

Genus	Vol. 25(4): 663-672	Wrocław, 27 XII 2014
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The Heteroptera collection of Aleksander WRÓBLEWSKI in the Museum of Natural History, University of Wrocław

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ABSTRACT. The water Heteroptera collection of Aleksander WRÓBLEWSKI preserved in the Museum of Natural History, University of Wrocław, Wrocław, Poland, is summarized. The collection consists of dry-mounted and ethanol-preserved specimens and microscope slides of 182 species and subspecies, total 3973 specimens. This number includes 1879 type specimens of 29 species and subspecies of Corixidae and Veliidae. A brief biographic note on Aleksander WRÓBLEWSKI, the late professor of the Poznań branch of the Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences, and a renowned specialist on water Heteroptera, is given. All type specimens from the WRÓBLEWSKI Collection are listed with respective details and bibliographic data.

Key words: WRÓBLEWSKI, Insecta, Heteroptera, Corixidae, Veliidae, type collection, Wrocław University, Poland.

INTRODUCTION

Aleksander WRÓBLEWSKI (1911-1985) was a hydrobiologist and systematic entomologist whose work was dedicated to water heteropterans, a specialty uncommon among Polish zoologists. Born in Poznań, nearly all his life spent in this academic center of Western Poland. Already as a student of the Poznań University (presently Adam MICKIEWICZ University), WRÓBLEWSKI was employed as an assistant in the Department of Systematic Zoology, where in 1936 he obtained his MSc degree. Although his first published scientific study was focused on a rare freshwater crustacean, WRÓBLEWSKI soon became interested in water bugs and this group remained his main research subject for the entire scientific career. In 1938 he discovered his first new taxon, and most surprisingly it was a *Microvelia* common around Poznań, but previously not distinguished from a similar species (WRÓBLEWSKI 1938). In the short period after receiving the MSc and before the WWII, WRÓBLEWSKI managed to publish two valuable faunistic studies.

Then his work was interrupted by the onset of war and he was drafted into military service. Taken captive by Germans, he spent the five war years in prisoner of war camps. Immediately after the war WRÓBLEWSKI traveled to Wrocław, where he participated in organizing and restoring largely damaged collections of the Zoological Institute of the University of Wrocław (presently these collections are preserved in the Museum of Natural History). This was only a brief episode in WRÓBLEWSKI's career and already in summer 1945 he returned to Poznań to take again a position at the Department of



1. Example of dry-mounted specimens in drawer trays of the WRÓBLEWSKI Collection

Systematic Zoology. There he received his PhD and in 1950 was appointed as a head of the Museum of Natural History in Poznań, which three years later became a part of the Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences. In this institution WRÓBLEWSKI continued his study of water Heteroptera and soon became a top specialist on the large and diverse genus *Micronecta* KIRKALDY. His numerous taxonomic papers are focused on the systematics and morphology of *Micronecta*, and this lineage of Corixidae is best represented in his collection. He was also interested in the shore bugs (Saldidae) and published an important monograph on Polish species of this poorly known family. A long cooperation and friendship with professor Tadeusz JACZEWSKI, a specialist on Nepomorpha water bugs, resulted in publication of the Keys to Identification of the Insects of Poland: Hebridae, Mesoveliidae, Hydrometridae, Veliidae and Gerridae. WRÓBLEWSKI was also an editor-in-chief of the "Fauna Słodkowodna Polski" (Freshwater Fauna of Poland) series and the Polskie Pismo Entomologiczne (currently Polish Entomological Journal), a president of the Poznań Section of the Polish Entomological Society and the Polish Hydrobiological Society. More biographical details can be found in RAFALSKI (1987).

The WRÓBLEWSKI Collection of Heteroptera is preserved in the Museum of Natural History, University of Wrocław (MNHW). The main part of the collection consists of dry-mounted (Figs 1, 7) and ethanol-preserved (Figs 2-3) specimens and microscope slides (Figs 4-6, 8-12) of 182 identified species and subspecies, total 3973 specimens. This number includes 1879 type specimens of 29 species and subspecies. All type specimens are catalogued and specimen details can be found in electronic MNHW databases. There is also a large ethanol-preserved and partly identified material stored in vials contained in plastic jars. This part of the collection, mostly containing sorted samples of Corixidae from field studies in Poland, with many thousands of individuals, is not organized and catalogued yet. The type specimens are listed below, in an alphabetical order, with respective MNHW database codes, microscope slide numbers (if available) and other details. Abbreviations: m - male, f - female.

