

# 1 A Cretaceous bug indicates that exaggerated antennae may be a 2 double-edged sword in evolution

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17

## 18 Abstract

19 The true bug family Coreidae is noted for its distinctive expansion of antennae and  
20 tibiae. However, the origin and early diversity of such expansions in Coreidae are  
21 unknown. Here, we describe the nymph of a new coreid species from a Cretaceous  
22 Myanmar amber. *Magnusantenna wuae* **gen. et sp. nov.** (Hemiptera: Coreidae) differs  
23 from all recorded species of coreid in its exaggerated antennae (nearly 12.3 times longer  
24 and 4.4 times wider than the head). Such antennal elaboration indicates that long-  
25 distance chemical communication behavior in Hemiptera has been already well  
26 established in the early of Upper Cretaceous. The specialized antenna maintains in adult  
27 like extant coreids, which means that antennae plays an important role in sexual display  
28 and defense behavior. Even so, the highly specialized trait would also have confronted  
29 a substantial investment and high risk, which may have facilitated the final extinction  
30 of the species.

31

32 **Keywords:** Mesozoic Coreidae; chemical communication; sexual display; defense  
33 behavior; extinction risk

34

## 35 Introduction

36 The emergence of individual niches facilitates the appearance of new specialized  
37 morphological features on the basis of natural selection (Kratowil et al., 2018; Lee et  
38 al., 2011). The antennae of insects play a significant role in locating of potential host  
39 plants, suitable spawning grounds, attracting mates and escaping predation (Gao et al.,  
40 2016; Pekár and Hrušková, 2006). Expansive and delicate antennae carry more

1 olfactory receptors, which facilitates the life activities of insects, especially in chemical  
2 communication and sexual selection behavior (Krogmann et al., 2013; Wappler et al.,  
3 2015). The rapid rise of angiosperms has changed the structure of terrestrial vegetation  
4 while promoting the development of plant-related insect diversity in the Cretaceous  
5 (Engel, 2015; McLoughlin and Pott, 2019). It is especially important to search and  
6 occupy survival resources quickly and efficiently in fierce competition. According to  
7 fossil evidence, long-distance chemical communication behavior occurred in numerous  
8 insect groups in the Early Cretaceous, but has not yet been found in Hemiptera (Gao et  
9 al., 2016; Krogmann et al., 2013; Wichard, 2017).

10 Coreids, which are commonly known as leaf-footed bugs because of their leaf-like  
11 expansive legs, vary in body form and size (Panizzi and Grazia, 2015). In addition, the  
12 similar expansion on the antennae of coreids is also an easily identifiable character  
13 (Fracker, 1919a). Coreidae is a moderately large family in the insect order Hemiptera,  
14 with nearly 500 genera and 2200 species (Hamouly et al., 2010) within four subfamilies:  
15 Coreinae Leach, 1815 (Schuh and Slater, 1995); Hydarinae Stål, 1873 (Brailovsky,  
16 2010); Meropachyinae Stål, 1868 (Brailovsky and Barrera, 2009) and Pseudophloeinae  
17 Stål, 1868 (CoreoideaSF, 2019; Hamouly et al., 2010). The family has a worldwide  
18 distribution, particularly in the neotropics and subtropics (CoreoideaSF, 2019). Most  
19 species can be economic pests that feed on legumes, rice, fruits and other crops, usually  
20 causing the host plant to wither or die. They are identified by a combination of  
21 characteristics: antennae and rostrum four-segmented; antennal socket visible dorsally;  
22 pronotum trapezoid or hexagonal; membrane of the forewings with many parallel  
23 longitudinal veins; tarsi three-segmented; scent glands on the thorax between the  
24 middle and hind coxae; and antennae, humeral angles or hind tibiae sometimes showing  
25 expansion (Schuh and Slater, 1995). Expansion of various body parts plays a significant  
26 role in sexual selection and defense behavior (Eberhard, 1998). But we know nothing  
27 about the origin or early diversity of these exquisite expansions in Coreidae.

