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**Two new species of the genus *Sericocoris* Karsch, 1892  
from Central Africa  
(Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Pyrrhocoridae)**

by Jaroslav L. Stehlík

**Abstract.** Two new species of the genus *Sericocoris* Karsch, 1892, *S. (Pseudocenaeus) latus* sp.nov. and *S. (Pseudocenaeus) robustus* sp.nov., are described from the Central Africa (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi).

**Keywords.** Heteroptera – Pyrrhocoridae – taxonomy – new species – Afrotropical Region – Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Introduction**

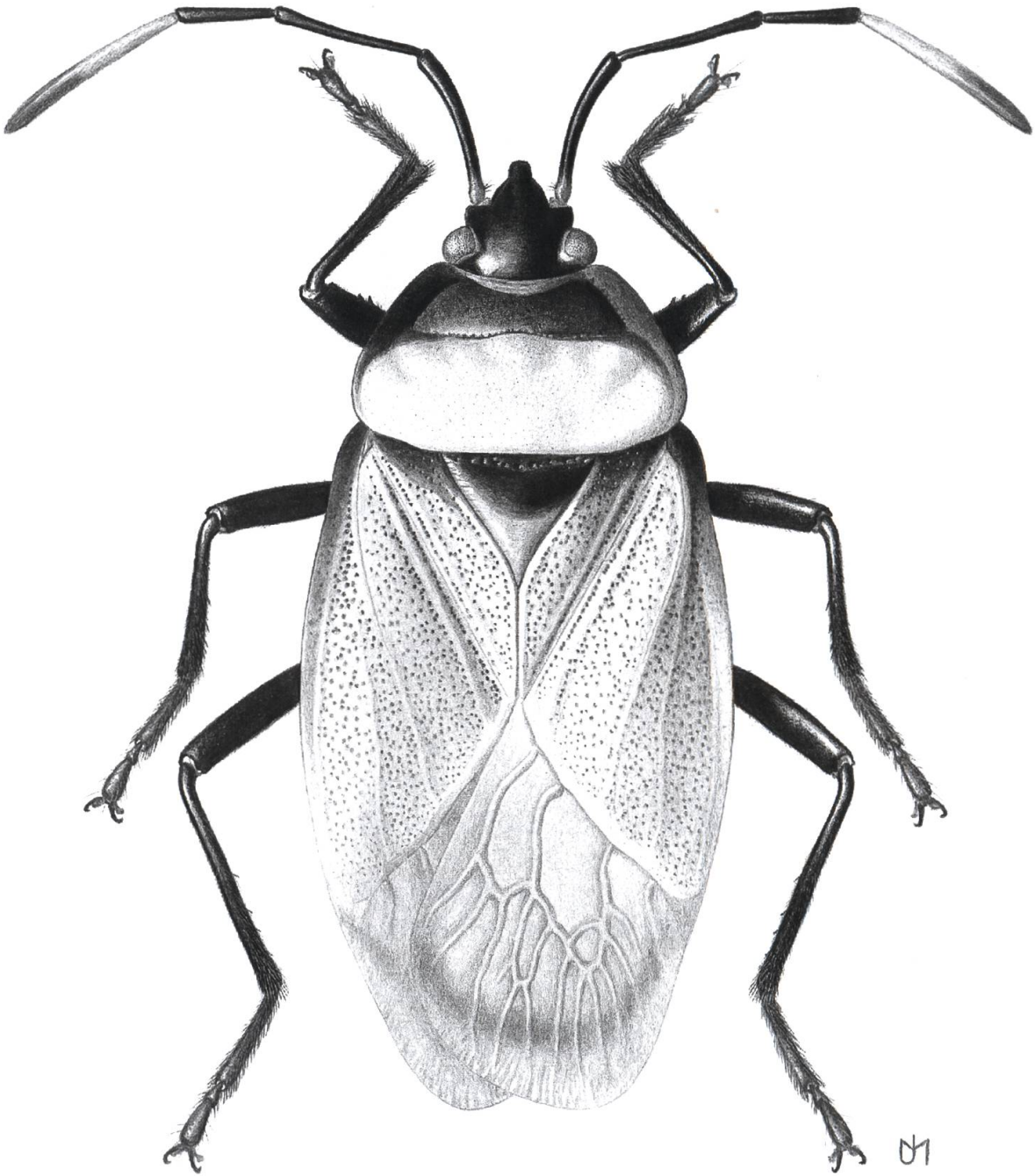
STEHLÍK (1965) redefined the Afrotropical genus *Sericocoris* Karsch, 1892 (syn. *Hathor* Kirkaldy et Edwards 1902), originally monotypic (type species *Sericocoris acromelanthes* Karsch, 1892) (KARSCH 1892), and transferred to it eight species originally described in *Cenaeus* Stål, 1861, and one species each from *Dindymus* Stål, 1861, and *Odontopus* Laporte, 1832 (currently *Probergrothius* Kirkaldy, 1904). In addition, STEHLÍK (1965) described two new subgenera, *Sericocoriopsis* Stehlík, 1965, and *Pseudocenaeus* Stehlík, 1965. Later only LINNAVUORI (1988) described *Sericocoris obuduanus* Linnavuori, 1988 from Nigeria. STEHLÍK (2008) finally added a new subgenus, *Depressoculus* Stehlík, 2008, including *Sericocoris antennatus* (Distant, 1881) (= *Cenaeus bifasciatus* Haglund, 1895) and *Sericocoris albomaculatus* Stehlík, 2008. The genus *Cenaeus* differs markedly from *Sericocoris* in having the parameres crossed (in similar fashion to *Neodindymus* Stehlík, 1965) and smaller and more ovate body. In this paper I describe two new species belonging to the genus *Pseudocenaeus* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi.

