* STÅL till more material is obtainable. Below I give a key to the known species with references to their geographical distribution.

- 1 (2) Sc+R very near to the anterior margin of the forewing; the space between them narrow, more coriaceous than the rest of the forewing, transversely concave and inclined along the subcosta+radius. Fore and hindwings dull whitish, not transparent. The cephalic process prismatic, nearly triangulate in cross section. Madagascar *A. hova* sp. n.
- 2 (1) Sc+R runs at a greater distance of the anterior margin of the forewing; the whole surface of fore- and hindwings vitreous. Cephalic process quadrangulate in cross section 3
- 3 (4) Forewings rounded ovally at the apex, anterior margin slightly arched; ramuli on the whole surface of the forewing except the last apical cells. Africa *A. schimperi* (GUÉR.)
- 4 (3) Forewings less rounded, bluntly ended; the anterior margin nearly straight; ramuli less numerous, restricted only to the proximal part of the forewing or only to clavus 5
- 5 (6) Ramuli on basal three quarters of the wing; the main venation much less strongly defined. Ceylon *A. ramosa* (MEL.)
- 6 (5) Ramuli very scarce, restricted only to the space between anterior margin and Sc+R near the base, the base of forewing and to the clavus. Venation strong and dense. Borneo, ?Malay Peninsula *A. borneensis* SCHM.

A. ramosa (MEL.) was recorded by DISTANT¹⁾ from Malay Peninsula; in the collection of the British Museum there is under this name a female specimen belonging to the genus *Aluntia* STÅL, labelled: Province Wellesley, DISTANT coll., and it is probably the same specimen quoted by DISTANT. This specimen however must be considered as belonging to *A. borneensis* SCHM. or to a species very related to it; the sole remarkable difference is in size; the expansion of forewings in the above-mentioned specimen is 28 mm, while in *A. borneensis* SCHM., 32 mm. The disposable material is not sufficient to decide this question satisfactorily.

The specimens of the genus *Aluntia* STÅL are rather rare in collections; the most common species *A. schimperi* (GUÉR.) occurs in

¹⁾ Fauna of British India, Rhynchota, 3. London, 1906, p. 241.

a great part of Africa. Of the species *A. ramosa* (MEL.) I have had the occasion to examine only one specimen in the collection of the British Museum. Of *A. borneensis* SCHM. I have seen the type specimen, the above-mentioned specimen from Malay Peninsula, and among the undetermined material of the British Museum, one male labelled; Sarawak, Singie, 7 VIII 1909, C. J. BROOKS.

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STRESZCZENIE.

Autor podaje opis nowego gatunku, *Aluntia hova* sp. n., na podstawie okazów zebranych na Madagaskarze przez B. KRECZMERA i A. FIEDLERA w r. 1938. Poza tym autor omawia różnice odnośnie użytkowania oraz kształtu wyrostka głowowego między dotychczas znanymi gatunkami z rodzaju *Aluntia* STÅL, oraz podaje tabelę do oznaczania tych gatunków. W końcu autor po zbadaniu dowodowych okazów, znajdujących się w British Museum, prostuje dotychczasowe dane o występowaniu *A. ramosa* (MEL.) na Półwyspie Malajskim. Okaz, który prawdopodobnie służył jako podstawa dla tych danych, należy odnieść do gatunku *A. borneensis* SCHM., od którego różni się tylko mniejszymi wymiarami; nie wykluczone jest, że może należeć do nie opisanego dotychczas gatunku, czego autor, ze względu na szczupły materiał, który miał do dyspozycji nie może na razie rozstrzygnąć.