28 All the confirmed fossil records of the Coreidae during Mesozoic are preserved in  
29 China, the oldest of which is from the Upper Triassic strata (Hong, 1987; Hong, 1984;  
30 Lin, 1992). Fossil representatives are relatively common in Tertiary strata, being known  
31 from Eocene strata of the United States (Cockerell, 1909; Scudder, 1890); Oligocene  
32 rocks of France (Théobald, 1937), Germany (Heyden, 1858; Statz and Wagner, 1950);  
33 Miocene strata of China (Hong et al., 1983; Hong and Wang, 1987; Zhang, 1989; Zhang  
34 et al., 1994; Zhang and Zhang, 1990), Croatia (Heer, 1853) and Germany (Heer, 1853);  
35 and Pliocene rocks of France (Piton, 1935). *Yuripopovina magnifica* of family  
36 Yuripopoviniidae is the oldest known specimen of the superfamily Coreoidea preserved  
37 in the Cretaceous Lebanese amber (Azar et al., 2011). So far, four species of the family  
38 Coreidae have been described from the Cretaceous rock impressions, all of which do  
39 not have expanded antennae (Database, 2018).

40 Here, we describe a coreid nymph with exaggerated, expanded antennae that lived in  
41 the area of present-day northern Myanmar during the Upper Cretaceous. During the  
42 Cretaceous, these bugs were active on gymnosperms, ferns, and early angiosperms,  
43 feeding on the nutritional material in the leaves, branches, trunks, flowers and seeds of  
44 host plants, especially in young tissue (Panizzi and Grazia, 2015). This nymph

1 represents the first record of the family Coreidae preserved in amber. The characteristic  
2 foliated antennal expansion of the coreids is demonstrated to have existed  
3 approximately 99 million years ago; this improves our understanding of coreid  
4 biodiversity during the Cretaceous Period. In addition, we discuss the important role of  
5 specialized antennae in long-distance chemical communication behavior, sexual  
6 display and defense behavior, and the risk of extinction caused by exaggerated  
7 appendages.

8

## 9 **Result**

### 10 **Systematic paleontology**

11 Order Hemiptera Linnaeus, 1758

12 Suborder Heteroptera Latreille, 1810

13 Infraorder Pentatomomorpha Leston, Pendergrast and Southwood, 1955

14 Superfamily Coreoidea Reuter, 1815

15 Family Coreidae Leach, 1815

16 Subfamily Coreinae Leach, 1815

17 Genus *Magnusantenna* gen. nov.

18 ***Magnusantenna wuae* gen. et sp. nov.**

19 (Figs. 1–4)

20 **Type species.** *Magnusantenna wuae* gen. et sp. nov.

21 **Etymology.** The generic name is derived from Latin prefix *margus*, meaning large, and  
22 *antenna*, meaning antenna; referring to the enlarged antennae.

23

24 **Diagnosis.** Body slender, length approximately 6.67 mm. Antenna extremely large,  
25 subequal to the body length, with four segments. First segment inflated; second, third  
26 and fourth segments expanded and remarkably toward the apex. Head square,  
27 compound eyes large, spherical, located at the center of each side of the head and  
28 prominently protruding. Pronotum and mesonotum trapezoidal. Legs slender.

29 **Remarks.** *Magnusantenna* gen. nov. is similar to the extant *Chariesterus* Laporte,  
30 1832 in the following ways: body slender; lateral margins parallel; head subquadrate;  
31 compound eyes prominent and protruding; antennal socket protruding forward;  
32 antennae subequal to the length of the body; third antennal segment variously foliate;  
33 pronotum narrowed anteriorly, without collar; and hind tibiae not expanded. However,  
34 *Magnusantenna* gen. nov. can be distinguished from *Chariesterus* by several  
35 characteristics: first antennal segment slightly fusiform; second antennal segment  
36 approximately rectangular and spreading; fourth antennal segment exhibiting very large  
37 triangular spread; rostrum segments each of different length; and pronotum without  
38 spinose humeri. Conversely, *Chariesterus* exhibits several characteristics that differ  
39 from those of *Magnusantenna* gen. nov.: first antennal segment somewhat triquetral,  
40 usually bearing small denticles or acute spines, slightly curved at least in the basal area;  
41 second and fourth antennal segments not expanded; and rostrum segments subequal in  
42 length, diverging posteriorly to form prominent spinose humeri (Panizzi and Grazia,  
43 2015; Ruckes, 1955). *Magnusantenna* gen. nov. is markedly different from all

1 previously described fossil Coreidae in the scale of the antennal exaggeration.

