

A NEW SPECIES OF *DIPLONYCHUS* FROM THAILAND,
AND NOTES CONCERNING THE IDENTITY OF
DIPLONYCHUS STALI (Mayr)
(Hemiptera: Belostomatidae)

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Recently Dr. Robert L. Usinger, University of California, Berkeley, brought to my attention two specimens of a small belostomatid from Thailand. Examination of the specimens indicates that they represent an undescribed species of *Diplonychus*. The unique holotype and allotype will be deposited in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences.

I would like to thank Mr. Walter Reilly, University of California, Davis, for taking the photographs used in this paper.

Diplonychus kjellanderi Menke, n. sp. Figs. 1, 3-5.

Holotype ♂: *Size*: length 12.9 mm, width 6.3 mm.

Structural characters: greatest head width 6.8¹; ratio of least interocular distance to greatest interocular distance 2.3: 3.3; ratio of anteoculus length to interoculus length 1.0: 1.5; interoculus slightly convex but evenly flattened from eye to eye; ratio of rostral segments I and II 0.7: 1.4; protarsus 3-segmented; margins of hemelytra nearly parallel to embolial fracture; membrane well developed with 7 unbranched veins; phallus as in figures 3-5.

Allotype ♀: Essentially as in ♂.

Types: Holotype ♂ and allotype ♀ labeled: Siam, daytime, lot 22, IM=VHH, 7-8-77. The species is named in honor of Dr. Eric Kjellander of the Stockholm Natural History Museum.

Discussion: Because the genus is poorly known at present, it is difficult to ally this species to others in the genus with any degree of certainty. Superficially *D. kjellanderi* resembles *D. japonicus* (Vuillefroy), *D. major* Esaki, and *D. procerus* Gerstaecker, but of the three only *D. procerus* has the same type of phallus as is found in *D. kjellanderi*.

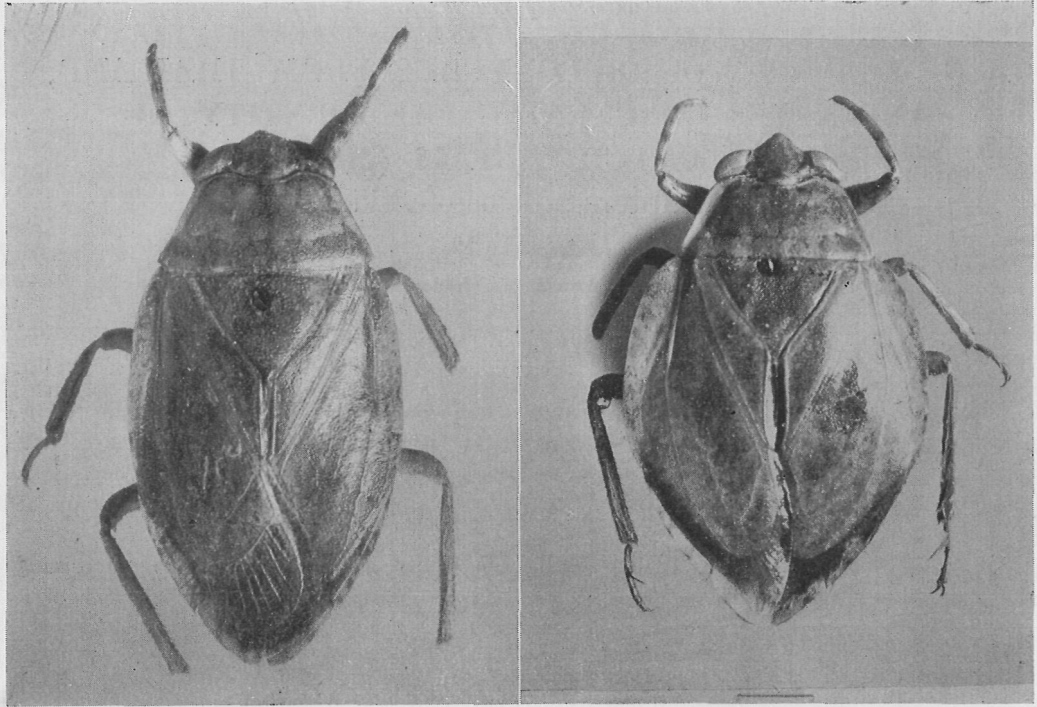
Diplonychus stali (Mayr) Figs. 2, 6-8.

