

CICADELLIDAE FROM THE SOCIETY ISLANDS*

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In another paper¹ I have described the Cicadellidae collected by the Pacific Entomological Survey in the Marquesas. This paper deals with the same family collected by the Survey in the Society Islands.

It is indicative of the restricted distribution of the cicadellid fauna of the south Pacific islands that the species noted for the Society Islands were not taken in the Marquesas. Although too few to give any basis for generalization, it is of interest to note that they show closer relationship to the Samoan fauna than to the Marquesan, and to this extent might be considered as favoring the view that the original derivation of the stock forms was from the East Indian region.

Comparisons of these few species with the forms described from Samoa² to the west and the Marquesas to the east will no doubt stimulate speculation in this matter. More extended exploration of the region must certainly yield some very interesting results.

Some remarks on the known distribution as compared with other islands given for the Marquesas may be referred to for further consideration. Most striking perhaps is the occurrence of *Jassus* and *Nephotettix* in the Society Islands but not in the Marquesas. Of course later collections may alter this situation.

Genus NEPHOTETTIX Matsumura

Nephotettix Matsumura, Termeszfuzetek, vol. 25, pp. 356, 378, 1902.

An Old World genus closely related to *Thamnotettix* and to be separated from that genus by the character of the face and venation of the elytra. Genotype *Nephotettix apicalis*.

***Nephotettix plebeius* Kirkaldy.**

Nephotettix plebeius Kirkaldy, Haw. Sugar Plant. Asso., Div. of Ent., Bull. 1, p. 331, 1906.

Head slightly broader than pronotum; vertex broad, one-fourth longer at the middle than next to eye, rounded to front; front about as wide as long, tapering from antennae to clypeus; clypeus broad, narrowing gradually to rounded apex, lorae large, nearly touching border of cheek; cheek margin sinuate; pronotum one-half longer than vertex, scarcely concave behind; elytra with distinct veins. Female, last ventral segment as long as preceding, with broad, shallow notch. Color light fuscous; vertex with a

¹ Osborn, H., Cicadellidae of the Marquesas Islands: B. P. Bishop Mus., Bull. 114, art. 18, 1934.

² Osborn, H., Cicadellidae of Samoa: Insects of Samoa, pt. 2, fasc. 4, pp. 163-194, 1934.

* Pacific Entomological Survey Publication 6, article 24. Issued April 24, 1934.

transverse dark band between the ocelli; front with about seven faint transverse bars at the sides; elytra hyaline, veins pale brown, those near the costa almost colorless; beneath pale gray, the median notch of the female segment narrowly bordered with fuscous. Length, female, 5.25 mm.

Tahiti: Papenoo Valley, altitude about 1000 feet, 6 miles from sea, October 26, 1928, sweeping over *Andropogon halepensis*, 3 females, Adamson.

One nymph with the same data as above evidently belongs to this species. It has the anterior border of vertex with six black dots and the vertex, pronotum, scutellum, and tergum with longitudinal brown lines, the two median ones more conspicuous.

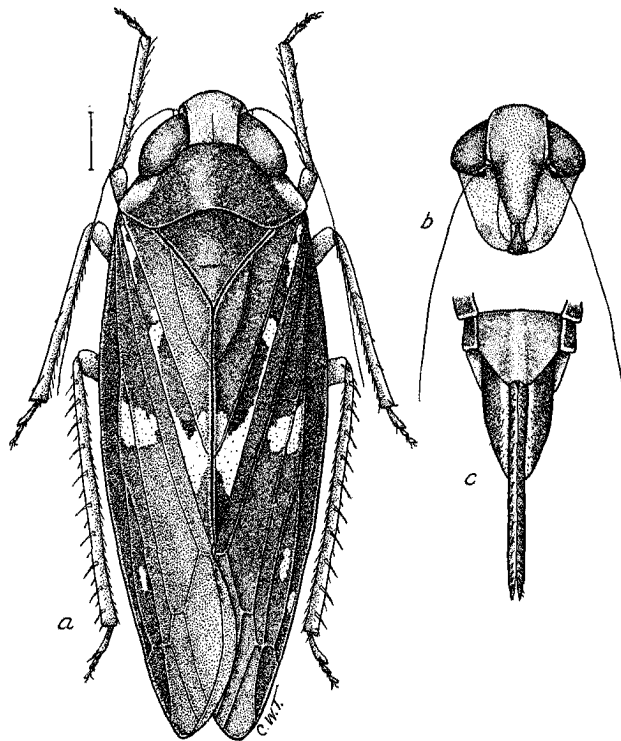


FIGURE 1. *Jassus tahitiensis*, new species: a, dorsal view; b, face; c, female genitalia.

