

A NEW SPECIES OF PLEA  
(HEMIPTERA-NOTONECTIDÆ)\*

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The genus *Plea* of Leach, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, XII, 1817, pp. 11 and 13, is represented in North America by a single described species, *Plea striola* Fieber. During the past summer, 1921, the writer collected seven specimens of an apparently undescribed species in a small stagnant pond near Fayette, Miss. The insect is named in honor of Prof. R. W. Harned, who is taking a very active interest in the insect fauna of Mississippi.

*Plea harnedi* n. sp.

Yellowish gray, the fuscous markings large and prominent. Size small, not twice as long as broad, smooth, somewhat shining, quite coarsely and rather closely punctured, many of the punctures with a very short, inconspicuous, decumbent hair (visible under the high power of binocular). Dorsal surface somewhat flattened at the scutellum. Elytra short, of a uniform structure, very declivous posteriorly, each elytron, like in *P. minutissima* (Fussl.) of the Palæarctic region, divided into two distinct areas, the clavus and the corium. Wings well developed, folded beneath the elytra and thus entirely concealed from view when not in use. Head strongly punctured, with a large median, triangular, brown or fuscous area between the eyes. The eyes reddish brown or black. Scutellum fuscous, the apex yellowish gray. Pronotum largely fuscous, a median rectangular spot back of the collum, the sides and posterior margin yellowish gray. The fuscous areas of the elytra and pronotum slightly variable in size. Rostrum and body beneath blackish. Legs yellowish brown, the coxæ and trochanters blackish, the tips of the femora and of the third tarsal segments fuscous. Posterior legs with numerous hairs along the inner margins. Length, 2.27 mm.; width, 1.2 mm.

Seven specimens, taken in a small artificial pond, July 23, 1921, a few miles from Fayette, Miss. *Type* in my collection. *Paratypes* in the National Museum, Mississippi Agricultural College and my collection. As the species is very distinct and

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\* Contributions from the Department of Entomology, the New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse, N. Y., No. 38.

not easily confused with *striola*, I have not injured a couple specimens of the type series in order to figure male and female genitalia.

*P. harnedi* n. sp. may be readily separated from *P. striola* Fieb. by the conspicuous color markings, the large triangular (brown or fuscous) are between the eyes, and each elytron is divided by a very deep suture into two regions. In *striola* the elytra are usually entire and the color, save a small median streak between the eyes, is nearly a uniform yellowish gray;

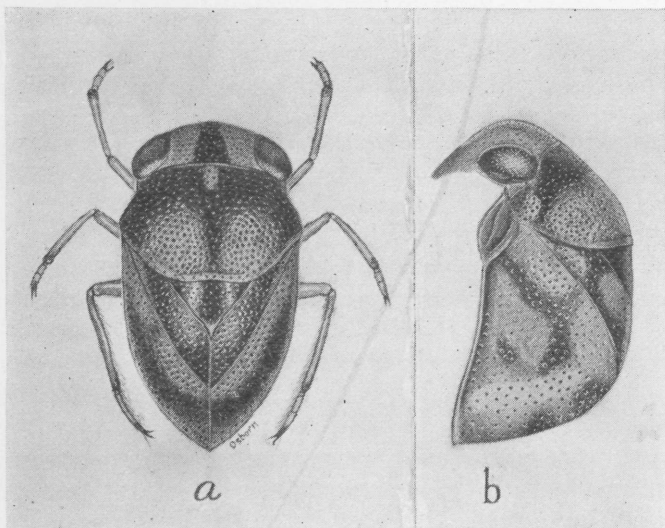


Fig. 1. *Plea harnedi* n. sp. a, dorsal aspect; b, lateral aspect.  
From drawing by W. P. Osborn.

the elytra are also more highly arched behind and quite differently punctured. According to Dr. Hungerford the structure of the elytra in *striola* (suture distinct or not) is a variable character and not a satisfactory one. He states that some specimens of *striola* in the National Museum show a distinct suture (clavus present) and that in others it is pretty hard to make out at all. My specimens of *striola* from Canada, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Florida and Mississippi, fail to show a distinct clavus.

A number of other rather interesting aquatic and semi-aquatic Hemiptera were taken in the same pond, near Fayette,

Miss. In company with *P. harnedi* the writer collected specimens of *Ranatra fusca* P. S. (Bueno & Montd.), *Notonecta-howardi* Bueno, *Corixa* n. sp. (*vide* Hungerford), *Benacus griseus* (Say), *Belostoma flumineum* Say, *Belostoma lutarium* (Stal), *Pelocoris femoratus* (P. B.). The following species were quite common upon the surface of the water: *Mesovelgia mulsanti* White, *Hydrometra martini* Kirk., *Hydrometra australis* Say, *Gerris canaliculatus* Say, *Tenagogonus hesione* Kirk., *Trepobates pictus* (H. S.), *Microvelia hinei* Drake, *Velia brachialis* Stal, and *Merragata brunnea* Drake. *Micracanthia humilis* (Say) was captured upon some floating aquatic plants and *Gelastocoris culatus* Fabr. was quite common upon the moist ground bordering the pond.