The Genus Lobocentrus Stål
(Membracidae)

By

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The genus Lobocentrus Stål was erected in 1870 to accommodate the species zonatus from the Philippines. In 1903 Buckton devoted three lines of description to a second species, falco, also from the Philippines, but he wrongly placed it in the genus Campylocentrus.

In 1907, Distant, believing the lobe on the posterior process to be united with the apex of the scutellum, erected a new genus Dograna to contain the new species suffulta from India. Funkhouser at first made the same mistake regarding the union of the lobe of the posterior process with the scutellum, and in 1915 and 1918 placed L. falco Buckt. in the genus Dograna. These mistakes remained uncorrected until he published his General Catalogue in 1927, when all three species were placed in the genus Lobocentrus.

Strangely enough, no mention is made of this genus in Funkhouser's work on the Membracidae in the Genera Insectorum (1951).

I have unfortunately been unable to examine specimens of L. zonatus Stål and L. falco Buckt., but thanks to the kindness of the officials of the British Museum, I have secured good photographs of the types of both these species, from which I have prepared the figures which appear in this paper.

Funkhouser stated (1915) that this genus should be placed near to Leptobelus, which, according to Distant (1907) falls in the division MICREUNARIA. Distant, however, placed his genus Dograna in the ACANTHOPHYESARIA. It seems to me however, that it would be better placed near to Leptocentrus in the division LEPTOCENTRARIA.

The significant feature of the genus is the well developed, downwardly produced lobe of the posterior process, which almost or quite touches the apex of the scutellum.

It seems desirable to review each species of the genus before describing the new species from South Africa.

Lobocentrus zonatus Stål Fig. 1 (Drawn from a photograph of the allotype ♂ taken at the British Museum, 1951). As I have been unable to examine this species, I can do no better than quote Funkhouser's summary (1915) of Stål's description:

"Black; distinctly punctate; head, thorax and scutellum sparsely sericeous with golden-flavour pubescence, the sides of the breast very densely sericeous in the same manner. Tegmina obscure wine-coloured, a translucent facia before the middle and the veins fuscous, base black and punctate. Prothorax with percurrent median ridge; lateral horns
extending outward and slightly curving backward, slender, gradually acuminate, bisulcate above, posterior process lobed, acutely tectiform. Described from the female.
Length 8 mm.; width 3.5 mm.
Philippine Islands (Stål).

**Lobocentrus falco** Buckton. Fig. 2. (This figure also was drawn from a photograph of the type ♂, taken at the British Museum, 1951).

Here again I have been unable to examine specimens, and therefore quote Funkhouser's description (1915).

"Apparently rare. I have seen one specimen bearing the locality label 'Malinao'. This specimen may be described as follows:

"Very dark brown, almost black, thickly and roughly punctured; pilose with scattered golden hairs, particularly on scutellum and sides of mesothorax. Suprahumeral horns subtriquetrous, extending almost directly outward, very slightly upward and backward. Posterior process extending beyond internal angle of tegmina." (Here Funkhouser mentions the downward prolongation which he says is connected to the scutellum. This is of course, not correct; the lobe merely touches the scutellum). "Dorsal carina high and sharp; tip gradually acuminate. Tegmina vitreous, wrinkled, black and punctate at base. Undersurface of body and legs very dark brown; femora swollen, tibiae finely spined; tarsi ferruginous. Female. Length 9 mm.; width between extremities of pronotal horns 5.8 mm.

"I believe this to be Buckton's species though it is slightly larger than the specimen he describes. The habitat given by that author is Luzon, Philippine Islands. There was no data label nor further locality name on the specimen I was permitted to examine."

**Lobocentrus suffulta** Distant. (Figs. 3, 4, 5).

I think it is desirable that all species should be described in a similar style to that adopted by Funkhouser in his later work, and I have therefore prepared a new description of this species from three specimens taken at Cheramode, Nilgiri Hills, India, as follows:

**Female.** Head dark shining blackish-brown, much wider than long, finely punctate, shortly sparsely goldenly pilose, medially weakly carinate; base arcuate and slightly sinuate; eyes large, globose, greyish, basally

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**EXPLANATION OF FIGURES**

Fig. 1: *Lobocentrus sonatus* Stål ♂.
Fig. 2: *Lobocentrus falco* Buckton ♂.
Fig. 3: *Lobocentrus suffulta* Distant ♂ Dorsal view.
Fig. 4: *Lobocentrus suffulta* Distant ♂ Lateral view.
Fig. 5: *Lobocentrus suffulta* Distant ♂ Frontal view.
Fig. 6: *Lobocentrus africanus* sp. n. ♂ Dorsal view.
Fig. 7: *Lobocentrus africanus* sp. n. ♂ Lateral view.
Fig. 8: *Lobocentrus africanus* sp. n. ♂ Frontal view.
speckled with blackish; ocelli large, prominent, amber coloured or opalescent, about as far from each other as from the eyes and situated slightly above a line drawn through the centres of the eyes: inferior margins of genae downwardly sloping and curving to the base of the clypeus, margins very slightly upturned; clypeus a little longer than wide, broad at base and inwardly curved to truncate tip which is longly pilose; rostrum dark at base thence castaneous to tip which reaches just beyond intermediate coxae; antennae long, basal joint ochraceous, flagellum brown.