**Materials and methods**

To a large extent, I follow the terminology of body parts employed by VAN DOESBURG (1968), but for the genital capsule I use the more specific terms proposed by SCHAEFER (1977). The measurements are presented as means with minimum and maximum values in parentheses. The label data from type specimens are quoted verbatim and authors' comments are given in square brackets ([ ]). The names of the provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo are given according to the 2006 revision.

The following abbreviations are used for collections:

- AMNH ..... American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA
- MMBC ..... Moravian Museum, Brno, Czech Republic
- MRAC ..... Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium



**Fig. 1.** *Sericocoris latus* sp.nov., female, colour variation. Delineavit J. Meduna.



## Taxonomy

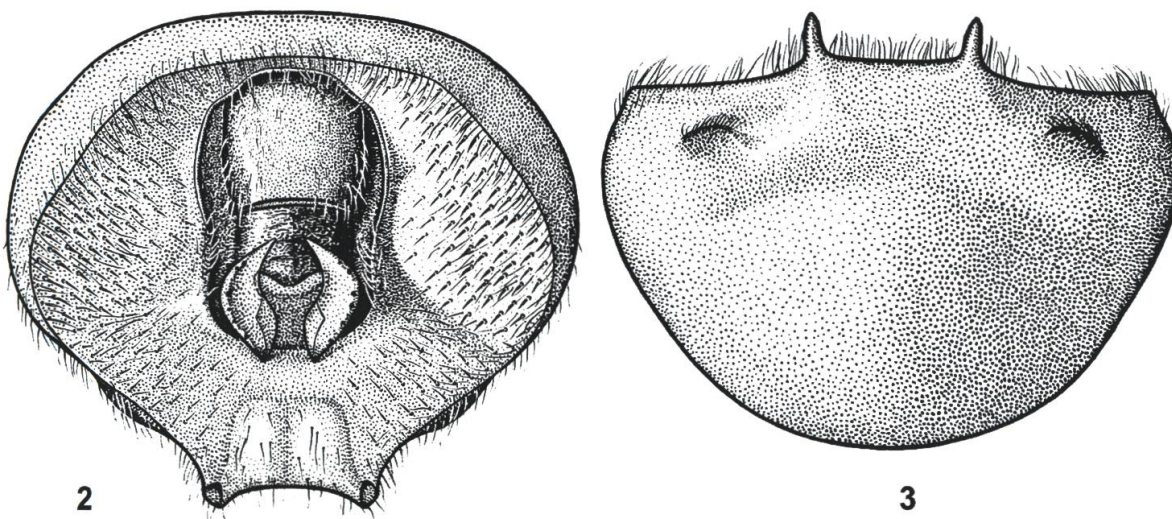
*Sericocoris (Pseudocenaeus) latus* sp.nov.

