

SHORT NOTE ON THE TAXONOMIC POSITION OF THE GENUS
Nessa WALKER, 1869 WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES
(Orthoptera, Grylloidea, Eneopteridae)

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SUMMARY

A short comment is made on the taxonomic position of the cricket genus *Nessa* Walker, 1869 and *N. serrana*, n.sp. is described from the Brazilian atlantic forest.

INTRODUCTION

Nessa is a poorly known Eneopterid cricket genus composed of only two neotropical species: *N. lineris* Walker, 1869 (type-species) and *N. vectis* Rehn, 1920. Both species were described from single female specimens, a fact that has not allowed us to comprehend the taxonomic position of the genus.

Recently a few individuals, males and females, of a third species, here described, were collected in the atlantic forest (Serra do Mar region), state of São Paulo, Brazil.

According to DESUTTER's (1987, 1988) classification and on the basis of body morphology and phallic complex of the new species, it became clear that the genus *Nessa* is a member of the family Eneopteridae, subfamily Tafaliscinae, tribe Tafalicini.

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Nessa serrana n. sp.

Description. Male: body velvety, narrow, sub-cylindrical, the widest point at the thorax-abdomen junction. Head slightly wider than the anterior margin of the pronotum but narrower than the posterior one; eyes slightly prominent; frons, antennal scape and antenna ferruginous; gena pale yellow; vertex brown with yellowish vittae; maxillary palpi as in figure 1. Pronotum dark brown to blackish with a small pale yellow spot adjacent to the inferior margin of the lateral lobes; pro, meso and metasternum whitish to pale-yellow; Forewings with a dark stripe along the dorso-lateral angulation, almost covering the total length of the abdomen but leaving the supra-anal plate visible from above; venation reddish-brown (fig. 2); hindwings as long as the preceding ones. Abdomen cylindrical, its superior surface pale or ferruginous spotted; supra-anal plate declivent. Legs robust, pale (except for the distal tip of hindfemora, hindtibia and hindtarsi which are blackish); fore and middle femora thick, laterally compressed; hindfemora with a distinctive longitudinal blackish stripe and many inconstant oblique streaks; hindtibia with 5 internal and 5 external dorsal spurs; hindbasitarsus with 3 internal and 2 external dorsal spines. Genitalia as in figures 3 to 5.

Mean measurements (mm): body length - 21.26; pronotum length - 4.46; pronotum width (at hindmargin) - 4.60; head width - 3.76; forewings length - 13.25; forewings width - 4.92; hindfemora length - 13.08; hindtibia length - 11.57.

Female: similar to the male with the following differences: larger size and thicker abdomen; ovipositor black, depressed, somewhat up-curved, the apical valves acute.

Mean measurements: body length - 25.26; pronotum length - 4.94; pronotum width - 4.87; head width - 4.54; forewings length - 15.58; forewings width - 5.99; hindfemora length - 14.90; hindtibia length - 13.53; ovipositor length - 11.73.

Material examined. Brazil, São Paulo: Salesópolis, Estação Biológica de Boracéia, II - 1985. F.A.G. Mello, J. Justi Jr. & C.A. Martinelli col. (holotype σ^7); Caraguatatuba, X-1987, F.A.G. Mello & M.L.P. Camargo col. (1 σ^7 , 3 ρ , 1 σ^7 nymph); São Sebastião, Ilha do Montão de Trigo, IV-1989, F.A.G. Mello col. (1 σ^7 , 1 ρ); Ubatuba, Ilha Anchieta, II-1987, F.A.G. Mello & M.L.P. Camargo col. (2 ρ nymphs). All the specimens are preserved in 70% alcohol and kept at the University of São Paulo Museum of Zoology.

Nessa serrana n.sp. differs from *N. linearis* by the following characteristics: hindwings as long as forewings (hindwings longer in *N. linearis*); pronotum entirely dark brown to blackish, except for a small whitish spot on the lower margin of the lateral lobes ("pronotum with some indistinct piceous marks" in *N. linearis*); hindtibia with 5 dorsal spurs in both sides (4 in *N. linearis*).

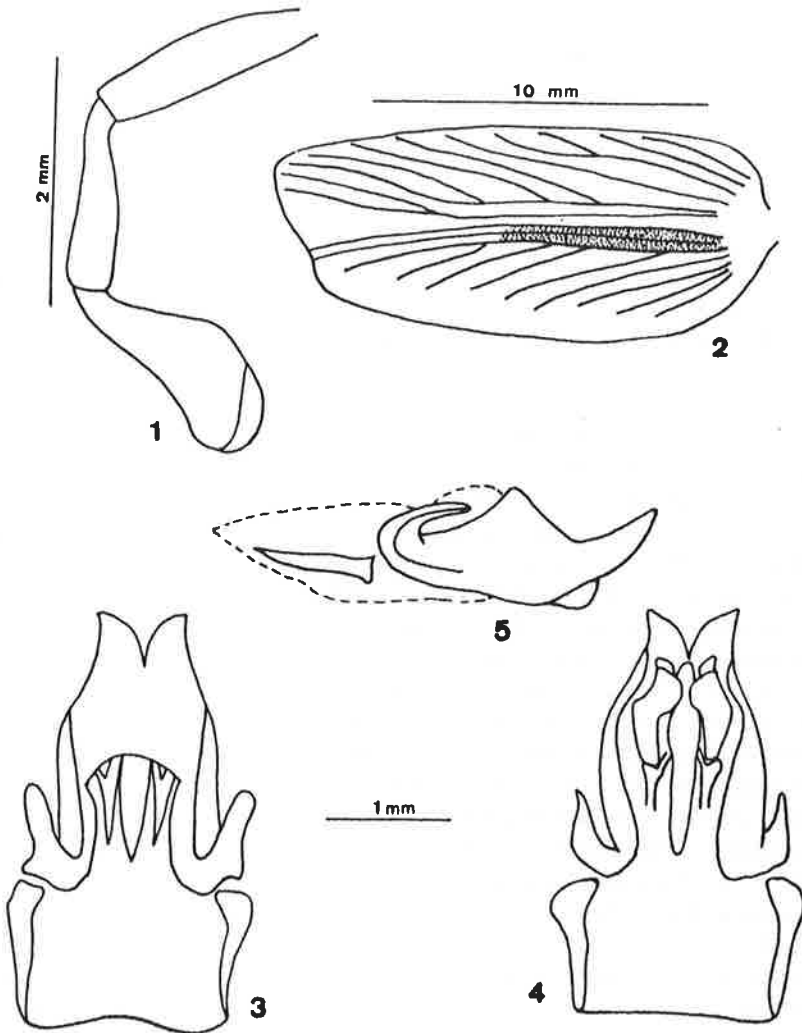
From *N. vectis* the new species can be distinguished by the following characteristics: larger size; much shorter ovipositor; hindwings as long as forewings (hindwings longer in *N. vectis*); hindtibia with 5 internal and 5 external dorsal spurs (7 internal and 6 external in *N. vectis*); hindfemora with a distinct blackish stripe (no distinct markings in *N. vectis*).

LITERATURE CITED

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Figs. 1 to 5. *Nessa serrana* n.sp. (male paratype).
 1: maxillary palpi; 2: right forewing
 (cross-veins omitted); 3: phallic complex
 dorsal; 4: same ventral; 5: same lateral.