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Generis Acroneuria Pict. species Americanae

by F. Klapalek

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Translator's note:

The translator of the paper on Acroneuria by F. Klapalek wishes to point out some difficulties he had to cope with:

The paper was published in 1917 and its language as well as the nomenclature used are oldfashioned. No Czech-English entomological dictionary does exist to solve some of these problems. The translator (a biochemist) contacted entomologists of Czechoslovakian origin in the Department of Agriculture but Acroneuria are not in the field of their specialization. F. Klapalek evidently tried to use exclusively Czech terms in his paper and the translator wishes to bring a list of several terms, with the translation of which he does not feel confident:

slemenní rýha - longitudinal groove; mozolky - tubercles (calluses); žilka krajní - costa vein; žilka příkrajní - subcosta vein.

The translator hopes, nevertheless, that a specialist in Acroneuria will find this translation readable and understandable.

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Časopis České Společnosti Entomologické
 Acta Societatis Entomologicae Bohemiae
 Vol. 17, pp. 40-57, 1917
Generis Acroneuria Pict. Species Americanae
 Professor František Klapálek

(40)

There are two reasons why the genus Acroneuria Pict. is very instructive for every taxonomist. Firstly, it shows variability of the members of the genus depending on the extent with which, selecting proper characters, we approach the natural line of evolution. Secondly, it is an excellent proof of how important the characters of genital organs are to the natural system of insects.

It was the excellent mathematician Pictet who first defined the group of Acroneuria though as a sole sub-genus of the genus Perla Geoffr. in his "Histoire naturelle générale et particulière des Insectes Névroptères, I. monogr. Famille des Perlides" which was issued in 1841. In his synoptic review of sub-genera on page 147 he referred to the main character as to "partie terminale du champ submarginal coupé par des nervures transversales" and "nervures longitudinales régulières, tête large, port

(41)

des Perles, ailles allonées". The former character distinguishes Acroneuria from the genus Perla proper and the latter from Dictyopteryx (Perlodes). The former character is also that one by means of which Newman defined his species Perla abnormis (Entom. Mag. V. p. 177, 1836). This means that in fact it was Newman who first used this character, though only in the quality of a species. For the sub-genus Acroneuria Pictet listed two species: A. arenosa Pict. and A. abnormis Newm.; Newman did not know the latter from his own experience. It is very interesting that in his analysis of the sub-genus newly established he noted further: "Je regarde en consequence cette division des Acroneuria comme plus artificielle que naturelle, et utile seulement pour faciliter la distinction des espèces; je ne pense pas qu'elle puisse jamais former un genre." Hence Pictet with his established clear-sightedness did not assume the occurrence of transverse veins in the wing apex as a character of generic value. Instead, because of a small number of species in which it has occurred, he used it as an artificial character to distinguish this group. By this he differed unusually advantageously from the subsequent workers in this field; they recognized that this character did not belong to all the species linked together by other, far more important characters, yet they insisted on its generic importance.

Of later authors Walker in his Catalogue, p. 146 (1852) referred to Acroneuria as a genus equal, in rights to exist, to the genus Perla, but used verbatim the same characters as Pictet; he extended the number of species by A. pennsylvanica Ramb.

Hagen in his "Synopsis of the Neuroptera of North

America" (1861), p. 17, again referred to Acroneuria as only a sub-genus of the genus Perla and added two other species, ruralis Hg. = lycorias Newm., and arida Hg. = trijuncta Walk. to the existing Newman's species.

Also Walsh (Proc. Acad. Nat. Hist. Scienc. Philad. 1862, p. 363) listed the sub-genus Acroneuria with a new species rupinsulensis Walsh.

Banks in all his recent papers defined the genus Acroneuria by a single character, i. e. transverse veins in the wing apex. Naturally, this resulted in the fact that, in addition to the species belonging to the genus Acroneuria by this character, Banks described several species in the genus Perla which surely would also belong to the genus Acroneuria according to the description of genital organs. Such adherence to an insufficient character is at least strange since genital characters provide excellent characterization. (42)

I dared to define the genus Acroneuria in its recent limits in 1909 in an essay entitled: "Revision of the genus Acroneuria Pict." (Transactions of the Bohemian Academy of the Emperor Franz-Joseph, vol. 18, no. 5). Other material available to me in order to write a monography on Plecoptera allowed me to learn other species and to put the synonymy into a better order. Most confusing conditions in this respect existed in the North American species, since every author considered various species, which came into his hands, as new because description was insufficient. This paper is a supplement to the paper which had been published in 1909.