(Figs 1–6)

**Type material.** Holotype: ♂, [Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haut Lomami province], Lulua, Kapanga, X.32, F. G. Overlaet [lgt.] (MRAC).

**Paratypes: Democratic Republic of the Congo: Haut-Lomami:** same locality as holotype and collector, ix.[19]32, 4 ♀♀, ii.[19]33, 1 ♀, x.[19]33, 1 ♂ 2 ♀♀ (1 ♀ MMBC, 1 ♂ 1 ♀ MRAC); Lomami, Kamina, 1930, 1 ♂ 3 ♀♀, R. Massart [lgt.] (MRAC); Lomami, Kaniama, 1931, 1 ♀, iii.-iv.[19]32, 1 ♀, R. Massart [lgt.], (MRAC); Lomami, Kishinde, ix.[19]31, 1 ♀, P. Quarré [lgt.] (MRAC); Lomami, Lusuku, xii.[19]30, 1 ♀, P. Quarré [lgt.] (MRAC); Lulua, Sandoa, 5.v.1918, 1 ♀, x.1930, 1 ♂, F. G. Overlaet [lgt.] (MRAC); P.N.U. [= Parc National d'Upemba], Gorges de la Pelenge, 1,150 m [a.s.l.], 21.–31.v.1947, 2 ♀♀, 10.–14.vi.1947, 1 ♂, 20.–21.vi.1947, 1 ♀, Mis. G. F. de Witte (MRAC); P.N.U. [= Parc National d'Upemba], Kaswabilenga, 700 m [a.s.l.], 18.–23.ix.1947, 1 ♀, Mis. G. F. de Witte (MRAC); P.N.U. [= Parc National d'Upemba], Kabwoe sur Muye, 1,320 m [a.s.l.], 26.iv.–5.v.1948, 2 ♀♀, Mis. G. F. de Witte (MRAC). **Burundi:** Urundi, Kibaro, 15.–19.xii.[19]49, 1,250 m [a.s.l.], 1 ♀, Dr. R. Laurent [lgt.]; Urundi, Ruyigi-Mugera, iv.1950, 1 ♀, Dr. R. Laurent [lgt.].

**Description.** Coloration. Head, labium, base of antennomere 1 to varying extent, coxae, trochanters, and femora proximally, red. Antennae (except base of antennomere 1 and more than basal half of antennomere 4), callar lobe, anterior, “larger half” of scutellum, clavus narrowly at base, pleura I–III and usually basisterna I–III, apical parts of femora, tibiae, tarsi, and valvifer II, black. Basal part of antennomere 4, pronotum (except for callar lobe), epicoxal lobes I–III, ventrites, male pygophore, and female external genitalia (except for valvifer II) pale yellow. Clavus and corium, posterior portion of scutellum, and posterior pleural flange I–III ochraceous, membrane grey-ochraceous, without dark spot.



Figs 2–3. *Sericocoris latus* sp.nov., male genitalia: 2 – pygophore, dorsal view; 3 – pygophore, caudal view.

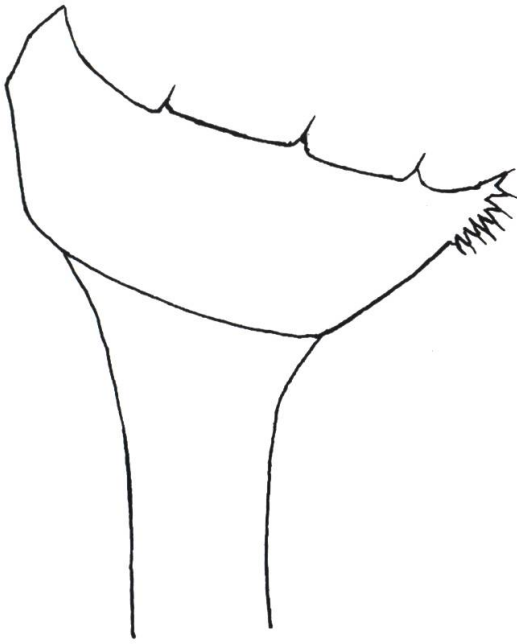


Fig. 4. *Sericocoris latus* sp.nov., male genitalia: paramere, lateral view.