CHECKLIST OF THE HETEROPTERA TYPE SPECIMENS IN THE MNHW WRÓBLEWSKI COLLECTION

Family Corixidae

Corixa albifrons (MOTSCHULSKY, 1863); MNHW No 810; neotype [m] (design. WRÓBLEWSKI 1968); Sri Lanka, Colombo, leg. MADARÁSZ. Current status: *Micronecta albifrons* (MOTSCHULSKY, 1863).

Micronecta altera WRÓBLEWSKI, 1972a: 33; MNHW No 811; holotype [m] (microscope slide AW343), allotype [f] (microscope slide), 1212 paratypes [mf] (1 f and 1 m in microscope slides, 570 m, 640 f in ethanol); all specimens from Sri Lanka, Arulagamwila, Manampitiya, leg. KARUNARATNE.

Micronecta annae illiesi WRÓBLEWSKI, 1970: 687; MNHW No 812; 6 syntypes [mf] (2 exx. in microscope slides Au49 and Au50 annotated as holotype (m) and allotype (f), 1 ex. in microscope slide Au40, 4 pinned exx. annotated as paratypes); Australia, NSW, Eucumbene River, 2 miles E Kiendra, leg. ILLIES. Remarks: all specimens are syntypes.

Micronecta annae kirkaldyi WRÓBLEWSKI, 1970: 688; MNHW No 996; 1 syntype [m] (microscope slide AW23); Australia, Mornington Island, leg. AITKEN & TINDALE. Current status: *Micronecta queenslandica* CHEN, 1965.

Micronecta annae tasmanica WRÓBLEWSKI, 1977: 685; MNHW No 813; 34 syntypes [mf]; Australia, Victoria, Lake Parrumbete, Camperdown, leg. KNOWLESS (1 m



2-3. Example of ethanol-preserved specimens of the WRÓBLEWSKI Collection. Syntypes of *Microvelia umbricola* WRÓBLEWSKI (2) and paratypes of *Micronecta fieberi* WRÓBLEWSKI (3)

in microscope slide Au73), Australia, Tasmania, Lake Pawleena, leg. WALKER (1 m in microscope slide Au82, 10 exx. in ethanol), Australia, Tasmania, Bronte Lagoon, leg. BEECROFT (10 exx. in ethanol), Australia, Tasmania, Llewellyn Lake, leg. SHEPPARD (2 exx. in microscope slides Au80, Au81, 10 exx. in ethanol).

Micronecta carpatica WRÓBLEWSKI, 1958: 324; MNHW No 819; holotype [m] (microscope slide), allotype [f] (microscope slide), 103 paratypes (4 exx. in microscope slides, 55 m and 44 f in ethanol); Poland, Jasło, Wisłoka River, leg. PNIEWSKI.

Micronecta ceylonica WRÓBLEWSKI, 1968: 757; MNHW No 820; holotype [m] (microscope slide AW131), allotype [f] (microscope slide), 13 paratypes (1 m and 1 f in microscope slides, 9 m and 2 f in ethanol); Diyaluma Falls, Koslande, Sri Lanka, leg. FERNANDO.

Micronecta fernandoi WRÓBLEWSKI, 1964: 168; MNHW No 821; holotype [m] (microscope slide AW79), paratype [m] (in ethanol); Sri Lanka, Diyaluma Falls, leg. FERNANDO.

Micronecta fieberi WRÓBLEWSKI, 1968: 768; MNHW No 822; holotype [m] (microscope slide AW125), allotype [f] (microscope slide), 12 paratypes (2 m in microscope



4. A case originally belonging to WRÓBLEWSKI with type specimens of Heteroptera in microscope slides

slides, 3 m and 7 f in ethanol); India, Kodonad, Cochin, Trivandrum, Periyar River, leg. BORCHSENIUS.

Micronecta flavens WRÓBLEWSKI, 1960: 317; MNHW No 823; holotype [m] (microscope slide AW 77); Sri Lanka, leg. NIETNER.

Micronecta halei WRÓBLEWSKI, 1970: 695; MNHW No 824; 36 paratypes (1 f pinned, 15 m and 14 f in ethanol, 4 m and 2 f in microscope slides); Australia, Queensland, Normanton, leg. AITKEN & TINDALE. Current status: *Micronecta halei* CHEN.

Micronecta hungerfordi CHEN, 1960: 108; MNHW No 994; 2 paratypes (1 in microscope slide, 1 in ethanol); Taiwan, Tai-pei, leg. CHEN.

Micronecta jaczewskii WRÓBLEWSKI, 1962: 178; MNHW No 825; holotype [m] (microscope slide AW42); Vietnam, Há-Nôi, leg. GALEWSKI.

