

A new leafhopper species of *Maiestas* Distant (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Deltocephalinae: Deltocephalini) from Thailand

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A new leafhopper species, *Maiestas serrata* sp.n., is described and illustrated from Thailand. This represents the first record of the genus from Thailand.

Key words: Auchenorrhyncha, morphology, taxonomy, new species

Introduction

The grassland leafhopper genus *Maiestas* was established by Distant (1917) with the type species *Maiestas illustris* Distant, 1917 from Seychelles. It belongs to the *Deltocephalus* group as reviewed by Webb & Viraktamath (2009) in a study of Old World Deltocephalini. Zhang & Duan (2011) revised the *Deltocephalus* group from China. In this paper, a new species of *Maiestas* is described from Thailand which represents the first record of the genus from Thailand.

Material and methods

The material studied here is deposited in the Queen Sirikit Botanical Garden, Chiang Mai, Thailand (QSBG) and the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS). Morphological terminology follows Dietrich (2005). Digital photographs were taken with a QImaging Micropublisher 3.3 digital camera mounted on an Olympus BX41 stereo microscope and with a Nikon D1x digital SLR camera configured with lenses by Microoptics, Digital Lab XLT system. Photographs were modified using Adobe Photoshop CS.

Taxonomy

Maiestas Distant

Maiestas Distant, 1917: 312. Type species: *Maiestas illustris* Distant, 1917, by monotypy.

Togacephalus Matsumura, 1940: 38. Type species: *Deltocephalus distincta* Motschulsky, 1859, by original designation.

Inazuma Ishihara, 1953: 15. Type species: *Deltocephalus dorsalis* Motschulsky, 1859, by original designation.

Inemadara Ishihara, 1953: 48. Type species: *Deltocephalus oryzae* Matsumura, 1902, by original designation.

Insulanus Linnavuori, 1960: 303. Type species: *Stirellus subviridis* Metcalf, 1946, by original designation.

Distribution. Old World.

Remarks. This genus, comprising 98 species, differs from *Deltocephalus* Burmeister and *Recilia* Edwards by the aedeagal shaft being at most only slightly curved dorsally with apex entire and sometimes produced into a thin process or spine with the gonopore apical on the dorsal surface.

Maiestas serrata sp.n. (Figs 1–2)

Length. Male: 2.5 mm.

Coloration and morphology. Ground color stramineous marked with orange and brown (Fig. 1A–D). Vertex, pronotum, mesonotum and scutellum with orange marks (Fig. 1A–C). Face mostly brown with paired white arcs corresponding to muscle scars of frontoclypeus (Fig. 1E). Forewing light brown with veins contrastingly pale, bordered with fuscous (Fig. 1A–D). Mesosternum dark brown. Femora and tibiae with fuscous marks (Fig. 1D).

Head wider than pronotum, crown depressed, anterior margin distinctly angulate in dorsal view, nearly as long as distance between eyes (Fig. 1A–B); ocellus close to adjacent eye (Fig. 1C–D). Antenna longer than head width; anteclypeus parallel-sided, not extended to ventral margin of face; lorum semicircular, slightly narrower than anteclypeus, well separated from lateral margin of face (Fig. 1E). Pronotum nearly as long as vertex. Forewing macropterous, with four apical and three anteapical cells, inner anteapical cell closed basally (Fig. 1A–D).

Male genitalia. Pygofer lobe with numerous apical macrosetae, hind margin rounded (Fig. 2A–B). Subgenital plate subtriangular, lateral margin weakly incurved, apex acute (Fig. 2C). Style with long articulatory arm, preapical lobe angulate, apophysis digitate, apex acute, slightly laterally curved (Fig. 2D). Connective obviously shorter than aedeagus. Aedeagal shaft elongate and very narrow, straight in lateral view with apex upturned and serrate laterally (Fig. 2E–F).