Genus JASSUS Fabricius

Jassus Fabricius, Systema Rhyngotorum, p. 85, 1803. Genotype *J. nervosus* Fabricius.

Jassus tahitiensis, new species (fig. 1).

Head narrow, much narrower than pronotum. Vertex scarcely as wide as long, margins faintly diverging anteriorly, anterior border obliquely angulate, produced, a depressed line on the center, a distinct median line; ocelli on the margin scarcely half-

way from eye to center. Front narrow, elongate; clypeus long, narrow at base, distinctly widened at apex, truncate; lorae elongate, acutely angled above and below; cheek narrow, slightly sinuate; pronotum short, scarcely longer than vertex, arched anteriorly, concave posteriorly, distinctly granulate; scutellum minutely punctate; elytra long; costa nearly straight; veins prominent, not punctate, apical cells long, veins nearly parallel.

Last ventral segment elongate, one and one-half times as long as penultimate, rounded behind, faintly notched at the middle; ovipositor elongate, nearly twice as long as pygofer, extending beyond the elytra. Color black, vertex and face whitish, frons margined with fuscous, ocelli black, the border at base yellowish, cheeks and lorae yellow, pronotum black on the disc, yellow laterally; propleurae with two fuscous maculations; scutellum black, margin yellow; elytra black with four yellow spots on the clavus, a yellow spot on the disc of the corium, a yellowish white spot on the base of ante-apical and first apical cells; costa testaceous, tergum black; venter mostly yellow; pygofer, black, margin yellow; ovipositor black. Length, to tip of elytra, 7 mm., to tip of ovipositor, 7.5 mm.

Tahiti: Papeari, September 9, 1929, holotype female, Adamson.

This species seems to agree pretty closely with *philipinensis* Stål but differs sufficiently in detail to warrant description.

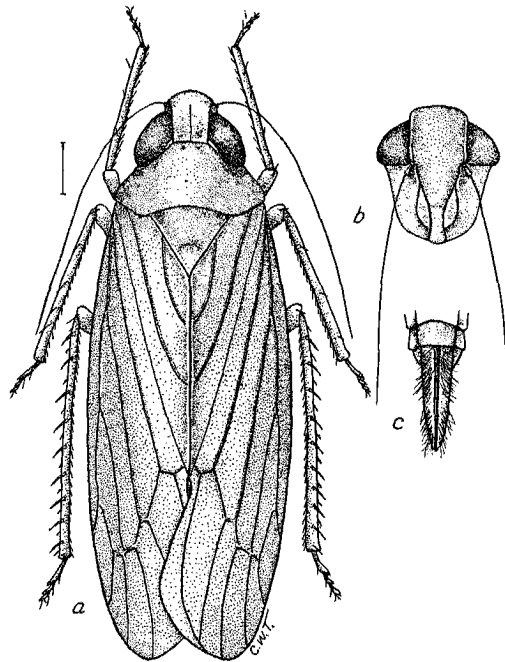


FIGURE 2. *Jassus insularis*, new species: a, dorsal view; b, face; c, female genitalia.

***Jassus insularis*, new species (fig. 2).**

Head narrow, vertex scarcely as wide as length at middle, broadening at apex, rounding to the front; ocelli minute, near ocular margin; front narrow; clypeus elongate, narrow on basal two-thirds, widening at tip; lorae elongate, with inner carina and slightly elevated outer margin; cheek tumid below the antennae, margin sinuate; pronotum as long as vertex, arched in front, broadly concave behind, lateral angles rounded,

disc faintly rugose and minutely granulate; scutellum deeply indented at the middle, apical part tumid; elytra elongate, rounded at apex; veins distinct, apical cells with veins nearly parallel. Last ventral segment of female about as long as preceding; pygofer short, scarcely exceeded by ovipositor, densely hairy.

Color dull ochreous; vertex, pronotum and scutellum tinged with rufous; elytra pale brown with dark brown veins; wings smoky toward the tip with blackish veins; tergum blackish, margins of segments at the sides tinged with reddish; center ochreous, last ventral segment and margin of pygofer infusate. Length, female, 6.5 mm.

Two specimens (one teneral) (holotype and paratype).

Tahiti: Fautaua Valley, altitude 1500 feet, September 11, 1928, Papara, altitude 750 feet, December 21, 1928, 1 female (paratype), Adamson.

The latter specimen differs slightly in having a more pellucid area on the elytra with an ochreous powdery formation on the clavus and membrane, but without any structural difference to be noted.