Structure. Large, wide species. Head short and wide, dorsally nearly smooth, entirely lustrous. Frons less convex, not depressed in front of eye sockets, eye socket rather wide, eyes overlapping the level of the frons.

Entire pronotum distinctly raised, widening markedly towards the base; anterior margin strongly concave; lateral margin very strongly convex at the edges; posterior pronotal angles strongly rounded; posterior margin markedly convex; pronotal margin only slightly raised; anterior pronotal margins protruding forwards and strongly rounded; lateral pronotal margin very wide at the level of callar lobe, abruptly narrowing at the level of pronotal lobe, only slightly detached from the pronotal lobe. Pronotal lobe laterally without depressions and punctures, only mediolaterally with shallow depression,

elevated at the edges (unlike the other species). Pronotal lobe very large and wide in comparison with the callar lobe.

Costal margin quite strongly convex; costal margin and hypocostal lamina markedly wide; venation of corium less distinct. Tibiae with pale pubescence and short black spines.

Pygophore. (Fig. 2) Ventral wall from its mid-point medially strongly gibbous externally; ventral rim medially raised, its elevated part bounded on each side by a single large, slender projection, curved inwards, apically not very sharp; ventral wall between the two projections deepened; ventral wall in upper part laterally with round, pubescent protuberance; ventral rim infolding markedly detached from lateral rim infolding, the latter wide, moderately depressed, very slightly ogival, bearing small spines; dorsal rim narrow. Apical part of paramere curved outwards, semi-circularly deflected in dorsal view, distal edge in dorsal view with black denticles, the last one somewhat larger, approaching the denticle on the opposite paramere (Figs 2, 4). Pygophore with distinct pale pubescence.

Female external genitalia. (Fig. 5) Both sides of valvifer I high, basally overlapping, upper margin round, incised, slightly depressed. Valvifer II entirely visible, medially with vertical furrow, both halves thus divided, strongly convex, rounded, lustrous. Laterotergite IX with oblique depression (Fig. 5). Basal two-thirds of the spermathecal duct regularly thickened and long, distal third attenuated; proximal pump flange wider, well developed (Fig. 6).

Measurements (mm). Males (n = 5). Body length 12.05 (11.89–12.10); head: width (including eyes) 2.11 (2.05–2.13), interocular width 1.19 (1.16–1.21); lengths of



antennomeres: 1-2.62 (2.54–2.70), 2-2.19 (2.16–2.24), 3-1.54 (1.48–1.57), 4-2.92 (2.89–2.94); pronotum: total length 2.34 (2.16–2.46), collar length 0.21 (0.19–0.22), callar lobe length 0.60 (0.59–0.62), pronotal lobe length 1.57 (1.48–1.62), width 4.27 (4.10–4.45); scutellum: length 1.55 (1.46–1.67), width 1.96 (1.84–2.11); corium: length 6.37 (6.24–6.48), width 2.63 (2.54–2.70).

Females (n = 8). Body length 14.25 (12.53–15.39); head: width (including eyes) 2.35 (2.21–2.48), interocular width 1.35 (1.26–1.43); lengths of antennomeres: 1-2.74 (2.54–2.92), 2-2.28 (2.13–2.38), 3-1.57 (1.48–1.67), 4-2.96 (2.81–3.08); pronotum: total length 2.86 (2.56–3.21), collar length 0.225 (0.22–0.24), callar lobe length 0.69 (0.59–0.76), pronotal lobe length 1.94 (1.75–2.21), width 5.12 (4.70–5.56); scutellum: length 1.84 (1.67–1.92), width 2.37 (2.21–2.59); corium: length 7.59 (7.02–8.32), width 3.08 (2.75–3.40).

