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A NEW *AMBRYsus* FROM VENEZUELA (HEMIPTERA, NAUCORIDAE)

Ira La Rivers¹

Subfamily AMBRYsINAE

Ambrysus scolius n. sp.

GENERAL: A rather small species measuring 8-9 mm. in length and 5 mm. in width; overall color various degrees of brownish mottling, from yellowish-to-blackish, head and pronotum distinctly mottled, hemelytra showing a darker and more uniform basic color. Venter varying from uniformly light yellowish-to-darker brownish. legs yellowish.

HEAD: Mottled yellowish laterally, darker brown medianly and posteriorly, eyes uniformly dark brown. Shiny, sparsely micropunctulate, comparatively flat. Anteclypeus (called "vertex" in many prior descriptions) slightly protuberant as a very weakly rounded outline between eyes. Eyes only slightly rising above general surface of head (seen obliquely from behind); posterior and lateral edges essentially forming a reasonably smooth and rounded semicircle with hardly a suggestion of angulation. Labrum not pointed at tip, but sharply rounded; ratio of length-to-width 8::12 (67%), color uniform. Mouthparts basally lighter in color than labrum. Head ratios are:

- (1) Total length-to-width (including eyes) 35::48 (73%)
- (2) Anterior distance between eyes to posterior distance between eyes 18::30 (60%)
- (3) Anterior distance between eyes to inner eye length 18::25 (72%)
- (4) Posterior distance between eyes to greatest length of head posterior to this line 30::10 (34%)

Ventrally, a sharp, brown-ridged median keel occupies posterior two-thirds of head and abutts against a similar pronotal keel; small, 3-segmented antennae tucked under ventral eye surface; color light yellowish.

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PRONOTUM: Diffusely mottled brownish and yellowish; surface dull, smooth, grossly brown-spotted; lateral edges smooth, weakly and symmetrically curved back to postero-lateral angles which are between sub-posterior disc line and posterior pronotal edge. Percent of lateral-edge curvature about 10 (52::5). Venter light yellowish, a bit darker over coxal bases and showing an asymmetrical sigmoid subparallel edge with brownish spots; median area keeled anteriorly, sloping away sharply downward posteriorly to disappear under the anterior median region of propleura, which latter are not connected to median keel but free from it and only weakly joined at the middle; ratio of anterior keel ridge to total keel length (including posterior sloping face) 11::20 (55%). Pronotal ratios are:

- (1) Width between anterior angles to width between posterior angles 48::95 (51%)
- (2) Median length-to-greatest width 32::95 (34%)
- (3) Distance between anterior and posterior angles on same side to perpendicular distance between anterior angle and baseline of pronotum 50::48.
- (4) Distance between anterior angles-to-length of a perpendicular dropped from this line to the median anterior point of deepest penetration of head 50::15 (30%)

SCUTELLUM: Not distinctive, very diffusely, vaguely and irregularly dark yellowish and dark brownish. Ratio of three sides, anterior and two laterals, 65::43::43.

HEMELYTRA: Brownish-black with some very diffuse and obscure yellowish lightening in emboliar region and behind median scutellar point. Embolia poorly defined posteriorly, this caudal edge apparent only from edge and a short distance inward; embolia slightly reddish, a bit lighter posteriorly, length-to-width 62::15 (24%), quite long and narrow; emboliar crease weakly developed anteriorly. Hemelytra moderately exposing connexival edges behind embolia and reaching tip of abdomen. Connexiva lighter than hemelytra, irregularly long-pilose and moderately spined at postero-lateral angles only on segments III, IV, and V.

VENTER: The prothoracic venter has already been covered. Meso- and meta-thoracic ventra similarly bright yellow, less pilose than the plastron-covered abdomen. Posterior edge of Connexivum V is flared caudally in an asymmetric sigmoid curve, that of the left side more prominently than the one on right side. Female subgenital plate tip trisinate in outline, the lateral sinuosities in the form of distinct but short points, the central one a long, smoothly rounded curve extending farther caudad than the lateral points (and in some specimens itself being distinctly weak-angulate medianly). No males are yet known, so we have no concept of the shape of the male subgenital flap on posterior edge of fifth abdominal sternite.

