Prisopus wolfgangjunki n.sp., a new species of Prisopus
ST. FARGETAU & AUDINET SERVILLE, 1827, from Brazil
(Phasmatodea: Prisopodidae)*

by

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Abstract

A new species of Phasmatodea: Prisopodidae is described from Brazil. Prisopus wolfgangjunki n.sp. is
caracterized by the uniformly yellow abdominal sternites and the lack of prominent posterior spines on
the head. Types are housed in the Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde, Dresden, Germany.
Keywords: Phasmatodea, Prisopodidae, Prisopus wolfgangjunki n.sp., Brazil.

Resumo

Uma nova espécie de Phasmatodea: Prisopodidae é descrita para o Brasil. Prisopus wolfgangjunki n.sp. é
caracterizada pelos esternitos abdominais uniformemente amarelos e a ausência de espinhos proeminentes
posteros na cabeça. Os tipos estão depositados no Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde, Alemanha.

Introduction

The genus Prisopus ST. FARGEAU & AUDINET SERVILLE, 1827 contains some of
the most striking neotropical phasmids. The species feature a strongly lichen like
appearance, which is increased not only by the colour, but also by the lateral appendices
of the body and extremities. The ventral surface is smooth and flat, and in earlier times
it was believed that these insects lived in streams and attach themselves to stones
(MURRAY 1866). Actually they live on trees. The genus is distributed in Central- and
the Northern half of South America. A new species is described below.

Prisopus wolfgangjunki n.sp.

Prisopus eckardiae GÜNTHER, in litt. (unpublished name, invalid).

Material examined: Holotype (female): Tacana, Brasilien WAehler leg.; Y. preto S. WAehler

Both, holotype and paratype are housed in the Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde, Dresden, Germany,
(SMTD).

Diagnosis: Characterized within the genus by the lack of posterior spines on the head and the

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uniformly yellow abdominal sternites.

Description: ♀ Large for the genus. General colour greyish brown.
Head strikingly flat and round, with broad and flat impression medially and six parallel rows of up to five tubercles in the posterior half. Between eyes and antennae is a larger tubercle and a smaller one posteriorly. Between the antennae is a rhombic impression and behind it a darker, raised area. Eyes projecting less than hemispherically. Scapus rounded rectangular, strikingly flat, with broad, flattened lateral margins; pedicellus half as long and two thirds as wide. Following segments increasingly elongated.
Thorax. Pro- and mesothorax with large lobes attached to sterna ventrolaterally. Pronotum transverse rectangular, lacking distinct anterior and posterior margin, with several tubercles and distinct median line. Prothoracic gland positioned in anterolateral edges. Episternum I small, triangular, epimerum I broad, trapezoidal, margin raised ventrally. Prosternum flat, smooth, uniformly yellow. Mesosotum transverse, posterior half with a raised triangle between bases of tegmina. Episternum bearing several tubercles, ventral margin projecting. Mesosternum yellow, smooth, shiny. Metasternum surrounded by a broad, black line. Abdominal sternite I elongated, triangular, surrounded by a narrow, black line, with broad, dark median line.
Tegmina projecting beyond middle of abdominal segment VI, apical third light brown in colour. Alae projecting beyond middle of abdominal segment IX. Anterior part of alae strongly sclerotized, with irregular dark spots, apical third brownish. Anal fan transparent, all transverse veins surrounded by a translucent brown area.
In profemora interdorsal and exteroventral carinae strongly lamellate. Edges strikingly bristled, ventral bristles much longer. Dorsal carina flat in basal half and strongly raised in apical half. Ventral carina semicircular, with eight blunt teeth. Extero dorsal carina small, but distinct, interventral carina produced as a small ridge. Profemora with a long, leaf-shaped appendix ventroapically. Protibiae with distinct lamelliform carinae dorsally and ventrally, edges undulating, completely covered by very long bristles. Prodistasuus flat, dilated laterally; second tarsomere half as long and distinctly narrower, raised medially; next two segments decreasing in length and width; terminal segment as long as previous three combined, dilated posteriorly. Mesofemora also with strongly lamellate carinae anteriorly and posteriorly, margin of dorsal one undulate, with blunt teeth, ventral one with seven large, saw-like teeth. Metatibiae with strongly undulate dorsal and raised, but straight, ventral carinae. Metafemora one third longer than mesofemora, structured as mesofemora. Metatibiae with short, saw-like teeth dorsally and prominent teeth ventrally. A large, claw-shaped spine present ventroapically. Edges of meso- and metatibiae and -tibiae strongly bristled. Meso- and metatarsi as protarsi.
Median segment slightly longer than metanotum, about as long as abdominal segment II. II to VII of similar length to each other, flat, shiny dorsally. II to V without lateral expansions, sternites II to V uniformly yellow. VI to VII with large, triangular lobes laterally, these lobes undulated exteriorly. VII slightly wider than previous segments. VIII two thirds as long as VII, VIII to X decreasing in length and width, also with large appendices laterally. Posterior margin of X with a broad notch medi ally, supraanal plate short, but very broad. Cerci elongated, longer than VIII, flat and acute. Subgenital plate broad, flat, concave posteriorly.
Lengths (mm), HT, ♀/PT, ♀: Total: 90.0/86.9; head: 8.9/8.7; antennae: broken off/38+; pronotum: 5.3/5.0; mesonotum: 6.8/co vered by tegmina; metanotum: 5.7/covered by tegmina; median segment: 8.1/covered by tegmina; tegmina: 45.0/45.0; alae: 63.0/57.0; profemora: 11.4/11.2; protibiae: 8.2/8.0; protarsi: 7.5/7.2; mesofemora: 11.1/11.1; mesotibiae: 9.0/8.9; mesotarsi: 7.2/6.3; metatibiae: 16.5/16.4; metafemora: 13.5/13.0; metatarsi: 9.2/9.1.
Name: This striking species is dedicated to Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Junk (Max-Planck-Institute, Plön, Germany), as an acknowledgment for his great support to the author during the last few years.

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References

Fig. 1:
*Prisopus wolfgangjunki* n.sp., dorsolateral aspect.

Fig. 2:
*Prisopus wolfgangjunki* n.sp., ventral aspect.