

A New *Asiomethis* Uv. (Orthoptera, Pamphaginae) from Central Asia

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The working up of the Acrid material of the Hungarian Natural History Museum had recently begun. In the course of this undertaking, a number of species belonging to the subfamily Pamphaginae of the family Acridae have been identified and shown for the fauna of Central Asia, with also the detection of a new species. The single male and female specimens representing the new taxon bear labels written in ink, of the following, wholly identical, text: "Akmolik obl. Koksatau". Since the material originates from Alma-Ata (the specimens were sent by N. N. SKOPIN), we might safely presume that the locality refers to the province (obl. = oblasty) Akmolinsk, Kazahstan. The site Koksatau could not be found on even the most detailed ones of my atlases; it is probably a small settlement or other community.

Asiomethis nigripedis sp.n. (Figs. 1—7)

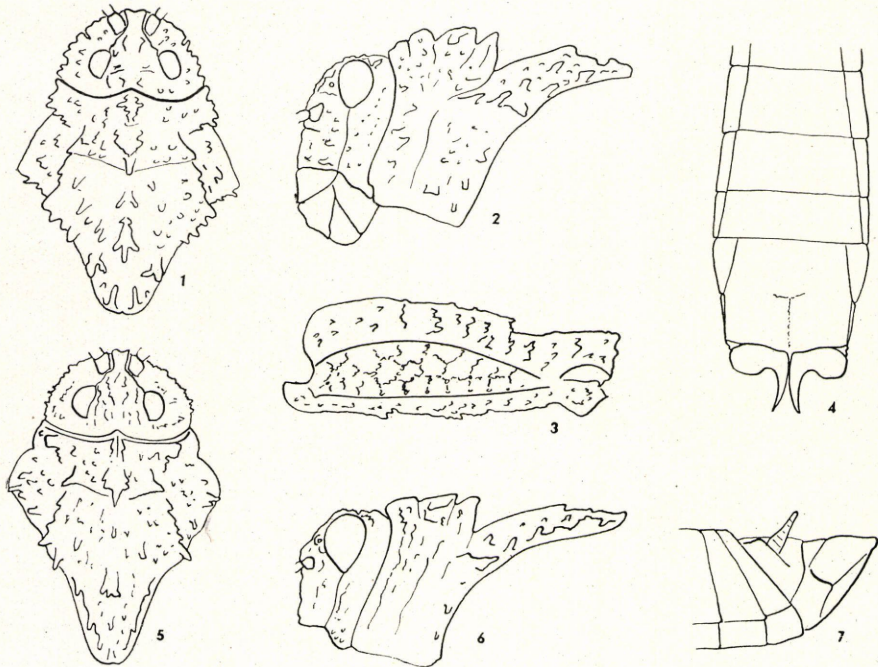
Head, pronotum and legs of female richly covered with extremely strong protuberances, elevated ridges, lines, and excrescences. Head, when viewed from above, short and wide, frontal and vertical portions deeply depressed, covered with protruding, sinuous lines. Eyes small, their diameter (when viewed from above) essentially smaller than width of interocular area. Anterior part of head projecting in clypeal line and strongly crenate marginally (Fig. 1). In a lateral view, head relatively small, largely covered by anterior margin of pronotum. Eye situated rather high, but lateral margins of median section of vertex elevating above eyes. Antennae articulating comparatively low, first antennal joints originating perceptibly lower than inferior margin of eye. Antennae 19-jointed, of a pale sandy yellowish colour.

Dorsal surface of pronotum essentially rougher than head. Anterior margin strongly arcuate, sharply projecting in line of median ridge. Pronotal shoulders strongly expressed, jutting out like promontories from level of pronotum, thus constituting sharply delimited dorsal and lateral surfaces on pronotum. Posterior corners of shoulder margins projecting rather far above postero-lateral margins of segment. Median ridge extremely robust in a lateral view (Fig. 2). Pro-, meso-, and metazonae easily and well discernible on ridge. Median portion of prozone with a small transversal groove, that on border of pro- and mesozone twice as deep, very expressed. Posterior two-thirds of mesozone with another transversal groove, causing a tooth-shaped projection on posterior corner of mesozone. Border of meso- and metazone with a deep transversal furrow, transecting as a fine line also shoulders.