Analytical review of North American species

1. Median area of prothorax at its narrowest point occupying at least a tenth of the entire width at the same point . . . 2
- Median area of prothorax narrow and at its narrowest point representing less than a tenth of the entire width at the same point 5
2. Prothorax elongate (50:40), cerci very seldom longer than a half of the abdomen; eyes and ocelli large; median area occupying one tenth of the entire width of prothorax - brevicauda
- Prothorax very transverse (50:31-34), cerci normal 3
3. Distance between rear ocelli greater than their distance from the inner margin of eye (30:22); eyes medium large; median area of prothorax representing one eighth to two thirteenth of the entire width; rear ocelli on the star-shaped lighter-coloured spot; female subgenital plate curved, lightly emarginate in the centre; wing span of females 63 to 71 mm . . .
- rupinsulensis
- Distance between rear ocelli equal to their distance from the inner margin of eye; eyes markedly small; median area occupying one sixth to one fifth of the entire width 4
4. Female subgenital plate obtusely triangular; wing span of females 55 mm pacifica
- Female subgenital plate emarginate; wing span of females 34 mm ruficeps
5. Prothorax almost as a parallelogram 6
- Prothorax markedly constricted backwards 7
6. Vertex between eyes of clay-yellow colour; prothorax with a more or less distinct, light-coloured longitudinal groove. .
- lycorias

- 7. Prothorax conspicuously long and its length exceeding four fifths of frontal width; female subgenital plate short, rounded; wing span of males 44 to 50 mm, of females 62 mm - valida
 - Maximum length of prothorax equal to four fifths of its frontal width 8
- 8. Ratio of the width of prothorax to its length: 50 to no more than 34 9
 - The ratio mentioned above: 50 to more than 35 10
- 9. Vertex between ocelli light in colour; female subgenital plate markedly truncate; prothorax of uniform Van Dyck brown colour; wing span of females 52 mm pennsylvanica
- 10. Prothorax ratio 50:36-37 11¹⁾
 - Prothorax of uniform brown colour immarginata
- 12. Vertex between ocelli slightly, yet markedly darker (similar as in lycorias); female subgenital plate in the middle markedly extended as a trapezium evoluta
 - Vertex in the middle between ocelli markedly lighter in colour scabrosa
- 13. Vertex between ocelli black-brown 14
 - Vertex between ocelli markedly lighter in colour 15
- 14. Distance between rear ocelli much greater than their distance from the inner margin of eye; female subgenital plate with triangular emargination in the middle; wing span of females 62 mm lurida
 - Distance between rear ocelli slightly greater than their distance from the inner margin of eye; length of prothorax equal to four fifths of its frontal width . . . carolinensis
- 15. Body generally dark brown; the entire occiput dark . . . clara

1) A. trijuncta Walker also belongs to this group.

- Body generally clay-yellow, occiput light with rubbed off, dark band which is parallel to occipital suture; female subgenital plate markedly emarginate at the end; wing span of females 50 mm difficilis

This review does not include A. californica Banks which I do not perfectly know by dissection.

1. A c r o n e u r i a a b n o r m i s N e w m .

(44)

Perla abnormis Newm., Entomol. Magaz. V. p.177 (1838).

Perla sonans Newp., Trans. Linn. Soc. Tom. XX., p. 447 (20, June 1848); nec Perla abnormis Prov., nec. Acr. abnormis Hg.

This species is quite well defined because, in addition to Acr. lycorias, the only species with very narrow median area of prothorax, has a pronotum in the form of almost a parallelogram; it markedly differs from the species mentioned above by the head pattern and by a noticeable light longitudinal groove on prothorax.

Perla abnormis Prov. (Pet. Faune entom. du Canada, page 211) should not be considered identical with the Newman's species because the following words are contradictory: "Prothorax plus étroit en arrière" and further "l'antepenultième segment prolongé, arrondi".

No doubts, Acr. abnormis Hg. is a mixture of several species but the description which states that prothorax is constricted backwards, certainly excludes identity with the Newman's species.

2. A c r o n e u r i a l y c o r i a s N e w m

Newman, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. III. p. 85 (1839). It is referred to this description in Pict. Perl. p. 214, Walker, Catal. Neur. Ius. p. 152.

