

REDESCRIPTION OF *PANTECPHYLUS MAJOR* GRIFFINI, 1909,  
REPRESENTING A NEW SUBGENUS  
(Orthopteroidea, Pseudophyllidae)

GERHARD H. SCHMIDT (\*)

INTRODUCTION

In The Royal Institute of Natural Sciences of Belgium, Department of Entomology, Brussels [Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Department d'Entomologie, Bruxelles (Coll. R. I. Sc. N. B.)], Griffini (1908) studied the specimens of the genus *Pantecphylus* Karsch and misidentified *P. cerambycinus* Karsch, 1891. The individuals collected at Mukonje Farm, Cameroon, were recently identified as *P. kamerunus* G.H. Schmidt, 2003, and those found at Standley Falls (Dem. Republic Congo) as *P. congoensis* Schmidt, 2006. Griffini (1909) described some specimens collected in the North of the Congo delta, which differed from the others in spination and body size as new subspecies "major". The type material of *P. major* (syntypes) was preserved in the African Museum Tervuren, Belgium.

Among the more than 100 *Pantecphylus* specimens collected last century in Central Africa and preserved in European museums (Schmidt et al. 2004; Schmidt 2006a, b), no further *P. major* individuals were found. Only females were collected. A male, as allotype, should be collected from the same place, in order to know the conspecific male.

DESCRIPTION OF *PANTECPHYLUS* (*GRIFFINIUS* N. SUBGEN.) *MAJOR* GRIFFINI, 1909

- 1909 - Griffini, Ann. Soc. Entomol. Belg., 53: 14 ♀ (*cerambycinus* ssp. *major*)
- 1954 - Beier, Rev. Pseudophyll. Madrid: 273, f. 156 ♀
- 1957 - Beier, Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 55: 60, ♀
- 1962 - Beier, Tierreich: 232, f. 160, ♀
- 1963 - Beier, Orthopterorum Catal. 5, Tettigoniidae, Subfam. Pseudophyll.: 74
- 1997 - Otte, Orthoptera Species File Nr. 7; Pseudophyllidae: 213

(\*) Contact address: Ludger Schmidt, Brakenweg 5, D-31535 Neustadt, Germany.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. 2 ♀♀, syntypes: holotype and paratype [4°30' S, 12°30' E], Beleva, dateless, African Mus. Tervuren; additionally 1 ♀ adult (paratype) and 1 ♀ young long-haired nymph, from the same locality.

FEMALE. Body length (mm) 36-37, pronotum 14.2-14.8, tegmen 31-32 (width 11), hind femur 18.5-18.9, hind tibia 20-21, ovopositor 17.5-18.2.

This large species is characterized by rows of hairy spines on the upper surface of both margins of femora, already present in small nymphs; fore and mid femora strongly marginated, edged above and below, cross-section view like square.

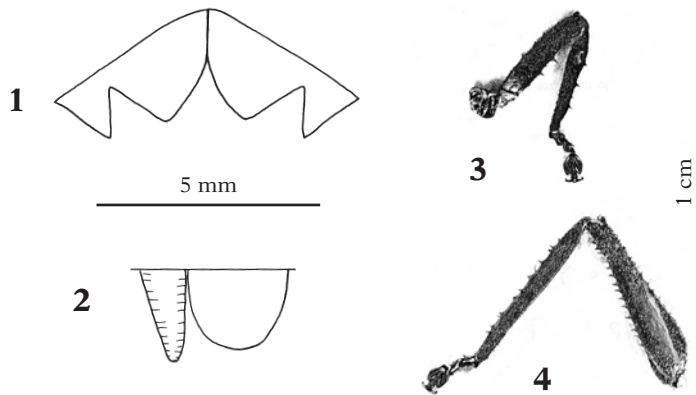
Head: fastigium verticis at tip triangularly excised, already in nymph (bilobated) (most visible from below), distance between scapes, directing forwards, little wider than one scape large; mouth-parts green-blue.

Pronotum with large and constricted protuberance on prozona, not sulcate in midth, distance in between tips of the strong spines 7.5-8.5-11 mm, some (2-3) other spines on front side directing forwards, and some smaller ones on back side of lobe; mesozona bearing two small upright humps on disk, trapezoidly arranged with two humps on metazona; spines on hind margin little enlarged directing obliquely upwards; brown paranotal spine longest, much smaller spine on lower front margin of pleura.

