

A new species of the genus *Acrometopum* Stål from South Africa (Homoptera: Gengidae)

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Acrometopum theroni sp. n. is described from South Africa.

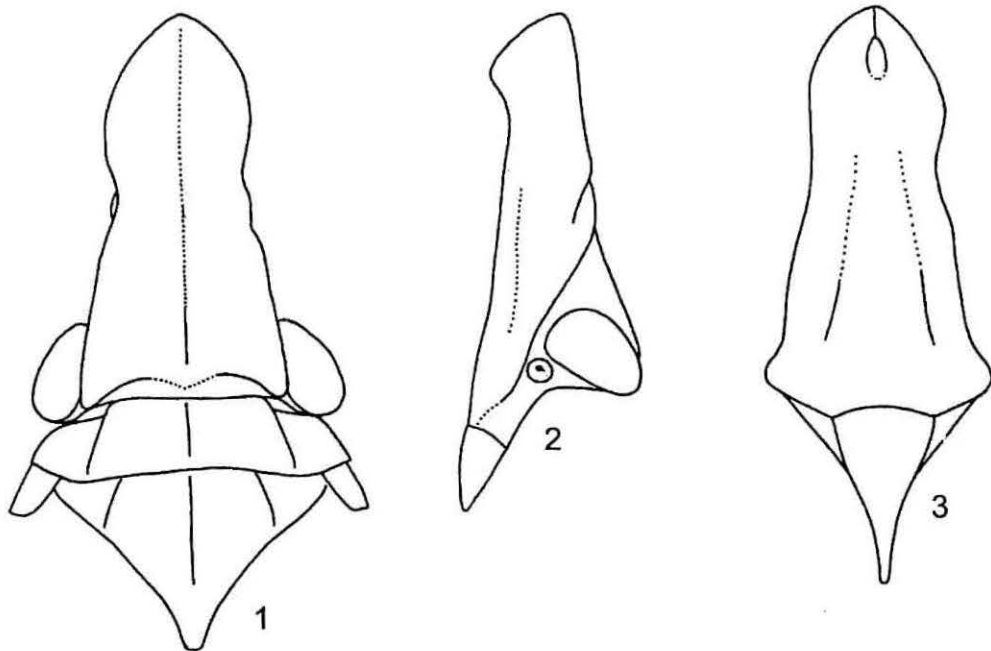
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Gengidae, a small family of uncertain position restricted to South Africa was described and characterized by Fennah (1949, 1967); it comprised hitherto two monotypic genera. I describe here a third species of the family, *Acrometopum theroni* sp. n., thus shifting the known range of the genus to the southern coast of Africa.

***Acrometopum theroni* sp. n.**
(Figs 1-3)

Holotype. ♀, "South Africa, Stellenbosch, 15-4-77, J.G. Theron, Jonkershoeck", deposited at National Insect Collection of South Africa, Pretoria.

Description. The new species differs from the single hitherto known species of the genus, *A. costatipenne* Stål (*panoplites* Fenn.), in the significantly longer head forming cephalic process. Coryphe about 1.5 times as long as pronotum and scutellum combined, before eyes moderately narrowed to half of its length, then moderately widened, and finally tapered to angulate apex. Median carina of coryphe very weak up to constriction, before the constriction substituted by weak furrow. Sides of metope (opposite to antennae) with strong angulate dilatations resembling those of Eurybrachyidae. Lateral carinae of metope before eyes meet lateral carinae of coryphe at



Figs 1-3. *Acrometopum theroni* sp. n. 1, forebody, dorsal view; 2, head, left side view; 3, head, ventral view.

acute angle at a distance equal to eye length; a little in front of this confluence, metope with short carina parallel to metopal one and reaching its lateral margin in site of constriction. Cross section of metope just before eyes very convex; median carina absent; before apex from below, metope bears a laterally compressed knob, from which a median carina runs up to apex of head; probably, this is apical carina (intermedial carinae of metope near the knob not present). Intermediate carinae of metope appreciable nearly from level of eyes to level of coryphe constriction; they are directed towards the knob, but do not reach it. Pronotum and scutellum as in *A. costatipenne*. Elytra together oblong oval, convex, reaching apex of abdomen; each elytron shortly rounded at apex. Veins of elytra cariniform; costal vein with sharp (subfoliate) lateral carina; *ScR* forked in middle part of elytra; *M* and *Cu* fused basally up to level of bifurcation of *ScR*; free *M* not branching; *CuA* forked at level of claval apex or a little before it; *CuP* marking the line of claval suture distinct but weak, so that suture lacking; claval veins strong; common vein (*Pcu+A₁*) running parallel to sutural margin up to vestige of claval suture. Vein *RP* at level of claval apex forming lobiform dilatation; vein *CuA₁* forming a similar but more raised dilatation in middle part of membrane; both dilatations blackened. Hind (terminal) margin of membrane with irregular submarginal row of weak trans-

verse veins. The elytra of the new species are very similar to those of the examined paratypes of *Gengis panoplites* Fenn., including the dilatations mentioned. Legs relatively short, rather thin; hind tibiae with 5 lateral spines, first of them in basal third of tibia; genicular (basal) spine absent. Metabasitarsus with 5 strong denticles.

Teguments reddish brown; legs and underside of body light brown. Metope with blackened subapical knob and recognizable brown spot in its middle part. Hind femora and base of tibiae darker. Abdomen beneath dark brown.

Length ♀ 8.4 mm.

Comparison. The new species is readily distinguished from *A. costatipenne* Stål in the long head and presence of carinae or their vestiges on metope (they are absent in *A. costatipenne* Stål).

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References

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