Nectocoris stali Mayr, 1871. K.-K. Zool.-Bot. Ges. Wien, Verh. 21: 432 (Rangoon, male).

Holotype ♂: *Size*: length 11.3 mm, width 6.9 mm.

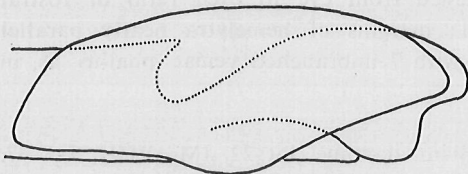
Structural characters: greatest head width 5.9; ratio of least interocular distance to greatest interocular distance 2.3: 3.1; ratio of anteoculus length to interoculus length 1.3: 1.2; interoculus convex, depressed gutter-like mesad of the eye; ratio of rostral segments

1. Figures used are comparative, not actual units of measurement.

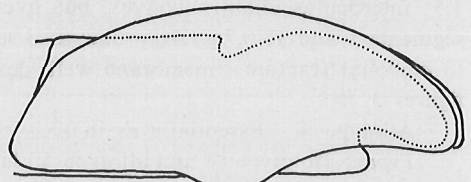


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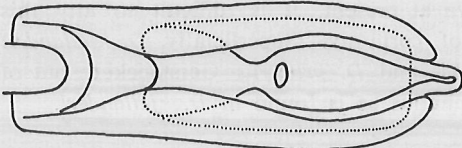
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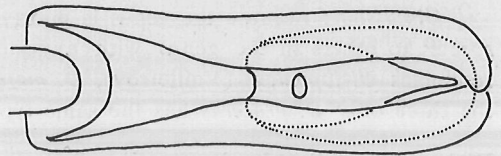
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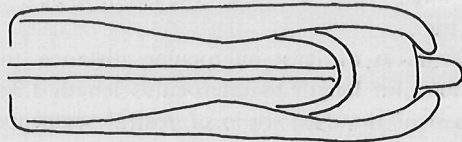
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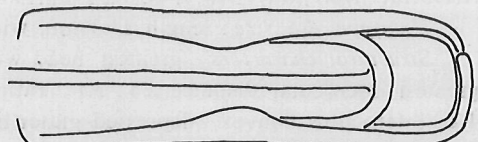
4.



7.



5.



8.

Figs. 1-8. 1, dorsal aspect of the holotype of *D. kjellanderi*; 2, dorsal aspect of the holotype of *D. stali*; 3, lateral aspect of the phallus of *D. kjellanderi*; 4, same, dorsal aspect; 5, same, ventral aspect; 6, lateral aspect of the phallus of *D. stali*; 7, same, dorsal aspect; 8, same, ventral aspect.

I and II 1.0: 1.3; protarsus 3-segmented; margins of hemelytra curved, embolium broadly foliaceous, embolial fracture absent; membrane much reduced, crescent-shaped, and with 4 feeble veins; phallus as in figures 6-8.

Female: Unknown.

Discussion: The identity of this species has remained a mystery since Mayr's original description. Mayr stated that the specimen he described was in the Stockholm Museum but recent searches for the type in that institution by Dr. Eric Kjellander have been fruitless. In a shipment of belostomatids sent by Dr. Kjellander for determination I found a small *Diplonychus* that on comparison with Mayr's description appears to be the missing type. Mayr described *stali* from Rangoon and the specimen before me has a label, Rangoon, and also another, Stevens. The specimen fits Mayr's diagnosis quite well with the exception of the sex. Mayr stated that he had a female with eggs on its back. This was probably a mistake since there is no authentic record of female belostomatids carrying eggs on their backs. Mayr on other occasions wrongly determined the sex of individuals.

This is the smallest species of *Diplonychus* known to me and its distinctive appearance makes it easily recognizable (fig. 2). *D. stali* has no close relatives in the genus and the presence of gutters mesad of each eye lead Mayr to describe the new genus *Nectocoris* for the species. *D. stali* has all the attributes of the genus *Diplonychus* however, and *Nectocoris* should be synonymized with it as was done by Lauck and Menke (1961).

LITERATURE CITED

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