

A REMARKABLE NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF LARGIDAE FROM PERU (HEMIPTERA: HETEROPTERA)

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Abstract. — *Vasarhelyecoris ophthalmicus* is described and illustrated as a new genus and new species of Largidae from Peru. It is considered to be most closely related to *Thaumastaneis montandoni* Kirkaldy and Edwards. The myrmecomorphic nature of the insects is discussed as well as the type of head and development of the cylindrical neck.

Key Words: Insecta, Heteroptera, Largidae, new genera, new species, Peru

Two females of a new species representing an undescribed genus were discovered while studying Largidae in the Hungarian Natural History Museum during the summer of 1993. These Peruvian specimens resemble the Brazilian *Thaumastaneis montandoni* Kirkaldy and Edwards 1902 (as depicted by Hussey 1927: 232 and listed by him, 1929: 28) in being brachypterous, extremely slender with sides of the body coarctate, and having an elongate neck. The myrmecomorphic nature of each genus is described as well as are the brachypterous condition of the hemelytra and development of the cephalic neck.

The following abbreviations are used for the institutions cited in this paper: HNHM (Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest); UNAM (Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México D.F.).

All measurements are given in millimeters.

Vasarhelyecoris
Brailovsky and Barrera,
NEW GENUS

Diagnosis. — This largid is strongly myrmecomorphic. The basal constriction and

distal globosity of the abdomen, head shape and long and slender legs are all features associated with ant mimicry.

The relationship of *Vasarhelyecoris* Brailovsky and Barrera, new genus, to other largid genera is intriguing. Only the genus *Thaumastaneis* Kirkaldy and Edwards 1902 has an elongate cephalic neck, protruding prehumeral spines, smooth polished head and anterior pronotal lobe, armed forefemora, and strongly brachypterous hemelytra similar to those found in *Vasarhelyecoris*.

Vasarhelyecoris may be distinguished from *Thaumastaneis* by its much longer neck (Figs. 2, 3), protruding eyes with dorsal margins distinctly elevated above top of head, scutellum almost flat, and the absence of a pronotal collar. In *Thaumastaneis* the eyes are sessile, the top of head in lateral view (Fig. 4) is much higher than eyes, the head is strongly globose, the scutellum is elevated into a large blunt-cone, and a pronotal collar is present.

Generic description. — Body very elongate, slender, shining and polished. Head: Produced into an extremely elongate, slender, cylindrical neck and strongly deflexed immediately anterior to eyes; dorsal surface posterior to interocular space with a deeply

incised, V-shaped impression; tylus unarmed, widening toward apex, slightly surpassing juga; interocular width narrower than postocular width; antenniferous tubercle unarmed; antennal segment I cylindrical, slender; segment II cylindrical; segment III gradually thickened to apex; segment IV virtually cylindrical; antennal segment I longest, segment III shortest and IV longer than II; eyes conspicuously protrudent, nearly stalked (Fig. 3); buccula short, not extending beyond the basal third of the first rostral segment, with a sharp, triangular middle projection; rostrum reaching anterior third of prosternum; rostral segment II slightly longer than I, segments I and III almost equal and IV the shortest.

Thorax.—Pronotum bilobed; anterior pronotal lobe globose, lateral margins evenly rounded; collar absent; posterior lobe nearly flat; each prehumeral angle produced as a long, stout, conical tooth, directed laterally; posterior edge almost straight; prosternum, mesosternum and metasternum almost flat; anterior lobe of metapleuron strongly enlarged, globose, visible from above; metathoracic peritreme rounded, not at all auriculate, elevated from the pleuron and slightly curving posteriorad; evaporative area obsolete.

Legs.—Profemur armed below on inner margin with two large spines, the proximal one largest; mesofemur and metafemur unarmed; each tibiae cylindrical without a longitudinal sulcus; tarsal segment I longer than segments II and III combined; femora and tibiae densely investured with long and short hairs, former generally longer than the supporting segment.

Scutellum.—Triangular, longer than wide, unarmed and slightly convex.

Hemelytra.—Brachypterous, extending to the anterior border of abdominal tergum III; clavus and corium fused, but line of fusion discernible; membrane reduced to a small flange, without veins and with the inner portions overlapping.

Abdomen.—Strongly constricted basally and swollen distally; segment III (first visible) slender, linear and dorsally with a median transverse impression; segments IV to VI swollen and segments VII and VIII subglobose; segment III and basal third of IV slightly convex, higher than connexivum; segments V to VII and apical third of IV flat with connexival segments higher; connexival margin entire, posterior angle of segments not extended into a short spine; pleural sternites IV–VI swollen, visible from above; suture between segments V–VI strongly convex.

Female genitalia.—Abdominal sternite VII entirely fissured, in lateral view with upper third broad and lobated and lower third slender; gonocoxae I short (Fig. 5).

