

Viette, P. 1949. Contribution a l'étude des Hepialidae 4e note. Description de deux nouveaux genres sud-Américains. Revue Francaise d'Entomologie 16, 52-55

Gaede, in volume VI of Dr. Seitz's Macrolepidoptera of the Earth can be credited with making the first an overall study on American Hepialidae, but for a group which has an extremely heterogeneous composition further study of the species must be made in a more thorough way. This is difficult because of the scarcity of material. Thanks to the collections of the National Museum of Natural History, we can describe and define two new genera.

Druceiella, nov. gen.

The antennae are strongly bipectinate to their apices; the labial palpi are reduced; the anterior tibia does not show a tibial epiphysis and the prothoracic legs take the general form of the legs of *Phassus* (s.l.). With the fore wings, costal is strongly developed; R1, weaker, shares with the basal third of the cell and skirts the costal one; to the distal third leaves the trunk R2 + R3 and a little further R4; R5 leaves the apex of the cell; M1 begins in lower part from this apex and M2 is closer to M1 than M3; Cu2, little developed, does not reach the central area of the wing. The veins of the posterior wings are the same as those of the forewings.

But what characterizes this genus compared to *Phassus* (s.l.) is the asymmetry of the abdominal eighth tergite in males, quite visible with the naked eye. The sternite is greatly enlarged with especially large lobe to the right-hand side of the individual, while the left lobe is reduced; both species of this genus, moreover confused as only one by Gaede, present differences in the form of this tergite but the general form, however, remains the same (fig. 4 and 6). Let us note that the male genitalia present short lamelliform valves, a more or less large indentation in the middle of the caudal edge of the vinculum and two patches (bundles, arrangements, etc.) of setae, discal and lateral (fig. 5 and 8).

Genotype: *momus* Druce.

Fig. 4.

KEY TO SPECIES

1. Valves simple without an internal lateral lobe (fig. 5). Tergite of the eighth segment with a bilobate process located laterally on the large right lobe (fig. 4)*metellus*.
- Valves with internal lateral lobe (fig. 8). Tergite of the eighth segment with type of strongly sclerified tooth located laterally to the large right lobe (fig. 6)*momus*.

Dr. Momus Druce, 1890, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 508, pl. 43, fig. 3 (*Hepialus*). – Kirby, 1892, Cat. Lepid. Heter., I, p. 890 (*Phassus*). – WAGNER and PFITZNER, 1911, Lepidopt. Catalog., part 4, p. 18, (*Phassus*), - GAEDE, 1937, in Seitz Grossschm. Erde, VI, p 1300, pl. 185 (*Pseudophassus*).

The large lobe (on the right) of the eighth abdominal tergite is the same width throughout and presents a strongly sclerified lobe with the form of a tooth at the base of its external edge.

Towards the left, a submedial process is widened and rounded at its apex; the small side lobe (on the left) presents two lateral and apical projections (fig. 6). The sternite is more sclerified than in the following species, with the form of a figure 7.

Genitalia with a very wide tegument, strongly developed laterally having two clusters of bristles, process of the tegumen are narrow blade shaped, joining to the midline; the vinculum is very well developed with a large indentation in the midline of the caudal edge whose ends are protruding, strongly sclerotized and black; the valves are lamellar, with laterally and inwardly elongated lobe; The juxta is wide at the anterior edges and rounded posteriorly (Fig. 8).

Brazil: Teffe – Equador: Sarayacu (type locality) – Peru: Rio Perene.

Dr. Metellus Druce, 1890, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 509, pl. 43, fig. 2 (*Hepialus*). – KIRBY, 1892, Cat. Lepidop. Heter., I, p. 890 (*Phassus*), - WAGNER and PFITNZER, 1911, Lepidop. Catalog., part 4, p. 18 (*Phassus*). – GAEDE, 1937, in Seitz Grossschm. Erde VI, p. 1300, pl. 99 (as a form of *Pseudophassus momus* Druce).

The large lobe (on the right) of the eighth abdominal tergite is enlarged to its end and presents on its external margin a small lobe that is deeply notched medially; On the center line there is a strong spur; the small lobe (on the left) presents an oblique apical edge and carries on its external margin a digitiform formation (fig. 4). The sternite presents a sclerified formation having the form shown in figure 9.

Dorsal to the genitalia a rather well sclerified arc carrying two large side tufts of hairs is visible; this formation undoubtedly represents the tegumen; the process of the tegumen is welded onto the median part where it presents a strongly sclerified region; the vinculum is very well developed and presents on its caudal edge a deep medial notch; this caudal edge very quite sclerified and colored; the valves are simple, triangular, with the proximal part slightly punctuated; the juxta has the shape of an almost square plate (fig. 5).

Brazil: Obidos. – Equador: Sarayacu (type locality), Macas. – Peru: Rio Perence, Chanchamayo.