Material examined. Holotype: male, pinned, with genitalia in a separate microvial, Thailand: Ubon Ratchathani Pha Taem NP Rong Hi Noy, 15° 40' 021" N, 105° 30' 440" E, 240 m, malaise trap, 1–7 i 2007, Thongkam & Pakdee, leg. T1476 (QSBG). Paratype: 1 male, pinned, with genitalia in a separate microvial, Thailand: Ubon Ratchathani Pha Taem NP Khua Nang Nee, 15° 24' 285" N, 105° 30' 855" E, 193 m, malaise, 24 ii–3 iii 2007, Bunlu Subsiri, leg. T1674 (INHS).

Remarks. This species will run to *M. oryzae* (Matsumura) in the key of Zhang & Duan (2011) and resembles that species in having the inner anteapical cell of the forewing closed, the pygofer lobe rounded and the aedeagus somewhat elongated and lacking a heel at the base of the shaft. It is also similar to *M. scalpella* Zhang & Duan and *M. chalami* Zahniser, McKamey & Dmitriev in the shape of the aedeagus but differs from the former in having the forewing without a dark brown spot and the inner anteapical cell closed basally (Fig. 1A–D), the subgenital plate shorter (Fig. 2C), the apex of the style more acute (Fig. 2D), and the connective shorter; and from the latter in having the vertex and forewing without dark brown maculations (Fig. 1A–D).

Etymology. The specific epithet is based on the apical serrated lateral margins of the aedeagal shaft.