**Variability.** Some specimens from the Upemba National Park show a strong tendency to melanism. Head is black except for eye sockets or almost entirely black with only scattered dark red spots (e.g. on apices of clypeus and antennifers), especially on ventral surface (bucculae, sometimes on genae, gula, and head base). Antennomere 1 red in its entire basal half, or only narrowly red at base, sometimes even completely black. Labium darkened to black to a varying extent, especially the first segment. Lateral margin of pronotum (especially its anterior part) and base of costal margin black. Pronotal collar and hypocostal lamina sometimes darkened to black to a varying extent. Coxae and trochanters (these sometimes partly black) possibly red. Entire femora red, sometimes more slightly so at their very base. In pale specimens basisternum I red, basisterna II and III often with dark red patches.

**Distribution.** Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (Haut-Lomami province).

**Etymology.** The species epithet is the Latin adjective *latus*, -a, -um, meaning broad.

**Differential diagnosis.** *Sericocoris latus* sp.nov. differs from all other described *Pseudocenaesus* species in its great length and width, widely rounded lateral margin of pronotum, ventral rim of pygophore with two large, remote, and inward-curved projections, as well as in its specific colour variability.

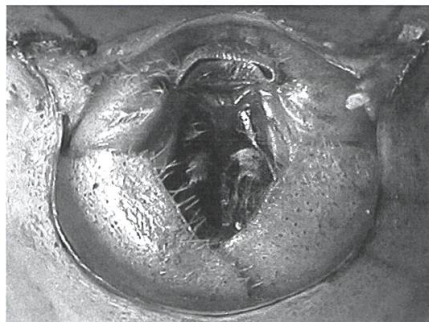


Fig. 5. *Sericocoris latus* sp.nov.: external female genitalia.

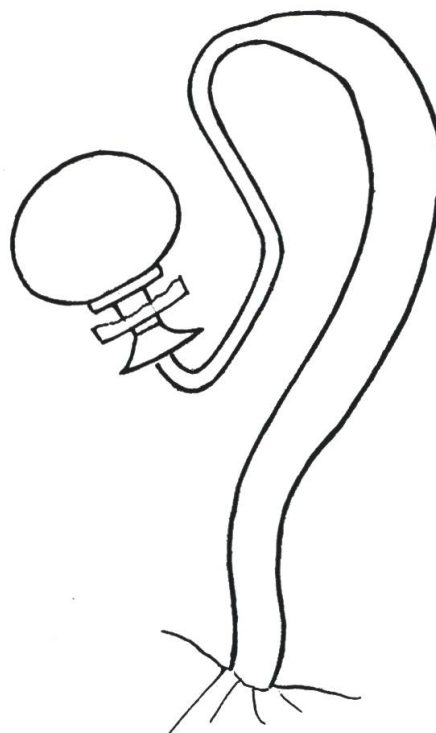


Fig. 6. *Sericocoris latus* sp.nov.: spermatheca.



**Fig. 7.** *Sericocoris robustus* sp.nov., male. Delineavit J. Meduna.



*Sericocoris (Pseudocenaesus) robustus* sp.nov.

(Figs 7–10)

**Type material.** Holotype: ♂, [Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equateur province], Thuapa, Bokuma, 1953, R. P. Lootens [lgt.] (MRAC).

Paratypes: **Democratic Republic of the Congo: Equateur:** same locality and collector as holotype, 1953, 1 ♀, iii.[19]52, 1 ♀ (MRAC); Bokuma, viii.1952, 1 ♀, R. P. Lootens [lgt.] (MRAC); Flandria, 8.iv.[19]32, 1 ♀, R. P. Hulstaert [lgt.] (MRAC). **Haut-Uelé:** Medje, 2°25'N, 27°15'E, 1910, 1 ♀, Lang & Chaping [lgt.] (AMNH). **Kasai:** Kasai, Katoto près Kele, 1952, 1 ♂ 1 ♀, R. Roiseaux [lgt.] (MRAC). **Mongala:** Haut Lopori [river], 1 ♀, J. Ghesquière [lgt.] (MRAC). **Sud-Kivu:** Kivu, Matala, 8./14.v.1949, 1 ♀, Dr. Laurent [lgt.] (MRAC).

