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INHOUD : N. Nieser : The larva of *Sigara hellensi* (C. Sahlb.) (Hem. Corixidae) (p. 141). — A. L. Cox en A. W. P. Maassen : Vlindervangsten in 1968 (p. 143). — J. P. Duffels : Two new species of *Cosmopsaltria* Stål from New Guinea (Homoptera, Cicadidae) (p. 147). — W. H. Gravstein : Twaalf nieuwe Hemiptera Heteroptera voor de fauna van Mallorca (p. 156). — H. H. Evenhuis : Two Ascogaster species (Hymenoptera, Braconidae), parasites of leafrollers (Lepidoptera, Tortricidae) in apple orchards, with different host selection (p. 159). — Literatuur (p. 146: A. Diakonoff). — Korte mededelingen (p. 155 : B. J. Lempke ; p. 158 : Afdeling Noord-Holland en Utrecht, Aanbieding ; p. 160 : Catalogus der Nederlandse Macrolepidoptera).

The larva of *Sigara hellensi* (C. Sahlb.) (Hem. Corixidae)

by

N. NIESER

Larvae of *Sigara hellensi* (C. Sahlb.) were collected at Ellecom (Netherlands), 23.VII.1968, in a locality discovered by Mr. J. v. D. MOLEN and Mr. B. DROST, Arnhem, on 2.V.1965. Thanks are due to Mr. B. DROST for showing the locality to the author. The population of *S. hellensi* is confined here to a short stretch (about 30 m) of a very slowly streaming rivulet. There is no aquatic vegetation, the bottom consists of a thick layer of soft brown mud, the depth of free water was about 15 cm. Adults were scarce but great numbers of larvae were seen. Of these, 20 have been collected. The description is based on 10 specimens, 9 of which have been deposited in the Zoölogisch Museum at Utrecht.

Description of larva. Length of body without head and pronotum 3.30 - 3.50 - 3.65 mm. Dorsal abdominal pattern distinct (Fig. 1), dorsal abdominal glands brownish-blackish, clearly outlined through the integument. Long hairs on mesonotum reaching neither front nor hind margin, broad median posterior band of scale-like hairs. Disc of metanotum and abdomen without hairs. Claw of middle leg distinctly longer than tarsus (mean length of tarsus 0.75, of claw 0.90 mm). Hind femur dorsally (Fig. 2) with 5—6 spines placed in one row, ventrally (Fig. 3) with 16—22 spines. Hind tibia (Fig. 4), dorsally with 7—9, laterally with 15—19 spines. Metaxiphus small, shorter than wide.

With the keys to the larvae by COBBEN & MOLLER PILLOT, 1960, and by NIESER, 1968, this species runs to the group of *Sigara striata* (L.), *S. distincta* (Fieb.), *S. falleni* (Fieb.), *S. fossarum* (Leach) and *S. scotti* (Dgl. & Sc.), all of



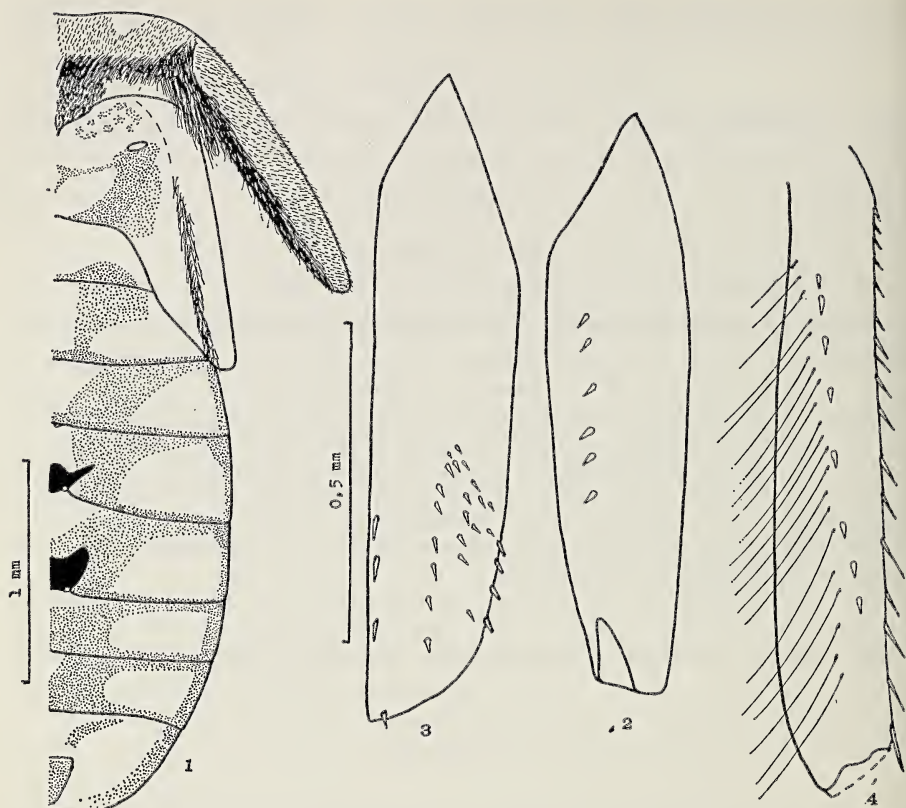


Fig. 1-4, *Sigara bellensi*, 5th instar larva. 1. right half of pterothorax and abdomen; 2. hind femur, dorsal view; 3. hind femur, ventral view; 4. hind tibia, dorsal view.

which have a different abdominal pattern. Moreover, *S. striata*, *S. distincta* and *S. falleni* 5th instar larvae are distinctly longer, whereas larvae of *S. fossarum* and *S. scotti* have less spines on the ventral side of the hind femur.

References

- COBBEN, R. H., & H. MOLLER PILLOT, 1960. The larvae of Corixidae and an attempt to key the last larval instar of the Dutch species (Hem., Heteroptera). *Hydrobiol.* 16 : 323-356.
- NIESER, N., 1968. De Nederlandse water- en oppervlaktewantsen (Heteroptera aquatica et semiaquatica). Wetenschappelijke Mededeling nr. 77 van de K.N.N.V.