

**A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *MELAINOTETTIX* GÜNTHER, 1939
(ORTHOPTERA: TETRIGIDAE) FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

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Summary. *Melainotettix rasnitsyni* sp. n. is described from vicinity of Port Moresby (south part of Central Province, Papua New Guinea). The new species is most similar to *M. schlaginhaufeni* (Günther, 1934) from north-east Province Sandaun but easy distinguished from latter by colour of abdomen, hind femora and tibia.

Key words: Tetrigidae, taxonomy, new species, New Guinea.

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Резюме. Из окрестностей Порт-Морсби в южной части Центральной провинции (Папуа-Новая Гвинея) описан *Melainotettix rasnitsyni* sp. n. Новый вид наиболее близок к *M. schlaginhaufeni* (Günther, 1934) из северо-западной провинции Сандаун, но ясно отличается от него окраской брюшка, задних бедер и голеней.

INTRODUCTION

At present, the genus *Melainotettix* Günther, 1939 consists of five species from New Guinea Island: *M. buergersi* (Günther, 1938) and *M. gibbosus* (Bolívar, 1898) were described from East Sepik province of Papua New Guinea, *M. rammei* Günther, 1938 is known from East Sepik province of Papua New Guinea and Indonesian part of island, *M. reductus* (Günther, 1936) was described from Papua Province of Indonesia, and *M. schlaginhaufeni* (Günther, 1934) is endemic to Sandaun Province (formerly West Sepik Province) of Papua New Guinea (Bolívar, 1898; Günther, 1934, 1936, 1938, 1939; Blackith, 1992; Yin *et al.*, 1996; Otte, 1997; Cigliano *et al.*, 2026). A new species of this genus is described below.

This paper is based on specimen collected in Papua New Guinea in 2025, as well as on images of the type specimens available in the Orthoptera Species File database (Cigliano *et al.*, 2025). Photographs of new species were taken with an Olympus SZX16 stereomicroscope and an Olympus DP74 digital camera, and then stacked using Helicon Focus software. The final illustrations were post-processed for contrast and brightness using Adobe® Photoshop® software. Holotype of new species is deposited in the collections of the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia (ZISP).

DESCRIPTION OF NEW SPECIES

Melainotettix rasnitsyni Storozhenko, sp. n.

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/23AB5F7D-11C5-43C6-A33B-4F99B9ECFB75>

Figs 1–6

TYPE MATERIAL. Holotype – female, **Papua New Guinea**: Central Province, about 20 km east of Port Moresby, Varirata National Park, 9°26'15" S, 147°21'46" E, h=700–800 m, primary forest, 18–31.08.2025, coll. M.M. Omelko & A.V. Gorochov (ZISP).

DESCRIPTION. Female. Head and pronotum covered by numerous small tubercles. Antennae filiform, 14-segmented; length of antenna 2 times longer than length of fore femur; mid segments of antennae 8.0–8.5 times as long as wide. Fastigium of vertex in dorsal view with deep concavities between lateral carinae, 1.5 times broader than width of one eye from above; fastigium with anterior margin weakly rounded, not reaching the anterior margin of eyes; median and lateral carinae distinct. Pronotum far surpassing the apex of hind knees; in dorsal view pronotum with anterior margin shallow excised; posterior process narrow with rounded apex; in lateral view dorsal side of pronotum with strong hump, situated before shoulders; median carina of pronotum after shoulders low and almost straight; prozonal carinae distinct, converge posteriorly; width of prozona at anterior margin of pronotum 1.25 times more than its length; interhumeral carinae S-shaped. Lateral lobes of pronotum with hind margin having distinct upper sinus and deep lower sinus, lateral lobes with in dorsal view triangle and directed outwards and slightly downwards; posterior margin of lobes serrate. Infrascapular area relatively short and narrow. Visible part of tegmen broad, 2.3 times as long as wide. Fore femur 5.8 times, mid femur 6.2 times as long as wide. Hind femur elongated, 3.5 times as long as wide; upper and lower carinae finely serrate. Upper side of hind tibia 7 outer and 6 inner teeth. Hind leg with 1st tarsal segment equal to 3rd segment (without claws), ventrally with 3 pulvilli, apical pulvillus longer than basal ones. Subgenital plate as long as wide; posterior margin with triangle median projection. Cerci conical, attenuated at apex. Valves of ovipositor long and narrow; upper valve 5.7 times longer than its maximum width; lower valve 8.5 times longer than its maximum width.

Body brownish black. Head black; antennae black; maxillary palps white with blackish marks. Pronotum dorsally black; lateral lobes black. Tegmina black; anterior margin of hind wings orange reddish, other part of wings blackish. Fore and mid legs black. Hind femora blackish brown with three oblique light brown stripes; upper and lower knees black. Hind tibiae black. Basitarsus of hind legs with whitish pulvilli. Abdominal tergites and sternites light brown; lateral side of 1st–5th tergites with blackish marks; sternites and subgenital plate with blackish longitudinal stripe. Ovipositor black.