**Description.** Coloration. Head dorsally, antennomere 1 basally (especially on ventral surface), lateral pronotal margin, pronotal epipleuron, posterior pleural flange I near its upper margin, costal margin of corium, hypocostal lamina, dorsal and ventral laterotergites, zygosterna VI (rarely, if not black) and VII, urite VIII and pygophore of male, and major part of the female external genitalia, red. Antennae (except for base of antennomeres 1 and 4), vertex, labium, callar lobe, except the very apex), clavus narrowly at base, pleura and basisterna I–III, narrow anterolateral stripes on zygosterna III and IV, entire anterior margin of zygosternum V, zygosternum VI except for posterior margin, zygosternum VII basally (to a varying extent), valvifer II, most of the membrane, and punctures on body surface, black. Base of membrane grey-yellow, its distal margin dirty white. Pronotal collar, pronotal lobe, clavus (except for base) and corium yellowish-ochraceous to orange, exceptionally reddish. Basal part of antennomere 4 whitish-yellow. Prosternal collar, posterior pleural flange, epicoxal lobes I–III, most of zygosterna II–V and posterior margin of zygosternum VI narrowly creamy or white. Head dorsally lustrous, ventrally dull, the lustrous and dull areas exactly bordered laterally by geno-gular furrow; ventral surface of head darkened to black in comparison with the dorsal surface. Pleura and basisterna I–III dull.

**Structure.** Body large. Frons convex and therefore depressed before the eye socket, which is narrow. Eyes smaller, strongly convex, ocular sulcus prominent, lower margin of ocular sulcus at right angles to head base. Dorsal margin of eyes overlapping the frons in frontal view. Frons with fine median furrow, forking anteriorly.

Anterior margin of pronotum strongly concave, lateral pronotal margin reaching posterior margin of pronotum, wide, strongly raised, widest at level of callar lobe. Anterior pronotal angles prominent, only slightly rounded. Lateral pronotal margins medially slightly insinuate. Posterior pronotal angles in females markedly rounded, in males less so. Pronotal lobe strongly rising towards base, rather flat, anterolaterally only slightly concave, with several distinct punctures in that area.

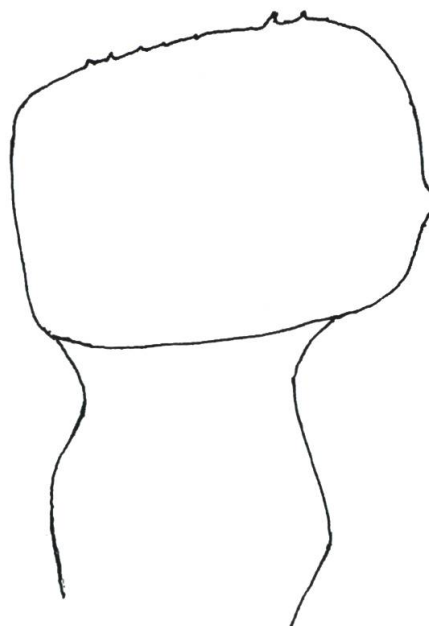


Fig. 8. *Sericocoris robustus* sp.nov., paramere, lateral view.





**Fig. 9.** *Sericocoris robustus* sp.nov.: external female genitalia.

Margins of hemelytra nearly parallel. Costal margin rather narrow, impunctate; clavus and corium otherwise with rough, dense punctures; veins prominent. Profemora in apical half usually with three denticles, the median one often bifid.

Pygophore. Ventral rim straight, only medial part possibly with denticle on each side, minute if not absent. Ventral rim infolding with two horizontally positioned, round protuberances; the infolding gently sloping into genital chamber, fluently merging into lateral rim infolding. Lateral rim sharp, higher than ventral rim, but sloping regularly towards dorsal rim. Lateral rim infolding dish-shaped, with patch of minute black

denticles before joint with dorsal rim infolding. Dorsal rim infolding delimited from lateral rim infolding by sharp edge. Dorsal and lateral rim infoldings with pale pubescence, dorsal part of ventral wall with long, upright hairs.

Distal part of paramere widened and ending in semi-circular edge; internal part of this semi-circular structure strongly and roundly excavated (Fig. 8).