Micronecta japonica CHEN, 1960: 109; MNHW No 997; 1 paratype (microscope slide); Japan, Kasari-mura, leg. MIYAMOTO.

Micronecta johorensis FERNANDO, 1964: 18; MNHW No 826; 5 paratypes (1 m and 1 f in microscope slides, 3 f in ethanol); Malaysia, Johore, Jemalúang.

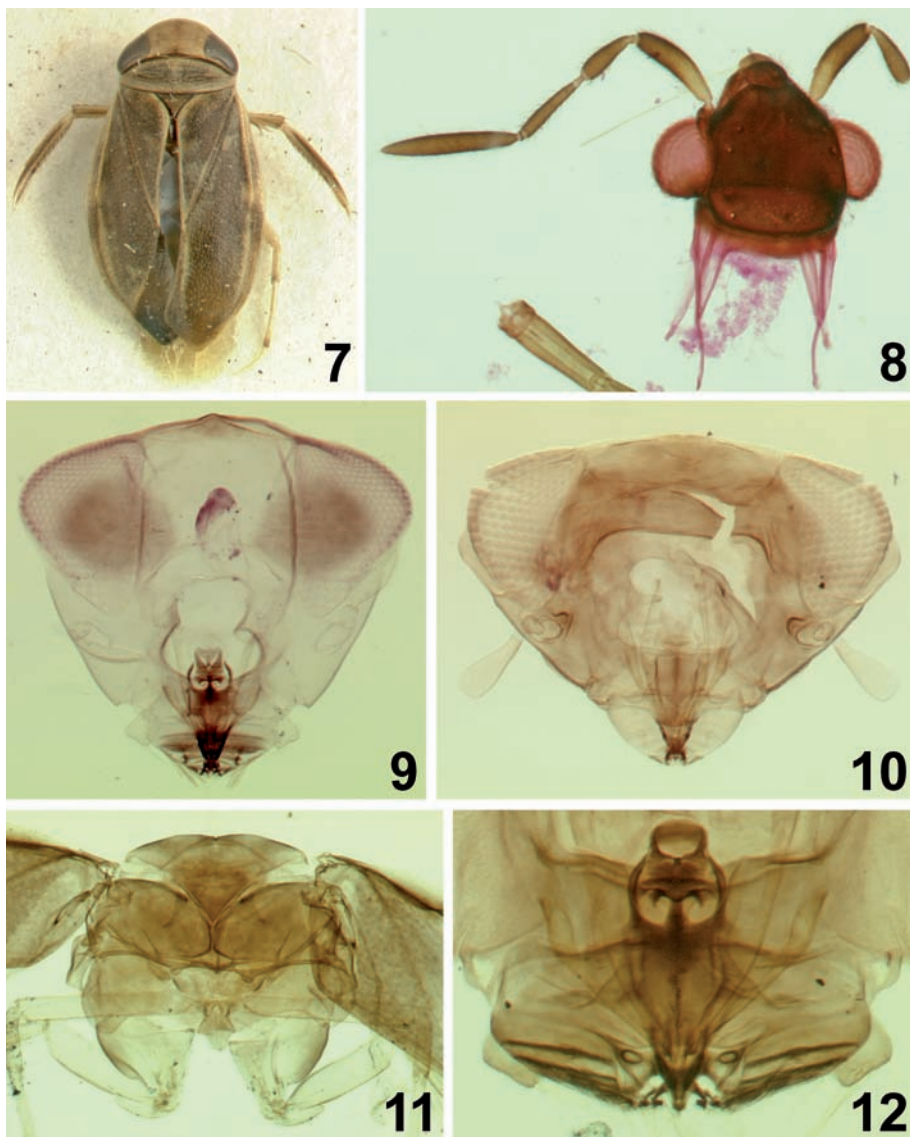
Micronecta kiritshenkoi WRÓBLEWSKI, 1963: 472; MNHW No 827; 2 paratypes (n in microscope slide, f pinned); Russia, Nikolsk Ussuriyskiy, leg. ROSTOVYKH.



5. Example of a microscope slide specimen tray in the WRÓBLEWSKI Collection



6. Microscope slides in the WRÓBLEWSKI Collection



7-12. Examples of type specimens of species described by Aleksander WRÓBLEWSKI. *Micronecta annae illiesi* WRÓBLEWSKI, syntype (7); *Microvelia umbricola* WRÓBLEWSKI, head of paratype (8); *Micronecta jaczewskii* WRÓBLEWSKI, head of holotype (9); *Synaptonecta capillata* WRÓBLEWSKI, head of holotype (10); *Micronecta ceylonica* WRÓBLEWSKI, pterothorax of paratype (11); *Micronecta orientalis* WRÓBLEWSKI, mouthparts of holotype (12)

Micronecta lansburyi WRÓBLEWSKI, 1972b: 521; MNHW No 828; 2 paratypes (1 m in microscope slide, 1 ex. in ethanol); Australia, N.T., Katherine, leg. WATTS.