2

3 ***Magnusantenna wuae* gen. et sp. nov.**

4 (Figs. 1–4)

5

6 **Etymology.** The specific epithet, *wuae*, is in honor of Ms. Wu Lijing, who provided the  
7 specimen.

8 **Holotype.** STJS0003. Nymph, probably approach fourth instar. Deposited in the  
9 Century Amber Museum (Room 301A No.1, Songrui Road, Songgang Street, Bao'an  
10 District, Shenzhen, China). Only known specimen.

11 **Horizon and Locality.** Hukawng Village, Kachin State, northern Myanmar; Upper  
12 Cretaceous (earliest Cenomanian),  $98.79 \pm 0.62$  Ma (Shi et al., 2012). Only known from  
13 the type locality.

14 **Diagnosis.** as for genus.

15 **Description.** Body slender, length 6.67 mm, width 0.76 mm (Figs. 1, 3, 4). Head  
16 subquadrate, length 0.55 mm, width 0.56 mm (Figs. 1, 2A, 4).

17 Labrum long triangle, basal area slightly broad, gradually narrowing toward apex  
18 (Fig. 2B). Compound eyes large and spherical, located on the center of the lateral  
19 margins of the head and protruding outward significantly (Figs. 1, 2A–B, 3, 4). Rostrum  
20 with four segments; first segment close to the ventral surface of the head, reaching the  
21 anterior margin of the compound eye, length 0.47 mm; second segment vertical to the  
22 body, longest rostrum segment, length 0.92 mm; third and fourth segments parallel to  
23 the body, pointing forward, length 0.79 mm and 0.42 mm, respectively, and the apex of  
24 the fourth segment sharp (Fig. 2B).

25 Antennae nearly 12.3 times longer than the head and 4.4 times wider than the head.  
26 Antennal socket robust, extending in front of the head. Antennae with four segments,  
27 length 6.78 mm, almost equal to body length, with significant expansion except for the  
28 first segment (Figs. 1, 2A, 4). First antennal segment inflated, 0.42 mm long and 0.20  
29 mm wide (Figs. 1, 2C, 4). Second antennal segment approximately rectangular and  
30 expanding, with a few setae on the surface, lateral margins serrated and setaceous, distal  
31 margin of antennal axis with a sharp angle at apex, proximal margin of antennal axis  
32 thickened and cutinized, segment length 1.88 mm and width 0.29 mm (Figs. 1, 2D, 4).  
33 Third antennal segment petal-shaped, 2.17 mm long and 1.14 mm wide; basal area  
34 obtusely rounded, middle of apical area with a sharp angle, all margins bear minute  
35 setae; distal extension of antennal axis with sparse setae on the surface, proximal  
36 extension of antennal axis with dense setae on the surface, proximal margin with strong  
37 keratin thickening (Figs. 1, 2E, 4). Fourth antennal segment triangular, 3.15 mm long  
38 and 2.49 mm wide, basal area obtusely rounded, apical area a long arc, all margins with  
39 minute setae (Fig. 1, 2F); distal extension of antennal axis with sparse setae on the  
40 surface (Figs. 2G), proximal extension of the antennal axis with dense setae on the  
41 surface (Fig. 2H), proximal margin with strong keratin thickening (Fig. 2I).