Integument.—Head, anterior pronotal lobe, prothorax, mesothorax and metathorax, corium and abdomen impunctate; posterior pronotal lobe, scutellum and clavus finely punctate; body shining, highly polished, with pruinosity on thorax and abdominal sterna III to VII. Head, pronotum, scutellum, legs, thorax and abdominal sterna with long, slender, erect hairs; clavus, corium and dorsal abdominal segments almost glabrous.

Male.—Unknown.

Etymology.—We are pleased to name this new genus for Dr. Tamas Vasarhelyi, distinguished Hungarian hemipterist and the Greek word *coris* = bug.

Type species.—*Vasarhelyecoris ophthalmicus* Brailovsky and Barrera, new species.

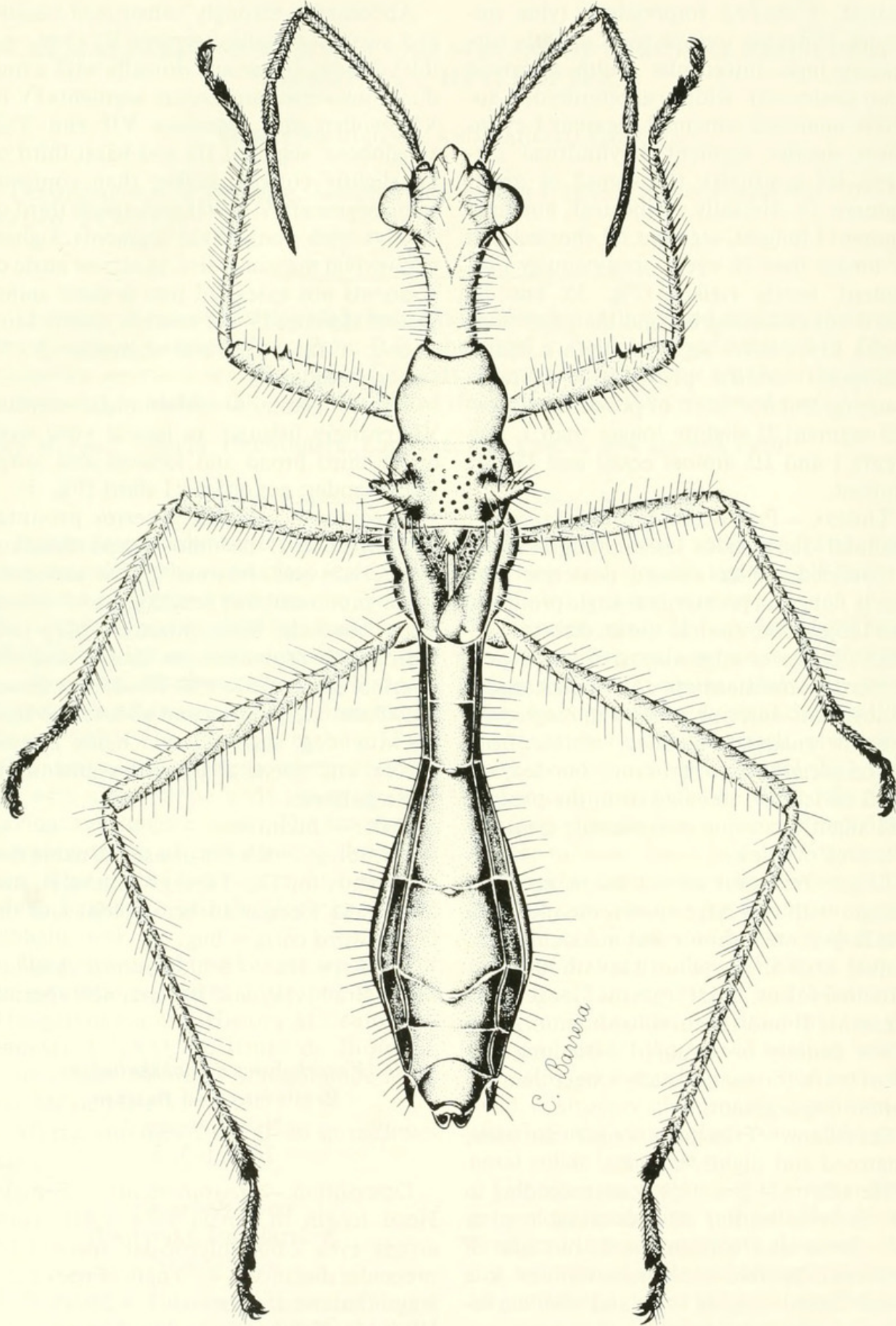
Vasarhelyecoris ophthalmicus

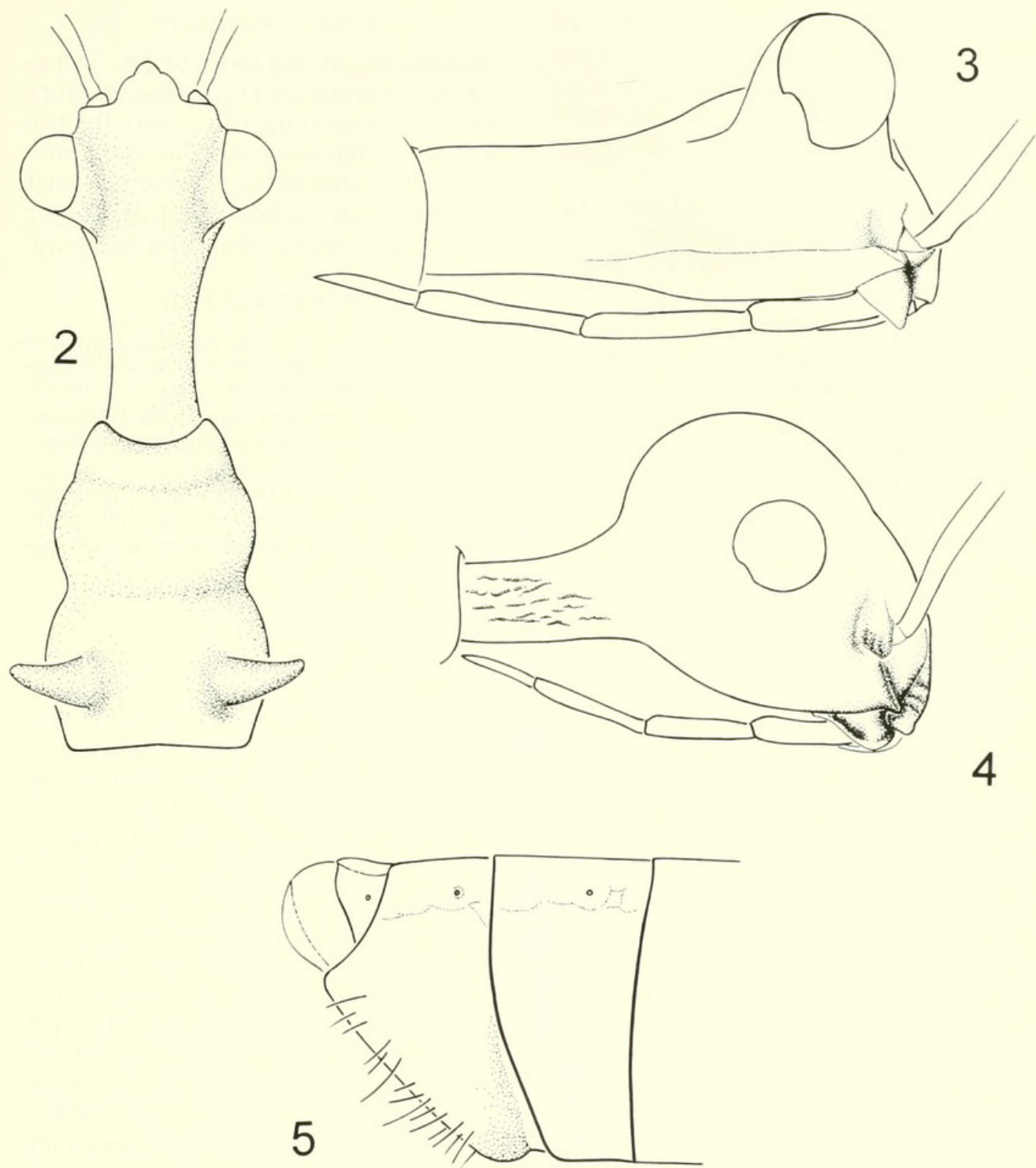
Brailovsky and Barrera,

NEW SPECIES

Figs. 1–3, 5

Description.—*Measurements*: Female: Head length in dorsal view 1.80; width across eyes 2.60; interocular space 1.44; preocular distance 1.40; length of neck 2.23; length antennal segments: I, 3.20; II, 1.18; III, 0.88; IV, 2.24. Pronotum: Length of an-





Figs. 2-5. 2, 3, *Vasarhelyecoris ophthalmicus*. 2, head and pronotum in dorsal view. 3, head in lateral view. 4, head of *Thaumastaneis montandoni* in lateral view. 5, female genital plates of *Vasarhelyecoris ophthalmicus* in lateral view.

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Fig. 1. Dorsal view of *Vasarhelyecoris ophthalmicus*.

terior lobe 1.52; width of anterior lobe 1.68; length of posterior lobe 1.36; width of posterior lobe 1.84. Scutellar length 0.50; width 0.40. Hemelytra: Length 1.92. Abdomen: Length 10.40; width 2.68. Body length 16.95.

Coloration.—Black; antennal segments I to IV bright orange; posterior angle of corium yellow; rostral segments I to IV and legs red brown.

Type material.—Holotype: ♀, Peru, Marcapata (without additional data) (HNHM). Paratypes: 1 ♀, same data as for holotype (UNAM).

Etymology.—The specific epithet of the species is used to refer to the protruding eyes.

Distribution.—Known only from the type locality Peru, South America.

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