- Perla lycorias* Hg. Neur. N. Am. p. 21 (1861).
Acroneur. ruralis Hg. Syn. Neur. N. Amer. p. 18 (1861).
Perla navalis Prov. Pet. Faun. Canad. p. 212 (1876).
Acroneur. navalis Banks Catal. Neur. Ins. p. 11 (1907).
Perla riparia Prov. Pet. Faun. p. 213 (1876).
Acroneur. riparia Banks Catal. Neur. Ins. p. 11 (1907).
Perla excavata Banks Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. XXXIV., p. 226
 (Sept. 1908).

This species is excellently defined; although Newman's description would not be sufficient, it is not contradictory; on the other hand, the description presented by Hagen is very good.

3. *Acroneuria arenosa* Pict.

- Pictet, Perlides, p. 178, tab. X. Fig. 1 a 2 (1841).
Perla trijuncta Walk., Neur. Ins. Pt. 1. p. 153 (1852) partim.
Perla abnormis Prov., Petit Faun. p. 211 (1876).

This species is very similar to *A. lycorias* by its patterns, but prothorax is severely constricted rearward.

4. *Acroneuria valida* Banks.

- Perla valida* Banks. Trans. Amer. ent. soc. XXXII., p. 4 (1905).

This species can easily be distinguished by noticeably long pronotum constricted rearward.

5. *Acroneuria pennsylvanica* Ramb.

- Perla pennsylvanica* Ramb. Neuropt., p. 456 (1842).

In the Selys Collection I found an original specimen described by Rambur that assisted me to identify this species. It belongs to those species which have poorly marked patterns and many crossveins in the wing apex.

6. *Acroneuria trijuncta* Walk.

Perla trijuncta Walk., Cat. Neur. Ins. p. 153 (1852).

Acroneuria arida Hg., Neur. N. Amer., p. 18 (1861).

This species is noticeable by four chestnut-brown spots on clay-yellow head; the first of these is located on clypeus, a pair of them appears between frontal tubercles and the M-shaped line, and the last connects rear ocelli as a pair of glasses. Female subgenital plate is in form of a trapezium, with triangular emargination in the centre.

I saw a type in the British Museum and made a sketch of its patterns which I then compared with the specimen in my collection preserved in alcohol.

7. *Acroneuria lurida* Hg.

Perla lurida Hagen, Syn. Neur. Am. p. 21 (1861).

8. *Acroneuria clara* n. sp.

Acroneuria arenosa Kip., Revise rodu *Acroneuria*, Rozpr. Čes.

Akad., XVIII. čís. 5, p. 11 (1909), nec Pict.

(Revision of the genus *Acroneuria*, Transactions of the Bohemian Academy, vol. 18, no. 5, p. 11 (1909)).

I assumed this species to be Pictet's *A. arenosa*, but a more detailed study of the pattern and, particularly, learning about the limits within which this pattern of each individual species may vary and the extent to which it may be evaluated as a character, convinced me that I was wrong, because the Pictet's pattern clearly showed a spot on the head as in *A. lycorias* whereas *A. clara* is lighter in colour between ocelli than on the head in general. In addition to the shape of prothorax and female subgenital plate, *A. clara* is conspicuous by distinctly opaque grey wings and strong prominent dark venation, in which C and Sc are almost as dark as R; in addition, the male has a black-brown lateral band on his abdomen.

9. *Acroneuria carolinensis* Banks.

Perla carolinensis *Bnks.* Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. XXI, p. 215 (24 July 1905).

The species is noticeable by the colouration of head; it is dark sepia brown up to the occipital suture, clay-yellow in the rear, and the frontal tubercles, M-shaped line, and spots on each of front angles of clypeus are dark clay-yellow.

10. *Acroneuria immarginata* Say.

I have nothing to add to the "Revision of the genus Acroneuria". We must be satisfied with the identification as defined by the American entomologists since the original description is incomplete.

11. *Acroneuria scabrosa* n. sp.

Head mat glossy, black-brown, and the M-shaped line, frontal tubercles, area between ocelli and temples clay-yellow; however, the colours are as rubbed off and pass gradually into each other. The basic colour of prothorax is the same as of the head - dark- or black-brown, but the longitudinal groove and vermiform tubercles are clay-yellow, thus being markedly conspicuous. Mesonotum darker and metanotum of lighter clay-yellow colour. Antennae dark-brown with the first segment black-brown and the second conspicuously lighter yellow. Palpi dark brown. Legs yellow-brown, femurs with a black-brown band above the yellow knee margin; tibiae at bases and ends and every tarsal section blackish at their ends. Cerci olive brown. Wings slightly opaque brown, fore wings strong light-brown and rear wings with yellow venation. Costa and subcosta veins hardly lighter than the radial vein.