Tegmen well developed, at repose slightly projecting beyond knee of posterior femur. Legs very rough, hind femur as on Fig. 3. Lower genital hooks of female relatively short, wide, as shown on Fig. 4.

Head, pronotum, and legs of male bear essentially smaller and less excrescences, elevated ridges and points, but overall habit and rough structure of male sex highly

resembling female. Head, when viewed from above, slightly more depressed than that of female (Fig. 5), vertex very rough, with elevated ridges, lines, and richly covered with irregularly decurrent riblets. In a lateral view, facial rib rather elevated and arcuate anteriorad, in line of antennal articulation. Antennae originating higher than in female, 19-jointed, situated largely in line of inferior margin of eyes. Frons essentially more depressed than in female (Fig. 6).



Figs. 1—7. *Asiomethis nigripedis* sp.n. 1 = Head and pronotum of female from above, 2 = laterally, 3 = femur of hind leg laterally, 4 = end of female sexual plate, laterally, 5 = head and pronotum of male from above, 6 = laterally, and 7 = end of male abdomen laterally

Delimitation into dorsal and lateral portions of pronotal surface rather expressed but of smaller extense and less of a promontory shape than in female. Median ridge of pronotum also lower, and zones more uniform, than in female.

Colouration and shape of legs and wings agreeing with those of female, but tegmens slightly longer at repose than in female.

Subgenital plate relatively long, inferior portion of lamella flat, lamelliform, expanding arcuately only from about two-thirds of its length (in a lateral view) (Fig. 7).

Diagnostic measurement in mm: length of body: ♀ 30.1, ♂ 23.8; length of tegmen: ♀ 21.4, ♂ 18.7; length of hind femur: ♀ 14.5, ♂ 11 and length of antenna: ♀ 9.1, ♂ 7.4.

Holotype female: "Akmolik obl. Koksatau, 1957. VI. 22, leg. MALKOVSKI". Paratype male: "Akmolik obl. Koksatau, 1957. VI. 22, leg.: MALKOVSKI". Deposited in the Zoological Department of the Hungarian Natural History Museum.

The nearest ally of *Asiomethis nigripedis* sp.n. is *A. muricatus* PALL., agreeing in stature. The essential differences between the two species are as follows. The pronotal construction is essentially rougher in *A. nigripedis* sp.n., the single protuberances being in themselves of a larger size than those of its congener. The median ridge of the pro- and mesozones of the pronotum is considerably higher and sharper in *A. muricatus* PALL. than in the new species. The promontory-shaped shelf on the pronotal surface is less crenate, hence more entire and showing fewer projecting points in *A. muricatus* PALL. The hind femur of *A. nigripedis* sp.n. is proportionately wider and shorter, its upper margin is more crenate and also rougher. The hind tibia is dark blue in *A. muricatus* PALL., its inner surface black in *A. nigripedis* sp.n. Finally, the lateral branch of the radius has one sublateral vein on the tegmen of *A. nigripedis* sp.n., but three in *A. muricatus* Pall.

References: 1. Бей-Буенко, Г. А.: Саранчевые фауны СССР (Акад. Наук. СССР, Москва, 1951, стр. 280—364). — 2. Kirby, W.: A synonymic catalogue of Orthoptera (London, pp. 674). — 3. Шимаков, Е. М.: Виды и подвиды саранчевых рода *Asiomethis* Uv. (Pamphaginae) и их географическое распространение (Ентомолог. обозр., 30, 1949, стр. 321—325). — 4. Уваров, В. Р.: The tribe Thrinchini of the subfamily Pamphaginae, and the interrelations of the Acridid subfamilies (Orth.) (Trans. R. Ent. Soc. London, 93, 1943, p. 1—72).