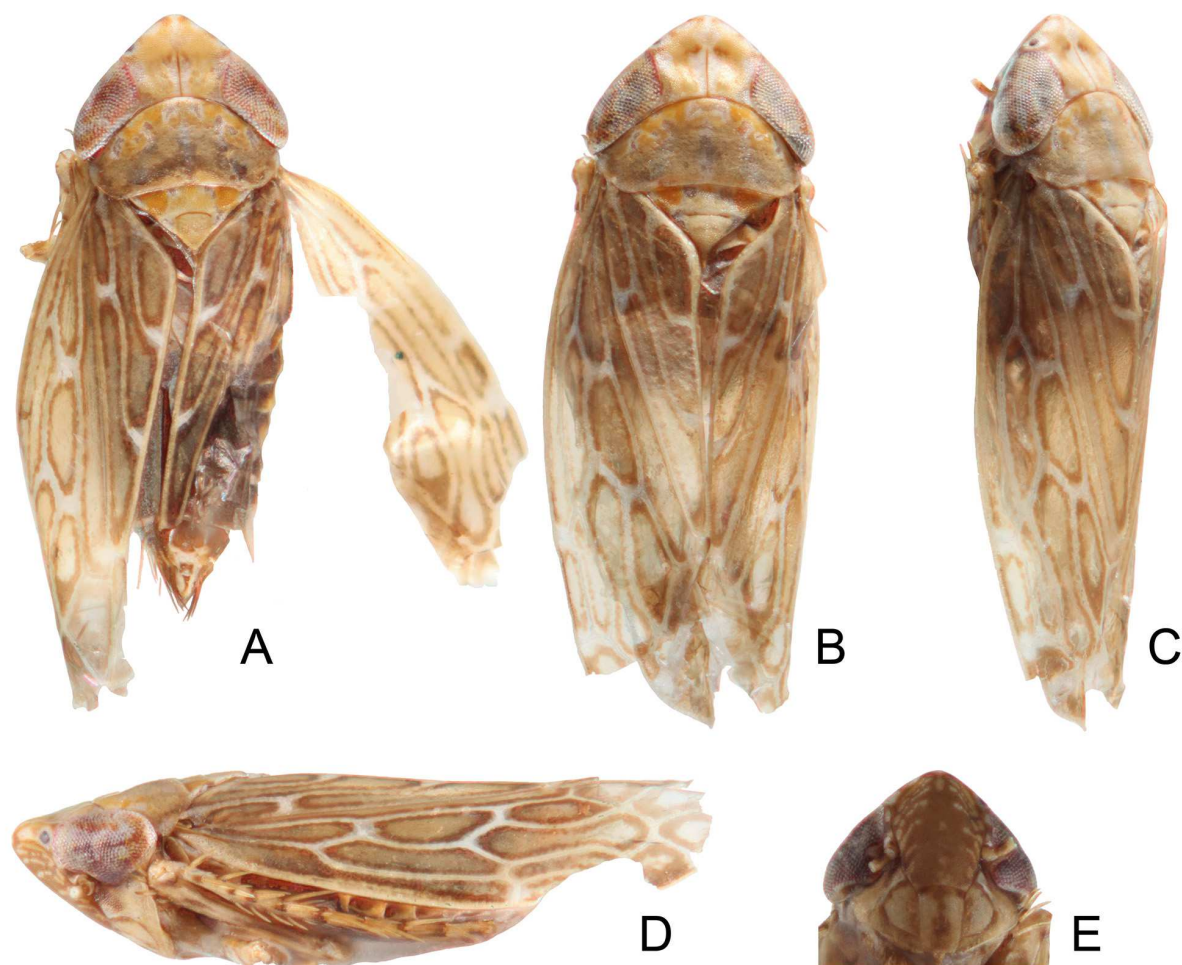


FIGURE 1. *Maiestas serrata* sp.n. A, B: habitus, dorsal view; C: habitus, dorsolateral view; D: habitus, lateral view; E: face.

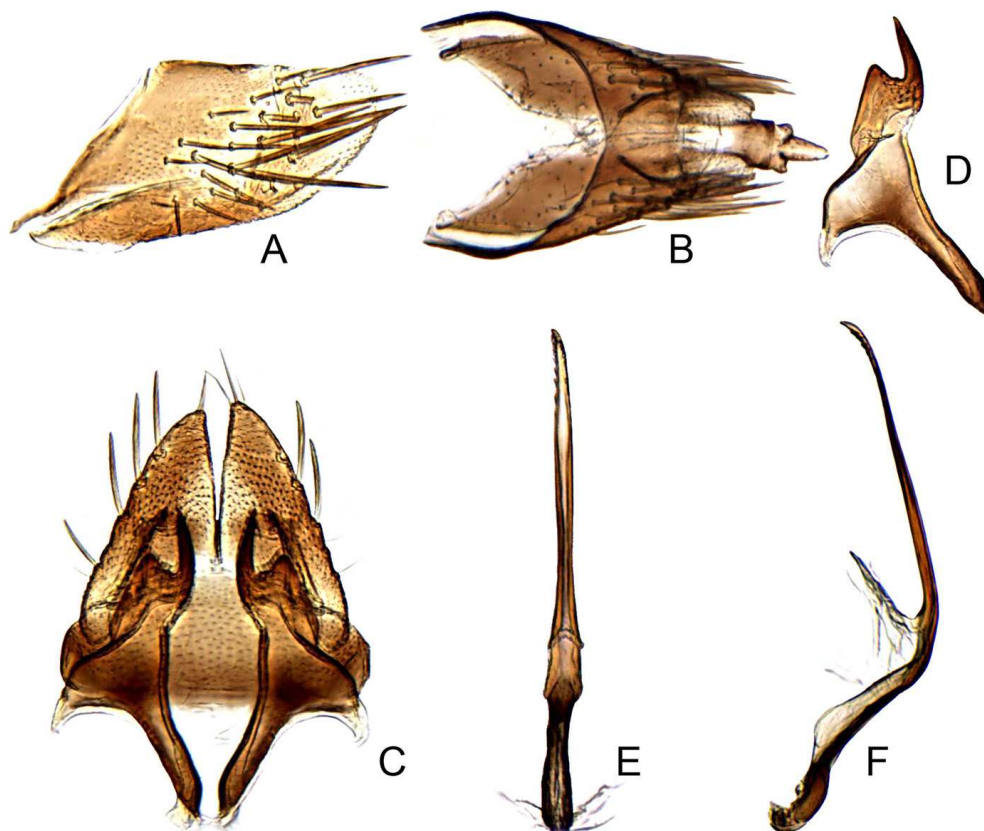


FIGURE 2. *Maiestas serrata* sp.n. A: male pygofer lobe, lateral view; B: male pygofer and segments X–XI, dorsal view; C: valve, subgenital plates and styles, ventral view; D: style, dorsal view; E, F: connective and aedeagus, dorsal and lateral view, respectively.

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