

ON A NEW SPECIES OF *PLACOLABIS* BEY-BIENKO (DERMAPTERA : ANISOLABIDIDAE) FROM LAOS

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INTRODUCTION

Srivastava (1999) erected Placolabidinae with *Placolabis* Bey-Bienko, 1959, as its type genus. It is mainly characterised by the median posterior prolongation of eight sternite into a narrow lobe.

So far *Placolabis* Bey-Bienko, 1959, is known by two species viz., *P. mira* Bey-Bienko, 1959 from China (Yunnan) and *P. thailandensis* Ramamurthi, 1973 from Thailand. A new species from Laos is described here.

This genus is externally similar to other Anisolabid genera but abdomen dorsally and ventrally have long recumbent hairs, lateral tubercles on 3rd and 4th tergites weakly developed, in males 8th sternite with a median broad or narrow lobe and genitalia without virga and preputial sacs with or without denticulated pads.

All the three species can be separated by the following key which is based upon male only :

- 1(2). Posterior median prolongation of 8th sternite about one and half times longer than broad, gently widened posteriorly with hind margin truncate; posterior margin of 9th sternite rounded in middle (figs. 1-3).
..... *P. brindlei* sp. n.
- 2(1). Posterior median prolongation of 8th sternite a little over twice longer than broad, parallel sided with hind margin concave; posterior margin of penultimate sternite in middle truncate.
- 3(4). Posterior margin of median prolongation of 8th sternite with a faint triangular emargination, postero-lateral angles not produced; parameres with external apical angle produced and distal lobes without denticulated pads (figs. 4-5).
..... *P. mira* Bey-Bienko, 1959
- 4(3). Posterior margin of median prolongation of 8th sternite broadly concave, postero-lateral angles with acute points; parameres with apical external angle rounded and distal lobes with chitinous pad apically (figs. 6-7).
..... *P. thailandensis* Ramamurthi, 1973

ANISOLABIDIDAE

PLACOLABIDINAE

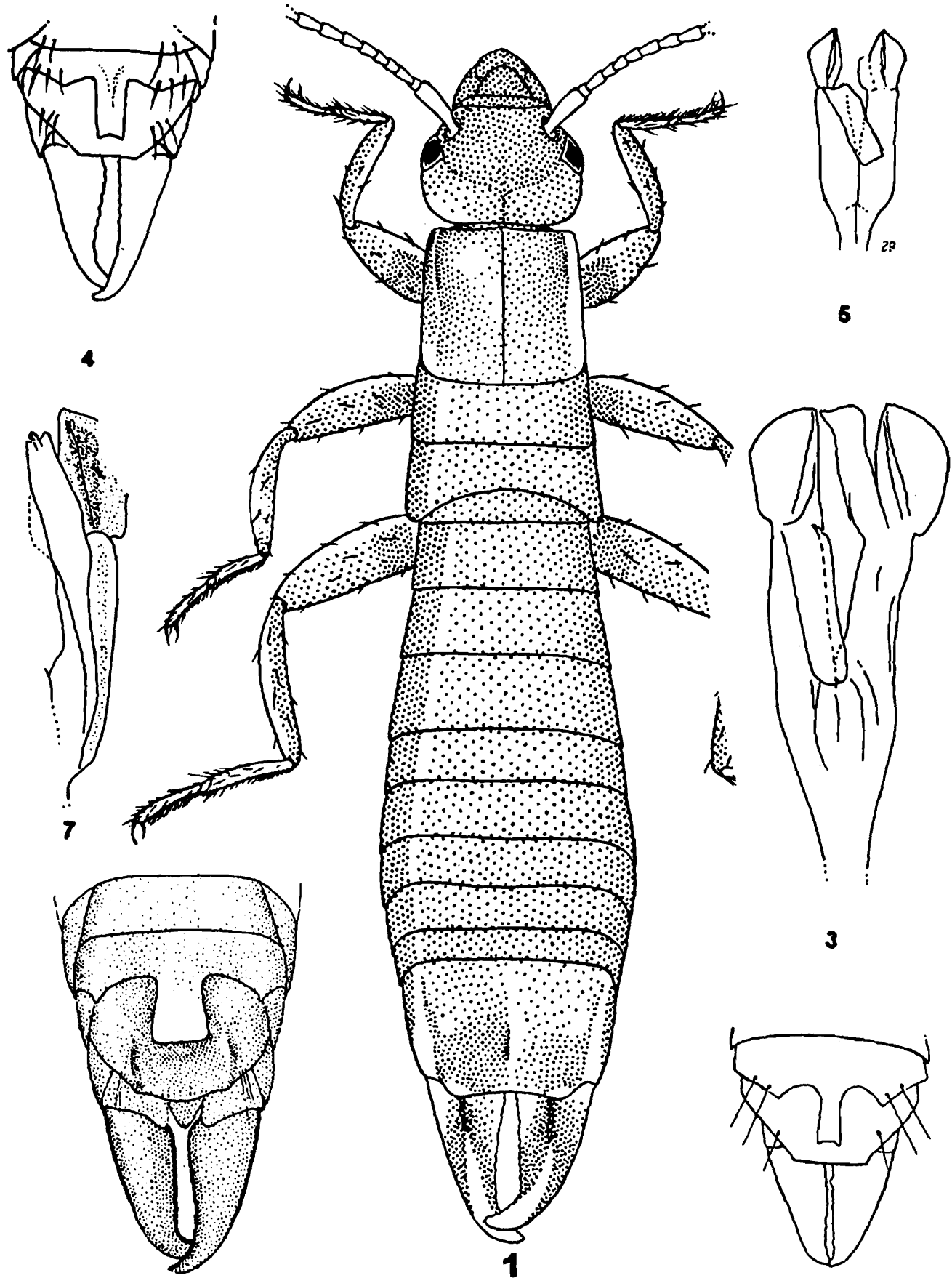
Placolabis brindlei sp. n.

