

A NEW SPECIES OF *MYODOCHA* (HEMIPTERA: LYGAEIDAE:
RHYPAROCHROMINAE: MYODOCHINI) FROM THE WEST
INDIES

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ABSTRACT

Myodocha froeschneri n. sp. is described based on specimens from Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica.

Key Words: West Indies, *Myodocha*, new species

RESUMEN

Se describe *Myodocha froeschneri* n. sp. basada en especímenes de la República Dominicana, Haití, y Jamaica.

The genus *Myodocha* is characterized by elongate body and appendages. The head is especially elongate with the postocular region produced into a narrow stalk-like neck. The seven previously described species are primarily Neotropical with one species, *M. serripes* Olivier, broadly distributed in the Nearctic. *M. froeschneri*, named for Dr. Richard Froeschner of the United States National Museum, is described in advance of a revision of the genus to make the name available for a faunal work on the West Indies by R. M. Baranowski and J. A. Slater.

Myodocha froeschneri A. Slater, **New Species**

Structure.—Head: vertex evenly convex, shiny, with obscure, barely perceptible texturing; juga rounded, not carinate, nearly glabrous, no hairs longer than least diameter of neck; ocelli just behind line connecting hind margins of compound eyes; lateral margin behind eye evenly rounded to neck. Labium: segment I not surpassing posterior margin of compound eye; II not reaching prosternum; IV reaching, not surpassing, fore coxa. Pronotum: dull; collar and anterior lobe impunctate; posterior lobe shallowly punctate, punctures ranging from contiguous to separated by twice puncture diameter. Scutellum: dull; sparsely, obscurely punctate; indistinct Y-shaped median carina. Thoracic sterna: dull dark brown except mesosternum shiny. Hemelytra: not reaching apex of abdomen. Legs: shiny; fore femur lightly incrassate, hairs short, sparse, spines in two ranks restricted to about apical third, three small spines in anterior rank, two small and one large (basal) spine in posterior rank; fore tibia unarmed.

Measurements.—All in mm. Total length 9.0. Head: length 2.6, preocular 0.7, postocular including neck 1.4, width across eyes 1.2, interocular 0.6. Antennal segment length: I 1.1, II 2.1, III 1.9, IV 2.3. Labial segment length: I 1.0, II 1.2, III 1.1, IV 0.5. Pronotum: length collar plus anterior lobe 0.8, posterior lobe 0.7, greatest width anterior lobe 1.1, posterior lobe 1.7. Scutellum: length 0.9, width 0.7. Hemelytra: length corium 3.5, claval commissure 0.8, membrane 2.8 (to corial apex 1.6, beyond corial apex 1.2).

Color.—Head dark reddish brown becoming darker ventrally, clypeus lightest, neck darkest. Antennal segment I reddish brown, II creamy white, III creamy white except apical third pale brown, IV creamy white except basal seventh and apical third pale brown. Pronotum dark brown fading to dark reddish brown on apical half posterior lobe. Scutellum dark brown. Corium dark brown except extreme base, extreme apex, basal half costal margin, claval margin, two small elongate discal spots level with middle of clavus, large subapical spot from costal margin almost to membranal margin, and indistinct discal spot opposite basal angle of membrane off-white. Clavus dark brown; veins lightest, subbasal and larger subapical spot darkest. Membrane dark brown, veins subbasally and indistinct elongate apical spot lighter, off-white opposite corial apex. Coxae dark brown; femora light reddish brown except pale basally; tibiae pale brownish yellow, tarsi yet paler brownish yellow. Abdomen reddish brown, segments V-VIII becoming darker apically, lateral margin segment V and basal half lateral margin segment VI off-white.

Types: Holotype male. HAITI: Enneri, nr. 1000 ft., Sept. 6-11-34, Darlington. Deposited in the American Museum of Natural History. Paratypes. HAITI: 1 female, Enneri, no date, Mann; 1 female, Etang Lachaux, S. W. Peninsula (sic), under 1000 ft., Oct. 26-27, 1934, Darlington. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: 1 male, S.R. [San Rafael ?], 4 km. S.W. Stgo Rodriguez, May 28, 1978, C. W. & L. B. Obrien & Marshall; 1 male, Barahona, 9.2 km N.W. Paraiso, confluence of Rio Nizso and Rio Coltico, 18-03N, 71-12W, 230 m., 9-10 Aug 1990, J. Rawlins, S. Thompson; 1 male, La Vega, 1.5 km. N Jarbacoa, 240 m., 21 July 1987, J. Rawlins, R. Davidson. JAMAICA: 1 female, St. Andrews, 9/17 and JA20, at light, A. M. Richie; 1 female, Balaclava, 15 April 1909, A. S. Wright; 1 female, same data but 1 May 1909. In collections of the American Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Museum, Snow Entomological Museum, British Museum (Natural History), J. A. Slater.

Variation.—The holotype male is fairly light in overall color. The darkest specimens examined are almost uniformly dark chocolate brown on head and body except for the pale areas on abdominal segments V and VI. On these darker specimens the light areas on clavus and corium are more distinct except the discal dorsal spots and the light areas on the membrane except at the corial apex are obscured. The color pattern of legs and antennae remains constant except that the darker areas are more distinct and antennal segment II becomes pale reddish brown apically. The femoral spines range from 3-5 in the anterior rank and from 2 to 4 in the posterior rank. Three spines in each rank is most common. In only one case is a short spine located basal of the long basal spine of the posterior rank. In one case the posterior rank bears 2 about equally long basal spines. Total length varies from 8.0-9.0 mm in males and from 9.0-9.6 mm in female.

Etymology.—Named for Dr. Richard C. Froeschner, United States National Museum.

Identification: The combination of smooth head vertex and lack of elongate hairs on the "neck" separate *M. froeschneri* from all other members of the genus except the Cuban *M. fulvosa* Barber. That species is castaneous or fulvous in color, has unicolor fore femora, and typically has at least one small spine basal to the long subapical spine.

REFERENCES CITED

- HARRINGTON, B. J. 1980. A generic level revision and cladistic analysis of the Myodochini of the world (Hemiptera, Lygaeidae, Rhyparochrominae). Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 167(2): 45-116.