Micronecta ludibunda langkana WRÓBLEWSKI, 1968: 767; MNHW No 829; holotype [m] (microscope slide AW74), allotype [f] (microscope slide), 5 paratypes (2 m and 3 f in ethanol); Sri Lanka, Polonnaruwa, leg. FERNANDO.

Micronecta malayana LEONG, 1966: 86; MNHW No 830; 4 paratypes (1 ex. in microscope slide, 3 exx. in ethanol); Malaysia; Johore.

Micronecta orientalis WRÓBLEWSKI, 1960: 313; MNHW No 831; holotype [m] (microscope slide AW78), allotype [f] (microscope slide), 64 paratypes (13 exx. in microscope slides, 16 m and 35 f in ethanol); Hong Kong, Un Long (fishpond), leg. THORNTON.

Micronecta pocsi WRÓBLEWSKI, 1967: 232; MNHW No 832; 132 paratypes (71 exx. pinned, 5 m, 2 f in microscope slides, 9 m, 45 f in ethanol); Vietnam, prov. Ha-Tinh, Húông-Sôn, leg. PÓCS.

Micronecta semilaevis HORVÁTH, 1899: 102; MNHW No 993; paratype [f] (microscope slide); Algeria. Current status: *Micronecta scholtzi* (FIEBER, 1860).

Micronecta taipeiensis CHEN, 1960: 112; MNHW No 995; 4 paratypes (1 ex. in microscope slide, 3 pinned); Taiwan, Tai-pei, leg. CHEN.

Micronecta taprobanica WRÓBLEWSKI, 1972a: 20; MNHW No 833; holotype [m] (microscope slide AW276), allotype [f] (microscope slide), 33 paratypes (16 exx. in ethanol, 6 f, 2 m in microscope slides, 8 f, 1 m pinned); Sri Lanka, Colombo, leg. KARUNARATNE (holotype, allotype, 5 paratypes); Sri Lanka Prov. Sabaragamuwa, Bopathella Falls, 9 miles NNW Ratnapura (4 paratypes); Sri Lanka, Dambuwa, leg. PERERA (4 paratypes); Sri Lanka, Yakalla, 18 miles NE Colombo (10 paratypes); Sri Lanka, Lunawa, leg. FERNANDO (1 paratype); Sri Lanka, Gangodawila, Nugegoda, leg. FERNANDO (3 paratypes); Sri Lanka, Uva Prov., Monoragala, leg. KARUNARATNE (1 paratype), Sri Lanka, NC Prov., Manampitiya, Arulagamwila, (5 paratypes).

Micronecta wroblewskii POLHEMUS, 1979: 105; MNHW No 835; 4 paratypes (1 m in microscope slide, 3 exx. in ethanol); Sri Lanka, Kalu-Ganga-Carney, Ratnapura, leg. STARMÜHLER.

Micronecta yui CHEN, 1960: 114; MNHW No 836; 5 paratypes (1 m, 2 exx. in microscope slides, 3 exx. pinned); Taiwan, Karenko, Taito, leg. YU (4 paratypes); Taiwan, Takao, leg. SAUTER (1 paratype).

Sigara vitticeps HORVÁTH, 1895: 161; MNHW No 834; 1 paratype [f] (dry-mounted); Bosnia, Tezero. Current status: *Micronecta poweri poweri* (DOUGLAS & SCOTT).

Synptonecta capillata WRÓBLEWSKI, 1972a: 10; MNHW No 838; holotype [f] (microscope slide AW274), 1 paratype [f] (microscope slide); Sri Lanka, Monaragala, Wattegama, leg. KARUNARATNE (holotype); Sri Lanka Yakalla, 18 miles NE Colombo (paratype).

Family Veliidae

Microvelia umbricola WRÓBLEWSKI, 1938: 213; MNHW No 837; 176 syntypes (5 m in microscope slides, 163 adults and 8 larvae in ethanol); Poland, Poledno, leg. WRÓBLEWSKI (35 syntypes); Poland, Poznań, leg. WRÓBLEWSKI (141 syntypes). Current status: *Microvelia buenoi umbricola* WRÓBLEWSKI.

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