42 Pronotum trapeziform, center with shallow longitudinal groove, length 0.65 mm and  
43 width 0.57 mm (Figs. 1, 3A, 4). Mesonotum trapeziform, center with shallow  
44 longitudinal groove, length 0.49 mm and width 0.58 mm; lateral margin bearing

1 forewing bud, long ovoid, length 0.65 mm and width 0.21 mm, basal area narrow, apical  
2 area narrowly rounded, posterior margin surpassing anterior margin of the metanotum,  
3 overlapping with the basal area of the hindwing bud (Figs. 1, 3A–B, 4). Metanotum  
4 transversely wide, anterior margin nearly fused with posterior margin of mesonotum,  
5 length 0.39 mm and width 0.67 mm, lateral margin with hindwing bud, basal area wide,  
6 apical area narrowly rounded, posterior margin not reaching the anterior margin of the  
7 first abdominal tergite, length 0.34 mm and width 0.24 mm (Figs. 1, 3A–B, 4).

8 Fore femora cylindrical and slightly thick, length 1.98 mm. Fore tibiae narrower than  
9 the femora, length 2.03 mm. Fore tarsi with two segments, apices with two claws, length  
10 0.71 mm (Figs. 1, 3A–C, 4). Middle femora slightly shorter than the fore femora,  
11 cylindrical, length 1.52 mm. Middle tibiae narrower than the femora, length 1.75 mm.  
12 Middle tarsi with two segments, apices with two claws, length 0.67 mm (Figs. 1, 3A–  
13 D, 4). Hind femora long and thick, cylindrical, length 1.69 mm. Hind tibiae narrower  
14 than the femora, length 2.46 mm. Hind tarsi with two segments, apices with two claws,  
15 length 0.68 mm.

16 Abdomen length 4.35 mm, width 0.61 mm, nine visible segments. First and second  
17 abdominal tergite transversally wide. From third to eighth segment, abdominal tergites  
18 longer than the first two tergites. Black scent gland markings visible between the third  
19 and fourth, fourth and fifth, and fifth and sixth abdominal tergites. Ninth abdominal  
20 tergite trapezoidal, basal area wide, apical area slightly narrow, no recognizable genital  
21 structure that should be present in the abdomen (Figs. 1, 2A, 3).

22 **Remarks.** *M. wuae* gen. et sp. nov. resembles the extant coreid *Chariesterus*  
23 *antennator* (Fabricius, 1803). In addition to the similarities and differences documented  
24 in the Remarks section for the genus, the third antennal segments of both species are  
25 obovately dilated, with a width more than one-third of the length of the segment and  
26 the apex with an obvious angle. However, *M. wuae* gen. et sp. nov. does not have a  
27 notch at the apex of the third antennal segment, and the length ratio of each antennal  
28 segment from the first to the fourth is 42:188:217:315. In contrast, *C. antennator* has a  
29 conspicuous notch at the apex of the third antennal segment, and the length ratio of each  
30 antennal segment from the first to the fourth is 105:83:60:51 (Fracker, 1919b; Ruckes,  
31 1955). Therefore, *M. wuae* gen. et sp. nov. is sufficiently distinct from *C. antennator* to  
32 justify erection of a new genus and species.

33

## 34 **Discussion**

### 35 **Taxonomic status of the nymph specimen preserved in amber**

36 The extremely extended and oversized antennae distinguish the new coreid from all  
37 other previously known fossil and extant species, even based only on the single nymph  
38 available to us. In addition to the Coreinae, the Coreidae includes three other  
39 subfamilies. We can rule the nymph out of them by the following characteristics: The  
40 Hydarinae are recognized by possession of a third antennal segment that is more than  
41 twice as long as the second segment, anterior and posterior lobes of metathoracic  
42 peritreme that are completely separated (Brailovsky, 2010); The Meropachyinae are  
43 characterized by a distal tooth or spine on the hind tibia, a curved and usually strongly

1    incrassate hind femur (Brailovsky and Barrera, 2009); The Pseudophloeinae are  
2    distinguished by a granulated surface of the pronotum, scutellum and hemelytra, with  
3    each granule bearing small adpressed setae (Hamouly et al., 2010). All previous fossil  
4    examples of Coreidae have been reported from rock impressions, and are generally  
5    poorly preserved. The coreid nymph specimen preserved in amber described in the  
6    present study most likely belongs to the subfamily Coreinae owing to the following  
7    features: third antennal segment only slightly longer than second segment; hind tibia  
8    not curved and without prominent tooth or spine distally; and pronotum smooth and not  
9    granular. This is the first report of a leaf-footed bug in amber and the second  
10   representative of the Coreoidea preserved in amber, enriching the known species  
11   diversity of the group during the Cretaceous period.