Tegmen grey-brown, with small, obtuse-light precostal spot and seven large radial cells; alae almost as long as tegmina, fan-shaped and infumated, bearing strengthened anal veins, dorsally covered with rows of stridulatory ribs.

Spination of legs (figs 3, 4): fore femur above and below, two rows of 4-5 strong spines on margin; mid femur above, two rows of 4-5 spines, and 5-6 spines below; hind femur above, bearing several small spines, and below one row of about 12 strong spines; fore tibia enlarged, distally interiorly haired and exteriorly bearing 3-4 small spines; and dorsally two rows of 3 spines; tibial auditorial foramen forming small oval opening; mid tibia dorsally two rows of 3-4 spines on margin, ventrally rounded without spines; hind tibia on upper side, two rows of 4-6 spines, ventrally 3-5 small ones, exteriorly on distant part. Pulvilli 2/3 as long as crawled limb.

Ovopositor little upcurved in distal half, valves serrated at apical third.



Figs 1-4 – *Pantecphylus major* Griffini, 1909, female syntypes: subgenital plate divided in two parts by ovopositor (1); SAP and left cercus (2); left fore leg, front side, showing the auditory foramen and spination (3); right hind leg, outer side, showing the longitudinal furrow on the spiny femur, tibia spiny above and below, with four small spines distally (4).

SAP almost half-circled, slightly larger than long.

Cerci conical, longer than SAP (fig. 2).

SGP narrow, much longer than large, divided by ovopositor in two equal parts; hind margin with two lobes on either half, outer lobe triangularly arranged, inner lobe broadly rounded (fig. 1).

MALE. Unknown.

DISTRIBUTION. North of Congo delta (Brazzaville).

#### DISCUSSION

Females of *P. (Griffinius) major* Griffini are bigger and differ in most important characters, as shape of fastigium verticis, spination of legs, and shape of pronotum, from all the other species of the genus described (tab. 1). The *major*-individuals were collected at the same locality in Congo Brazzaville near the atlantic coast.

The shape of ovopositor varied little and the structure was similar as in other species of the genus *P. (Griffinius) major* differed from the other species by the large, not sulcated prozonal protuberance, the two rows of long hairs on all femora, and the different shape of

Tab. 1 – Differences between the subgenera of *Pantecphylus* Karsch.

Subgenus	<i>Pantecphylus</i> : 16 species (Schmidt 2003; 2006a, b; Schmidt & Stelzer 2004; Schmidt et al. 2004)	<i>Griffinius</i> : 1 species <i>Pantecphylus (Griffinius) major</i>
Body length (female)	23-34 mm	37-38 mm
Shape of fastigium verticis	Short cylindrical or conically elongated	bilobate
Structure of pronotum	Prozonal protuberance sulcated	Straight, prozonal protuberance not sulcate
Spination of femora	Femora differently spined, upper side tiny haired	Two rows of hairy spines on upper side of femora

fastigium verticis. Some combined features may be helpful for identification, for example the shape of SGP and the stridulatory structures of the alae.

The small nymph of *P. (Griffinius) major* showed similar characters.

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#### SUMMARY

*Pantecphylus major* Griffini was redescribed and regarded as subgenus *Griffinius* n. subgen. The species is remarkably different from other species of the genus. Only adult females and a young nymph were available. They were separated by the size of body, a bilobate fastigium verticis, the lack of a transverse sulcus of the pronotum, and the presence of two rows of long hairy spines on all femora. The body length of adult females was 37-38 mm, the females of the other species measuring no more than 34 mm.

#### ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

*Pantecphylus major* Griffini wird als subgenus *Griffinius* n. subgen. beschrieben und von allen anderen Arten der Gattung durch markante Strukturen abgetrennt. Nur adulte Weibchen und eine junge Nymphe sind bekannt. Sie lassen sich durch

ihre Größe, ein bilobates Fastigium verticis, durch Fehlen eines transversalen pronotalen Sulcus und das Vorhandensein von zwei langen Reihen von Haardornen auf allen Femora charakterisieren. Die Körperlänge beträgt 37-38 mm, gegenüber maximal 34 mm bei den anderen Spezies der Gattung.

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