

The male of *Opiptacris tulagii* Uvarov, 1937 (Orthoptera, Acridoidea)

by

FER WILLEMSE

ABSTRACT. — The previously unknown male of *Opiptacris tulagii* Uvarov is described.

Opiptacris tulagii was known after the female holotype only. Through the kindness of Dr. D. C. Rentz, San Francisco, I could study a small series of this species, including the male.

Opiptacris tulagii Uvarov, 1937

Opiptacris signata tulagii Uvarov, 1937: 18, C. Willemse: 1956, 95.

Opiptacris tulagii: F. Willemse, 1975: 127, pl. 1, f. 8.

Material studied: Solomon Is. Tulagi 26.I.1935 H. T. Pagden (♀ holotype); Sol. Is., Tulagi, III.1945, J. R. Stuntz (1 ♂, topotype); Br. Solomons, Guadalcanal & Florida Is. [apparently the latter], I—III.1945, J. R. Stuntz (1 ♂); Br. Solomons, Florida Is., Siota, III.1945, G. E. Bohart (1 ♂ 1 ♀) (California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco except for holotype, British Museum (Natural History), London).

Description of male.

Body moderately robust. Head strongly globose, eyes slightly prominent, interocular distance about two thirds as wide as greatest width of fastigium verticis. The latter about as long as wide and distinctly marked off from rest of vertex. Pronotum in middle slightly laterally compressed, sulci moderately deep. Elytron with parabolic apex, reaching proximal third of metanotum.

Coloration orange, red and purple black. Antennae bluish black; scape, pedicel and proximal part of flagellum suffused orange. Pronotum, first and second episterna and fore and middle coxae scarlet red. Remaining of thorax and whole abdomen orange. Elytron hyalinous. Fore and middle femora purple black, distal apices and all remaining of fore and middle legs orange. Hind coxa orange. Hind femur purple black, inner lower marginal area and an antegenicular dorsal spot orange. Hind tibia and tarsus orange, tibial condylus, spines and distal apex blackish.

Measurements (length in mm): body 24.6; pronotum 4.6; elytron 0.7; hind femur 12.6.

Distribution. Solomon Is., Florida Is.: Tulagi I. and Nggela Pile (Siota).

Discussion. The species, with distinct sexual dichromatism, is well-defined by the unique coloration of the male. The male from Siota (Nggela Pile) agrees completely with the topotypical male, but the female differs from the holotype in coloration. It is completely black except for red elytra and yellow spots on clypeus, labrum, mandible and both lower angles of the pronotal lateral lobe and a yellow dorsal antegenicular spot of the hind femur. As in many other species of the genus, this difference may suggest a subspecific differentiation.

REFERENCES

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Eygelshoven 5231, Laurastraat 67, Netherlands.