12    Heteropteran nymphs generally have five instars, which typically resemble adults in  
13    their morphological appearance and living environment, except that they are generally  
14    much smaller and softer than adults, they have paired scent glands located on the dorsal  
15    abdomen, and the number of tarsal segments is one less than that of adults (Panizzi and  
16    Grazia, 2015). Wing buds appear in the third instar, and external genitals and ocelli can  
17    be observed in the fifth instar (Schuh and Slater, 1995). We regard this new specimen  
18    as a nearly fourth instar nymph because of the following features: posterior margins of  
19    the hind buds not reaching the anterior margin of the first abdominal tergite; ocelli  
20    absent; scent glands located on the dorsal surface of the abdomen; tarsi two-segmented;  
21    and genitalia not developed (Schuh and Slater, 1995). Both nymphs and adults of  
22    modern *Chariesterus*, *Dalader*, and *Thasus* in Coreinae have the similar expansion on  
23    the third antennal segment, but are significantly different from the new species (Fig. 5)  
24    (Barrera and Brailovsky, 1994; Prudic et al., 2008). The first antennal segment of the  
25    nymph described here is robust (Figs. 1, 2A, C, 3A, 4); the proximal extension of the  
26    antennal axis extends from the second to fourth segment with dense setae on the surface;  
27    and the proximal margin exhibits strong keratin thickening (Figs. 1, 2A, D–I, 3–4); the  
28    fourth antennal segment is more prominent than the third segment (Figs. 1, 2A, E–F, 3–  
29    4). Therefore, the antennal expansion should have persisted in the adult stage. This  
30    discovery demonstrates that the antennal expansion of the Coreidae originated at least  
31    99 million years ago.

### 32    33    **Antennal expansion and long-distance chemical communication**

34    Antennal specialization plays a vital role in the adaptive evolution of coreids. The  
35    family Coreidae have the expansive antennae, which are relatively common (uniform  
36    and slight expansion of all antennal segments or partially segment, alternatively, only  
37    obvious expansion occurs on the third antennal segment) in living insects (Fig. 5).  
38    However, there was no extension of any form in Mesozoic. The expanded antennae  
39    undoubtedly increase the superficial area of the antennae and enhance the sensory  
40    function and efficiency of the antennal sensor for potential host plants and mate locating  
41    (Krogmann et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2018a). Along with the flourishing of angiosperms,  
42    the species diversity development of coreids increased the competition for survival  
43    factors among them (Fisher and Watson, 2015). The coreids nymph owns the modified  
44    antennae, which can identify host plants more efficiently and quickly, improving

1 intraspecific and interspecific competitiveness. Based on the previous analysis, the  
2 antennae are likely to still exist during adulthood. The extremely expanded antennae  
3 become a key factor in long-distance locating of the mates by sensing the sex  
4 pheromone. In many heteropteran species, single or both sexes species can release sex  
5 pheromones or aggregate pheromones (Prudic et al., 2008). The antennae sensory hairs  
6 are mainly located on the distal segment of the antennae in the Coreidae (Pekár and  
7 Hrušková, 2006). The unique expansion on the fourth antennal segment of the nymph  
8 significantly increases the sensory function of the antennae.

9 During the Upper Cretaceous period, the predators of the coreid nymph ranged from  
10 insects to birds and other animals (Xing et al., 2019). Aggregation behavior is an  
11 effective way for the coreids nymph to protect themselves from predators (Prudic et al.,  
12 2008). Younger instars are generally gregarious in coreids (Panizzi and Grazia, 2015).  
13 Expansive antennae enable them to receive alarm signals from other conspecifics  
14 quickly and accurately, which is beneficial to each individual. In summary, our finding  
15 indicates that the coreid has long-term chemical communication capabilities during the  
16 Cretaceous period. It is also the first discovery of long-distance chemical  
17 communication in the Cretaceous Hemiptera. The only other known hemipteran fossil  
18 with expanded antennae are lace bugs (Insecta: Heteroptera: Tingidae), which dates  
19 from the Early Eocene and deposits in the Green River Formation (Wappler et al., 2015).