LEGS: *Prolegs*—large angular coxa and trochanter usual for the genus, light yellowish. Femur strongly incrassate, ratio of length-

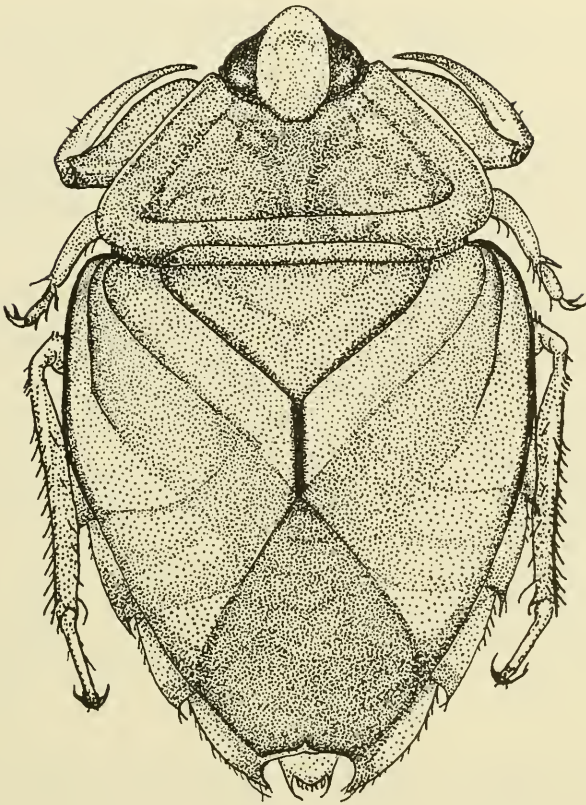


Fig. 1. *Ambryus scolius*, holotype

to-greatest width 45::30 (67%). Tibia usual, combined tibia-tarsus just reaching end of femur when closed.

Mesolegs—Coxa and trochanter usual. Femoral ratio of length-to-width 53::7 (13%), length 2.1 mm. Tibia narrower, conspicuously but sparsely red-spined along margins, distal end ventrally with a terminal transverse, dense row of small brown spines and an incipient transverse row showing just behind it; ratio of length-to-width 44::4 (9%), length 1.9 mm. Tarsus long, thin, 3-segmented, first segment short, last segment terminating in two slightly curved claws.

Metalegs—Coxa and trochanter usual. Femoral ratio of length-to-width 56::8 (14%), length 2.5 mm. Tibia long and slim, more square in cross section, conspicuously but sparsely set with long reddish spines and showing a prominent swimming pelt along hind margin; terminal spination as in mesotibia except that the subterminal transverse spination is better developed and more row-like; ratio

of length-to-width 70::4 (6%), length 3.0 mm. Tarsus similar to mesotarsus, but larger.

TYPE LOCALITIES AND ETYMOLOGY: Holotype female, VENEZUELA, *Monagas*, 42 kilometers SE Maturin, 1958 July 3, A. Menke; 1 female paratype, BRITISH GUIANA, *Honey Camp Cr.*, 1937 October 24, S. Harris; 1 female paratype, BRITISH WEST INDIES, *Trinidad*, Port of Spain, 1931 November 5, W. E. Broadway. "Scolius", *curved, bent, oblique*, alluding to the flared hind margin of Connexivum V, particularly on the left side.

COMPARATIVE NOTES: Superficially much like *A. oblongulus* Montandon 1897, of which group it is a member, differing in the outline of the female subgenital plate tip (trisinate in *A. scolius*, quadrisinate in *A. oblongulus*) and in the fact that *A. scolius* has only one-and-a-fraction transverse rows of terminal spines at distal end of metatibia while *A. oblongulus* has two-and-a-fraction such rows. Also, *A. oblongulus* lacks the sigmoid flare of the posterior margin of Connexivum V from which *A. scolius* derives its name. Discovery of the male of *A. scolius* will probably show differences in the subgenital flaps as well.