Eyes relatively small and slightly dome-shaped. Ocelli large; ratios of their mutual distances 30:24:24. Frontal tubercles widely kidney-shaped and rather closer to rear ocelli than to the inner margin of eye.

Prothorax in form of a trapezium, its front nearly as wide as occiput, markedly constricted rearward (50:43:36). Front and rear edges slightly curved, sides straight, longitudinal groove sharp, narrow, median area narrow, thus in the middle occupying hardly a tenth of the entire width; constricted forwards and backwards. Vermiform tubercles very conspicuous, particularly because of their light colour. (47)

Wings very narrow with parabolic apex. Marginal field in the fore wings with numerous crossveins; crossveins less numerous in the rear wings and considerably distant from each other particularly at the base. Subcostal field with numerous (7-9) crossveins which are oblique and pass quite irregularly. Radial shoot extends into 4 branches and is connected by a crossvein before its end with the main radial stem; the first branch diverges at the connection with the crossveins r-rs. Few crossveins (2) in the wing apex not passing as regularly as in other species. The small fore wing area $1R_1$ slightly more than twice, and $1M_2$ in the rear wings three-times as long as the stem. Two crossveins in the field between M and Cu. Three veins without crossveins growing out of the frontal branch of the second spinal vein. Cu_1 with 4 branches in the fore wings and with only 2 branches in the rear wings.

The male manifests typical shapes of genital organs.

Body length 15 mm, wing span 45 mm.

East Falls Church Va, leg. Banks (Coll. Klapalek).

12. *Acroneuria difficilis* n. sp.

Clay-yellow head, centre and sides of clypeus, forehead on each side between the M-shaped line and frontal tubercles with black-brown shade; a rubbed off black-brown band on occiput obliquely behind rear ocelli parallel to the occipital suture. Prothorax brown, frontal groove, longitudinal groove, and vermiform tubercles clay-yellow. The rest of the body and the ventral side clay-yellow, only the elevated part of thorax lightly brownish; also lateral folds (involutions) on the abdomen emerge as a brown line. The first segment of palpi dark sepia brown; thus the difference in colour is very conspicuous. Palpi sepia brown. Legs clay-yellow, femurs above knees and tibiae under knees black-brown; also ends of tibiae and tarsi somewhat darker. Cerci light brown. Wings glossy, yellow-brown opaque with venation darker but not too prominent.

Trapezium-shaped head quite short with sides of clypeus severely converging, almost straight frontal edge and obtuse front angles. Eyes quite large and markedly dome-shaped. Ocelli very large, distance between them only slightly larger than the distance from the inner margin of eye and from the front ocelli. Frontal tubercles much larger than rear ocelli, slightly shifted forwards, oblique, elliptic, and considerably closer to rear ocelli than to the inner margin of eye. M-shaped line distinct.

Prothorax trapezium-shaped, its front distinctly narrower (48) than its back (50:41:39). Front and rear edges curved, sides straight, front angles almost rectangular or slightly obtuse,

rear angles obtuse, not rounded. Median area behind the centre occupies less than one eleventh of the entire width and is only slightly dilated forwards and backwards. Longitudinal groove deep dilated in the rear. Vermiform tubercles distinct.

Wings wide with parabolic apex. Marginal crossveins in fore wings quite strong but apart from each other by more than their own length; they are not only finer (more tenuous) but also thinner (less numerous). Subcosta crossveins oblique and very irregular, their number 6 to 8. Rs before the very end in all four wings connected with R by means of a crossvein; has 5 branches, one of them connected with the partition. Quite numerous crossveins between veins in the wing apex which makes the venation somewhat irregular. M is divided far from the partition and a small field between its branches is closed by a crossvein. Cu_1 has 4 branches in fore wings and 2 branches in rear wings.

Male genital rings manifest usual characters of the genus.

Male body length 15 mm, wing span 42 mm.

North Carolina, Coll. Selys.

This species very much resembles by its external appearance A. scabrosa but its prothorax, which has an extremely constant ratio of its dimensions in this genus, is considerably longer; this compels me to describe it as an individual species. Patterns of the head and prothorax are the same. Small area appearing between branches of M also appears in A. arenosa Pict.; in addition, a large number of crossveins between apical branches is the same in both species.

13. *Acroneuria californica* Banks.