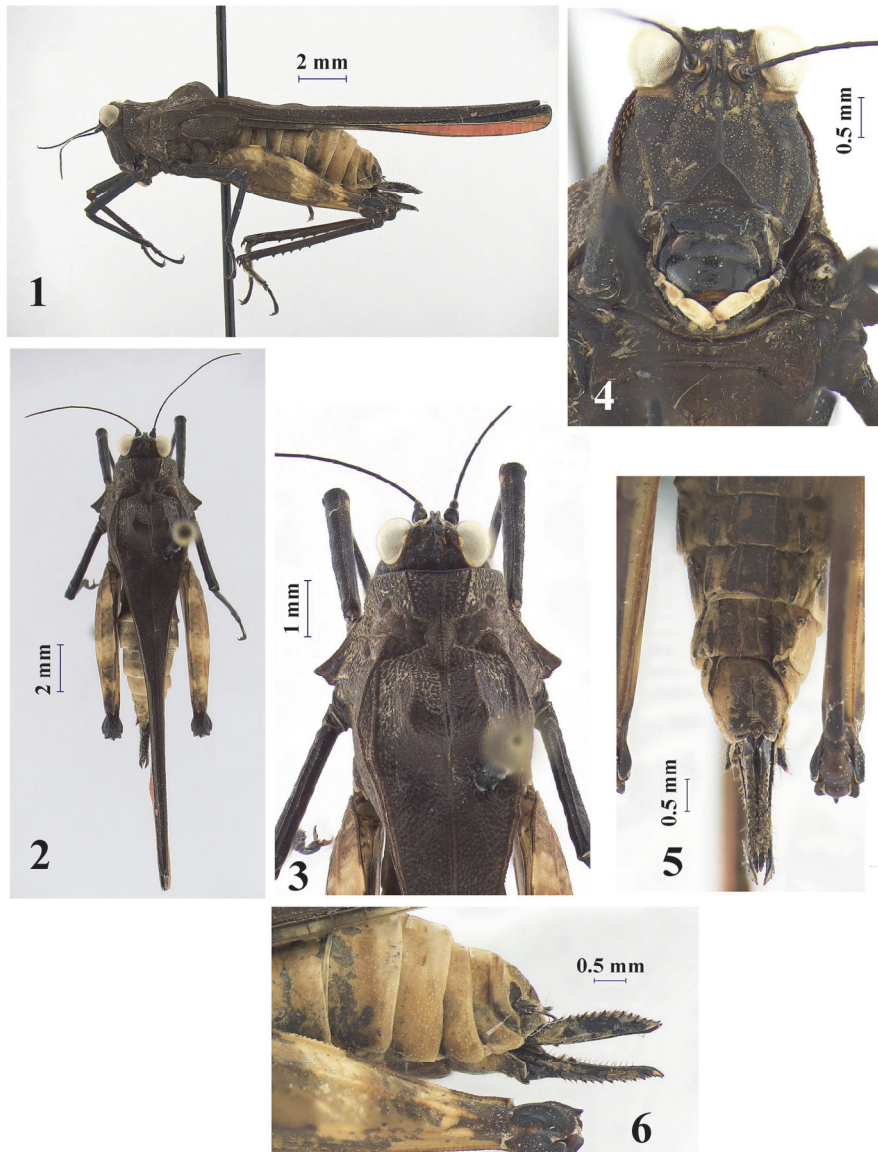
Male unknown.

MEASUREMENTS (in mm). Length of body (from frontal ridge to apex of subgenital plate) 19.3; pronotum 18.5; tegmen 2.5; hind wing 16.3; antenna 5.8; fore femur 2.9; mid femur 3.1; hind femur 7.8; ovipositor 2.1.

DIAGNOSIS. The female of new species is most similar to *Melainotettix schlaginhaufeni*, but easy distinguished from latter by colour of abdomen and hind tibia (in female of *M. schlaginhaufeni*, abdomen bright red and hind tibia blackish brown) and by distribution (*M. rasnitsyni* sp. n. is described from south-west part of island while *M. schlaginhaufeni* is known from north region of island near the border between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea). New species as well as *M. schlaginhaufeni* differs from all other congeners by orange reddish color of hind wings (in *M. buergersi*, *M. gibbosus*, *M. rammei*, and *M. reductus*, the anterior margin of hind wings black).

DISTRIBUTION. Papua New Guinea (Central Province).

ETYMOLOGY. This species is named after Professor Alexandr Pavlovich Rasnitsyn, a renowned Russian entomologist who has made profound contributions to study of evolution and classification of Hymenoptera in the world.



Figs 1–6. *Melainotettix rasnitsyni* sp. n., female (holotype). 1 – body, dorsal view; 2 – the same, lateral view; 3 – head and anterior part of pronotum, dorsal view; 4 – head, frontal view; 5 – apex of abdomen, ventral view; 6 – the same, lateral view.

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