**Thorax.** *Pronotum* dark reddish brown to blackish, finely punctate, shortly, sparsely, goldenly pilose; cephalic margin slightly marginate; metepisternum almost vertical, disc of pronotum sloping strongly backwards to base of posterior process; suprahumeral horns slender and acuminate to tips, almost black, extending directly outward and slightly upward, very slightly backwardly curved, strongly marginally carinate, weakly carinate above and below; posterior process rising high from posterior half of pronotum in a high curve above the scutellum, downwardly produced above the apex of the scutellum into a strong scroll-like lobe which impinges on the bifid apex of the scutellum, from the base of the lobe the posterior process is continued as a slender castaneous spine almost straightly to its apex which reaches just beyond but distant from the internal angles of the tegmina, strongly tricarinate, lateral carinations extending to the sides of the lobe and continued more weakly along the terminal spine; median carina strongly percurrent; humeral angles strong and prominent and extending laterally as far as the extremities of the eyes; sides of sternites black and shortly whitely pilose; sides of metathorax with a tomentose white patch. *Tegmina* clear hyaline with faint amber suffusion, base narrowly coriaceous and punctate, veins strongly developed, darker at tips and internal margins, subcosta strongly thickened at apex but not forming a pterostigma, second anal vein absent or displaced to anal margin, five apical and one sub-apical cell, apical limbus very narrow; wings with well developed veins, four apical cells and a wide limbus. *Legs* simple, castaneous, tarsi shading to dark brown or black at claws, posterior tibiae finely spined.

*Scutellum* brown, punctate, longer than wide, basal angles narrowly tomentose, basally gibbous and shortly pilose, apex bifid. *Abdomen* brown, sparsely punctate above, shortly pilose below. *Length* 6 mm.; width 3.5 mm.; width at humeral angles 2.25 mm. *Localities*: Bombay; Cheramgode, Nilgiri Hills; Castle Rock, N. Kanara District.

It should be pointed out that in all three specimens (♀♀) I have been able to examine there was only one sub-apical cell in the tegmina, while the specimen from which Distant described his species had two. It is probable that this is merely a variation as my specimens agree in all other respects with his description and with Horace Knight's figure.
Lobocentrus africanus sp. n.

It is with much pleasure that I describe this new species from South Africa, and so record the extended range of the genus. For those interested in the theories of Land Bridges and Continental Drift, it presents an interesting problem.

This species appears to be nearest to *L. falco* Buckt. but differs from it in the shape of the lobe of the posterior process, the darker tegmina, the tomentose sides of the thorax and its smaller size. It differs from *L. suffulta* Dist. in the almost straight posterior process, the shape of the lobe, the much shorter suprahumeral horns, the darker tegmina and the shape of the clypeus.

Robust, black, shortly goldenly pilose, thickly whitely tomentose on sides of thorax and base of scutellum, suprahumeral horns short, obtuse, posterior process more or less straight and declivous with a scroll-like lobe which almost touches the apex of the scutellum, tegmina brownish hyaline.

**Male.** Head subquadrate, much wider than long, black, deeply, finely punctate, shortly goldenly pilose; eyes black, prominent; ocelli small, ruby coloured, slightly closer to each other than to the eyes and situated about on a line drawn through the centres of the eyes; inferior margins of genae convex and declivous; clypeus more or less rectangular, a little wider than long, finely rectangularly lobate at base, extending for about three quarters of its length below margins of genae, tip truncate, undersurface pilose; rostrum extending to base of intermediate coxae.

**Thorax.** Pronotum black, deeply, finely punctate, shortly, sparsely, goldenly pilose; metopidium wider than high, a bare irregular callosity above base of each eye; suprahumeral horns short, obtuse, tricarinate, frontally rounded, slightly backwardly curved, almost horizontal, not extending laterally beyond humeral angles; posterior process rising high on basal half of pronotum, gradually declivous, expanding below into a broad scroll-like lobe which almost touches the apex of scutellum, thence acuminate to tip which reaches just beyond inner angle of tegmina and impinges upon them, strongly tricarinate; median carina strongly percurrent; humeral angles blunt and extending laterally only very slightly beyond extremities of the eyes. Tegmina bronz-y-brown, subhyaline, about three times as long as wide, veins well developed, brown, shortly, sparsely goldenly pilose, base narrowly coriaceous and punctate, somewhat wrinkled, five apical and two subapical cells, apical limbus narrow; wings with four apical cells and limbus wide; sides of thorax densely whitely tomentose. Legs with basal joints black, tibiae and tarsi castaneous, posterior tibiae very finely spinose.

Scutellum about as wide as long, basally densely whitely tomentose, finely punctate and sparsely pilose, apex bifid and pale ochraceous. Abdomen above black, deeply punctate, posterior margins of tergites smooth, very finely sparsely pilose; below more thickly whitely pilose.

Length 6.2 mm.; width across suprahumeral horns 2.7 mm.

Holotype ♂, in my collection. It was found 9.3.51 at Umkomaas, Natal, when sweeping along a woodland path between the town and the golf course.
It may later be thought necessary to erect a new genus for this species as it differs in very important particulars from *L. suffulta* Dist., but more material is needed for study, especially of the two species from the Philippines, and until this comes to hand it does not seem that such a step would be warranted.

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