Perla californica Banks Invert. Pacif. I. p. 87 (15. May 1905).

14. *Acroneuria evoluta* Klp.

Cf. Klapálek, Revision of the genus Acroneuria.

15. *Acroneuria brevicanda* Klp.

I have nothing to add to the "Revision"

16. *Acroneuria brevicanda* Walsh.

Walsh, Proc. Acad. Philad. 1862 p. 363.

This species of Acroneuria pertains to the group with wide median area on prothorax. Very distinct is also the pattern of the head which is clay-yellow; frontal edge of clypeus, winding transverse band between frontal tubercles and the M-shaped line, and the band behind rear ocelli, the area between which it penetrates as a triangular corner, are black-brown as rubbed off; this makes a symmetrical six-rayed star of light clay-yellow colour on the vertex. Prothorax is dark yellow-brown, edges, central field, and the folded edge are dark sepia brown. Otherwise the description of three specimens in front of me, perfectly agrees with the description by Walsh and, therefore, I have no doubts concerning identity. This prevents this species from being forgotten.

(49)

17. *Acroneuria pacifica* Banks.

There is nothing which I could add to the description presented in the "Revision". The species is very easily distinguishable according to wide median area of prothorax and small eyes and ocelli.

18. *Acroneuria ruficeps* Kpny Ms.

Head is clay-yellow, only ocelli have a narrow red hem and dark rubbed off shades in frontal angles of clypeus. Prothorax is also dark clay-yellow, front edge, front angles, and the

round spot in each lateral area close to the median area are sepia brown. Mesothorax is sepia brown, metathorax dark brown, and abdomen brown; the entire ventral side is clay-yellow. Palpi brown, legs brownish clay-yellow, outer edges of femurs darker. Cerci at bases greenish yellow-brown. Wings very glossy, slightly opaque, with distinctly prominent brown venation. C in fore wings and veins of the spinal segment in rear wings are finer and lighter.

Head conspicuously large and wide; forehead between eyes twice to 2.5 times as wide as the distance between rear ocelli and the front edge of clypeus. Sides of clypeus severely converging, its front angles rounded and the front edges almost straight. Eyes conspicuously small and slightly dome-shaped; ocelli also small, forming an isosceles triangle; distance between rear ocelli equal to their distance from the inner margin of eye but much larger than the distance from the front ocellus (30:30:18). Frontal tubercles large, elliptical, severely shifted forwards, almost in the same line with the front ocellus and distance equal both from rear ocelli and the inner margin of eye. M-shaped line distinct. Occiput shows short rounded temples.

Prothorax trapezium-shaped, its front somewhat narrower than occiput, considerably constricted backwards (50:41:34). Front and rear edges very wide, curved, sides straight and all four corners obtuse. Median area narrowest a little behind the centre, occupying approximately one sixth of the entire width, with severely curved dilatation both forwards and backwards. Longitudinal groove fine but sharp. Vermiform tubercles weakly prominent.

Wings conspicuously short though not shortened but evenly diminished in all their dimensions; only moderately wide fore wings

have front and rear edges almost parallel to each other but both pairs with parabolic apex. Costal crossveins thin, in both pairs of wings distances between them larger than their own length. Three crossveins in each subcostal area of both wings. Rs in both wings with 3 branches passing-by the partition. Cu_1 in fore wings at least with 3 and in rear wings with 2 branches; however, since the veins in the wing apex are connected manytimes by crossveins and partly even merge, it was difficult to determine their number. The area $1R_1$ in fore wings is somewhat shorter, $1M_2$ in the rear wing is almost 3 times longer than the stem. The frontal branch 2A passes very close and almost parallel to 1A and had 4 additional branches which, however, have no crossveins to the central vein.

Female subgenital plate is quite the same as in A. pacifica Banks but shows a slight emargination at the end.

Body length 19 mm, wing span 34 mm; thus the fore wings hardly overlap the abdomen.

South Colorado 1 ♀ in the Austro-Hungarian Imperial Royal Court Museum in Vienna.

My dear friend, the late Dr. Kempny identified this species as A. ruficeps n. sp.; I am using this name in memory of him. This species surely is very close to A. pacifica Banks if not identical with it. I assumed that it was better to separate it in order to draw attention to it. The main difference, in addition to negligible deviations in colouration, consists of small wings in A. ruficeps. Both species form a group distinctly differing from other Acroncuria and I do not dare to separate this group as an individual genus because no male is known to me.