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Redescription of *Deltocephalus porticus* Melichar (Homoptera : Cicadellidae)

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Abstract : *Deltocephalus porticus* Melichar, known from Sri Lanka so far, is redescribed and illustrated from South India. A new combination *Recilia porticus* comb. nov. is proposed and its relationship is discussed.

Introduction

The leafhoppers of the genus Deltocephalus are commonly found on grasses and cereal crops. Among the species included in this genus, *Deltocephalus porticus* Melichar, which is a distinctive species known from Sri Lanka so far, has been found feeding on grasses in Karnataka and the species is redescribed based on male genitalia and is assigned to its correct generic placement.

Material and Methods

Seven males and nine females collected in Nagarahole (Karnataka) forests during 1983 were measured under a stereoscopic binocular microscope using an ocular micrometer. The male genitalia were dissected under a stereoscopic binocular microscope and illustrations were made with the help of a camera lucida for detailed discription.

Results and Discussion

Description of the species

Recillia porticus (Melichar) comb. nov. (Figs. 1-8)

Deltocephalus porticus Melichar, 1903 : 204.

Pale ochraceous to yellow. Disc of vertex with a median pale brown to black triangular spot; and elongate spot below each antennal base and mesosternum black. Eyes pale brown to black with greyish anterior margin. Vertex, pronotum and scutellum with pale ochraceous areas in a few specimens; a bow-like pale ochraceous line near the anterior margin of pronotum. Legs yellow with dark brown claws. Tegmina hyaline, translucent but appearing smoky because of black dorsum of abdomen; hind wings with pale yellowish veins. Abdominal tergites, lateral margins of sterna black. Ovipositor, dorsal and apical region of pygofer dark brown.

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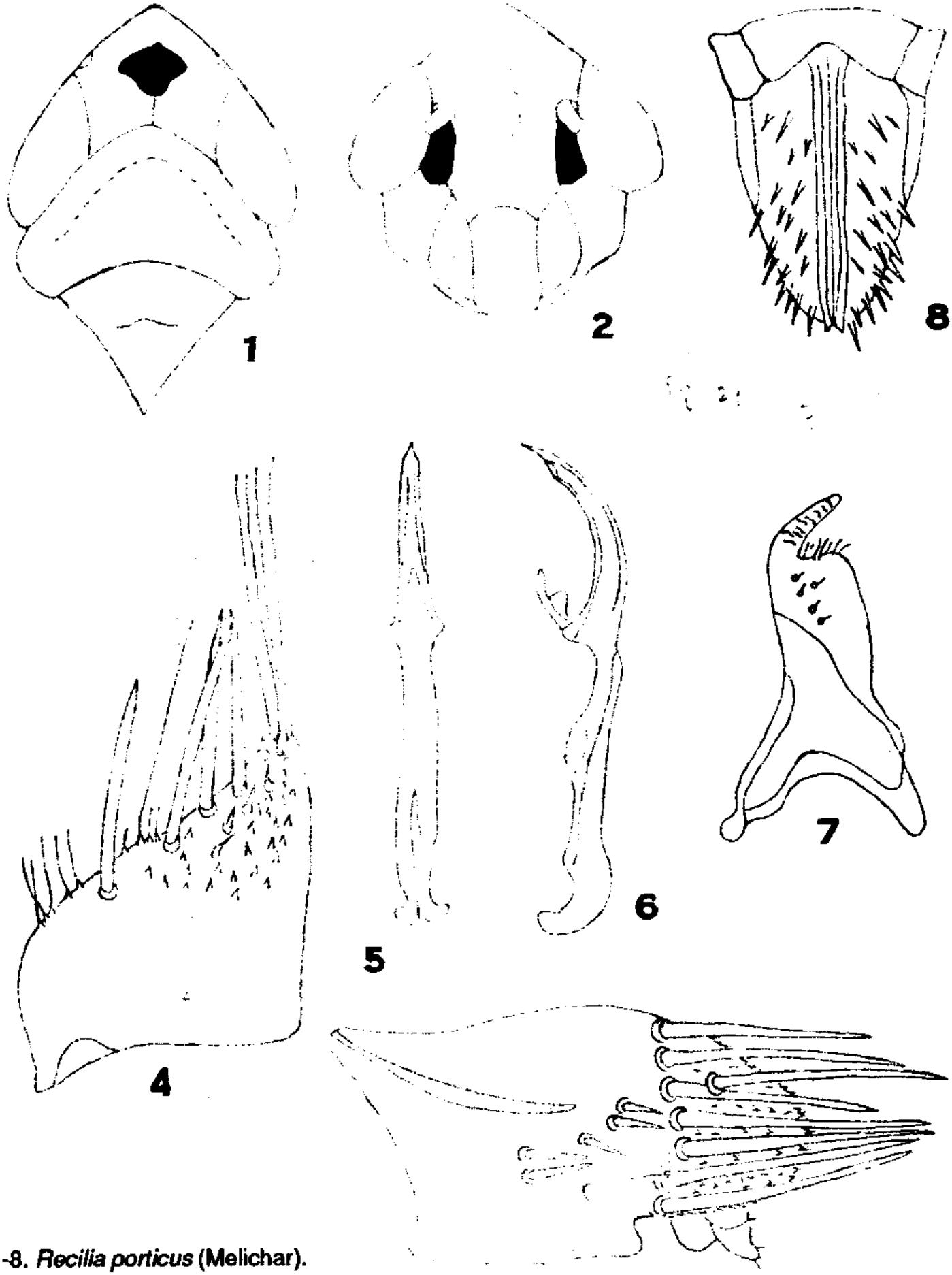

Figs. 1-8. *Recilia porticus* (Melichar).
1. Head and thorax. 2. Face. 3. Pygofer. 4. Plate.
5. Aedeagus and connective, caudal view. 6. Aedeagus and connective, lateral view.
7. Style. 8. Ovipositor.

Vertex as long as wide with a median sulcus at base, anteriorly acutely angled in male and less so in female; disc shagreened. Ocelli black. Face convex, shagreened, as long as wide; clypeus longer than wide. Pronotum 2.15 times as wide as long and 1.2 times as long as vertex, with convex anterior margin and concave posterior margin; basal 0.25 shagreened and the remaining regulose. Scutellum as long as pronotum, shagreened, with a median transverse line. Tegmina 3.95 times as long as wide.

Male measured on an average 2.94 (2.8 - 3.1) mm long and 0.71 (0.67 - 0.72) mm wide across eyes and the female measured 3.22 (3.1 - 3.33) mm long and 0.81 (0.75 - 0.85) mm wide acros eyes.

Description of Male Genitalia

Pygofer elongate with numerous stout macro and microsetae confined mostly to posterior half, caudal margin broadly rounded, plate triangular, as wide as long with marginal long hair-like setae and a row of submarginal stout setae. Style broad at base, preapical lobe with microsetae, apophysis finger-like, curved laterally and with transverse sparse striae. Adedeagus and connective fused. Arms of connective adjacent to each other; aedeagal shaft tubular, long, slender, curved and terminated by a spine like process; gonopore subapical.

Description of female Genitalia

Posterior margin of seventh sternum 'V' shaped. Pygofer with stiff setae. Ovipositor slightly extending beyond pygofer.

The possession of spine-like process at the apex of aedeagal shaft places the species in the genus, *Recilia*. This species has a distinctive colour spot on vertex. It appears related to the zig-zag leafhopper, *Recilia dorsalis* (Motsch.) from which it differs in the absence of wavy marking on forewings. The species occurs in heavy rainfall areas on grasses in Karnataka and is likely to occur in other parts of South India.

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