Female external genitalia. (Fig. 9) Both sides of valvifer I overlapping basally, with triangular incision near the bifurcation; at this location valvifer I compressed into roof-shaped structure reaching up to the base of the valvifer. Valvifer II fully visible, convex, ventral surface arcuately depressed around mid-section, emarginated by sharp edge, transverse depression within. Laterotergite IX elongated up to dorsal margin of valvifer I, bearing transverse depression (Fig. 9). Spermathecal duct of spermatheca very long, thin, enlarged only at base (Fig. 10).

Measurements (mm). Males (holotype / paratype). Body length 12.10 / 11.72; head: width (including eyes) 2.11 / 2.13, interocular width 1.24 / 1.24; lengths of antennomeres: 1-2.27 / 2.27, 2-2.08 / 2.16, 3-1.57 / missing, 4-2.70 / missing; pronotum: total length 2.32 / 2.35, collar length 0.22 / 0.24, callar lobe length 0.76 / 0.76, pronotal lobe length 1.35 / 1.35, width 3.81 / 3.64; scutellum: length 1.59 / 1.78, width 1.67 / 1.78; corium: length 5.67 / 5.78, width 2.16 / 2.24.

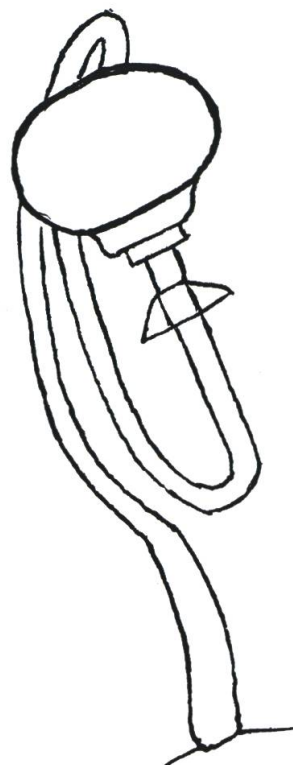
Females (n = 7). Body length 14.54 (13.99–15.17); head: width (including eyes) 2.44 (2.27–2.52), interocular width 1.52 (1.38–1.59); lengths of antennomeres: 1-2.62 (2.54–2.67), 2-2.42 (2.38–2.48), 3-1.84 (1.81–1.94), 4-3.12 (3.08–3.16); pronotum: total length 2.82 (2.70–2.83), collar length 0.25 (0.18–0.30), callar lobe length 0.85 (0.76–0.92), pronotal lobe length 1.71 (1.62–1.78), width 4.64 (4.37–5.02); scutellum: length 1.96 (1.84–2.05), width 2.32 (2.27–2.35); corium: length 7.14 (6.70–7.72), width 2.70 (2.59–2.86).

**Variability.** In colour, some of the specimens have lateral pronotal margin, pronotal epipleuron, costal margin of corium, laterotergites and mesiotergites, as well as the posterior parts of zygosternum VII yellowish instead of red. The intersegmental sutures III–V are black, or these stripes are absent. The number and shape of teeth on the profemora vary.

**Distribution.** Democratic Republic of the Congo (provinces Equateur, Haut-Uelé, Kasai, Mongala, Sud-Kivu).

**Etymology.** The species epithet is the Latin adjective *robustus*, -a, -um, meaning robust.

**Differential diagnosis.** *Sericocoris robustus* sp.nov. is similar to *S. roseus* Villiers, 1951 from western Africa, but the latter is distinctly smaller (♂: pronotum width 2.75 mm, body length 9.18 mm; ♀: pronotum width 3.83 mm, body length 11.93 mm). Paramere of *S. roseus* has been figured in several different views by LINNAVUORI (1988), its distal part ending in a flat, drop-shaped structure, while in *S. robustus* sp.nov. the distal part is widened and ends in a semi-circular edge, the inner part of this structure being strongly and roundly excavated.



**Fig. 10.** *Sericocoris robustus* sp.nov.: spermatheca.

### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Guy Schmitz (MRAC, Tervuren, Belgium) and Randall T. Schuh (AMNH, New York, USA) for the loans of specimens from collections under their care. The late J. Meduna provided the excellent habitus drawings.

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