(Figs. 1–3)

Male : General colour dark brownish black; antennae black; 1st segment blackish brown and 2nd and 3rd yellowish brown but latter black near apex; mouth parts yellowish; legs brownish yellow, femora blackish in basal half.

Head longer than broad, smooth, moderately convex, sutures fine but distinct, hind margin feebly emarginate in middle. Eyes shorter than the post-ocular area and basal antennal segment in length. Antennae partly broken, 13 segments remaining, 1st stout, expanded apically, slightly shorter the distance between scapi; 2nd short, about as long broad; 3rd long and slender; 4th subconical, shorter than 3rd; 5th slightly longer than 4th but shorter than 3rd, gently expanded apically; 6th about as long as the 3rd and remaining gradually increasing in length but stout. Pronotum about as long as broad, sides straight, feebly reflexed, gently widened posteriorly, hind margin subtruncate, median sulcus faint, prozona and metazona not well differentiated. Mesonotum truncate and metanotum broadly emarginate posteriorly. Prosternum three times longer than broad, gently constricted between fore-coxae, anterior margin somewhat convex and hind margin truncate; mesosternum slightly longer than broad, hind margin rounded; metasternum broader than long, narrowed posteriorly between hind coxae with hind margin truncate. Legs typical of the family, hind femore with 1st segment slightly longer than 3rd. Abdomen moderately convex, gently expanded in middle, finely punctulate, lateral folds and 3rd and 4th tergites obsolete, sides of segment 4th obtuse, 5th acute angled and both provided posteriorly with a short tubercle and finely punctulate, sides of segments 6th to 9th rugose, acute angled but a short median longitudinal carina present on 6th to 8th only. Eighth sternite with posterior margin emarginate and angles produced into minute points and medially produced into a longitudinal process, about one and half times longer than broad, expanded posteriorly with its hind margin truncate. Penultimate sternite with a median quadrate depression in apical half, hind margin rounded but wavy in middle and postero-lateral angles produced into minute point. Ultimate tergite transverse, faint vertical rows of punctulations present, sloping backwards, sides rugose with a faint longitudinal carina especially in posterior half only, hind margin faintly emarginate in middle, laterally oblique and emarginate, median sulcus faintly marked in middle only. Forceps subcontiguous, broadened at base, tapering apically, almost straight, gently incurved in apical one third only, right branch crossing over left, apices gently hooked and pointed, trigonal above in basal one third, thence depressed, inner margin crenulate; branches below convex medially. Genitalia with parameres longer than broad, slightly narrowed at base, apices rounded, anterior margin and external angles forming a rounded arc; distal lobes long, without virga or chitinous teeth. Length : body – 17.2 mm; forceps – 2.6 mm.

Female : Unknown.



Figs. 1-7. *Placolabis brindlei* Srivastava, Holotype Male, 1. Dorsal view; 2. Hind portion of body, in ventral view, showing sternites 7-10 & forceps; 3. Genitalia; *P. mira* Bey-Bienko, Male, 4. Hind portion of body, in ventral view; 5. Genitalia; *P. thailandensis* Ramamurthi, Male; 6. Hind portion of body, in ventral view; 7. A portion of genitalia.

(Figs. 4 & 5 after Bey-Bienko, 1959 and 6-7 after Ramamurthi, 1973).

Material examined : Holotype male (genitalia mounted between two celluloid slips and pinned with the specimen), LAOS : Vientiane Prov., Ban Van Eue, 29.iii.1966, Native Collector; deposited in the Bishop P. Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A.

Remarks : This species differs from the other two known species viz., *P. mira* Bey-Bienko and *P. thailandensis* Ramamurthi, in males, by the shape of median longitudinal process of the eight sternite in being truncate posteriorly and penultimate sternite with hind margin rounded and in middle wavey.

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