### 21 **Antennal expansion and sexual selection**

22 A delicate visual display structure is a prominent signal to attract mates or defeat  
23 competitors (Warren et al., 2013). However, the specialized antennae characteristic is  
24 little known in ancient species due to the difficulty preservation in fossil. Currently,  
25 exceptional structures for sexual display found in fossils include the extremely  
26 expanded tibiae (Zheng et al., 2017), the unusually long abdominal terminal segments  
27 and sexual organs (Brucearchibald, 2010; Wang et al., 2013) and the dilated antennal  
28 segments (Wappler et al., 2015). The expanded antennae have evolved numerous times  
29 in different insect groups, especially in males (Krogmann et al., 2013). Previous studies  
30 have reported that expanded antennae are associated with sexual displays which is  
31 positively correlated with size and appearance of the trait (McCullough et al., 2016;  
32 Warren et al., 2013).

33 Some insect antennae reach remarkable sizes. The antennae in katydids, crickets and  
34 some longhorn beetles are often longer than the body, and the antennae in some chafers,  
35 moths and mosquitoes are relatively wide in relation to the body (but do not exceed the  
36 body width). The dilated antennal segment is known in extant coreid adults, but most  
37 of them only occur in the third segment and not wider than the head (CoreoideaSF, 2018;  
38 Fracker, 1919a; Prudic et al., 2008). In contrast, in the amber-preserved bug nymph  
39 specimen described herein, both the length and the width of the antennae are greater  
40 than the body length and width. In addition, the shape of each antennal segment of  
41 *Magnusantenna wuae* gen. et sp. nov. varies greatly, with the third and fourth segments  
42 especially significantly expanded, unlike those in other bugs, in which all segments are  
43 similar and mostly longitudinal. Such oversized and bizarre antennae (nearly 12.3 times  
44 longer than the head and 4.4 times wider than the head) are unique in the Heteroptera

1 and rare in Insecta. The leaf-like expansion of the hind tibiae and the third antennal  
2 segment in modern male coreids is usually used to attract mates, and the mating success  
3 rate is closely related to male body size (McLain et al., 1993; Panizzi and Grazia, 2015).  
4 Therefore, we hypothesize that the extremely expanded antennae of *M. wuae* gen. et sp.  
5 nov. were most likely used for sexual display, and the nymph would have developed  
6 into an adult. The exaggerated antennae may have borne a large number of olfactory  
7 receptors, enabling the animal to locate females over long distances and providing a  
8 basis for sexual display behavior (Pekár and Hrušková, 2006). Interestingly, expanded  
9 antennae have been found in both ancient lace-bugs and extant leaf-footed bugs as well  
10 as in *M. wuae* gen. et sp. nov. These similarities imply the occurrence of antennal  
11 enlargement in the Hemiptera, suggesting possible behavioral convergence resulting  
12 from sexual selection (Wappler et al., 2015).

13

#### 14 **Antennal expansion and defense behavior**

15 Camouflage is a common behavior in insects and can effectively reduce the probability  
16 of an individual being detected by a predator, and increase the chances of escape from  
17 a predator (Garrouste et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2018b; Pérez-de la Fuente et al., 2016;  
18 Wang et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2010). A variety of defensive  
19 mechanisms in Hemiptera have significant impacts on reducing encounters and  
20 avoiding predators, for example, species of Phloeidae can camouflage themselves as a  
21 piece of lichen on a tree (Panizzi and Grazia, 2015).

22 Some body parts can regenerate or are expendable. In the face of strong predation  
23 pressure, these body parts can attract a predator's attention and protect the vital parts  
24 from damage. This defense mechanism has evolved independently for multiple body  
25 parts in many animals (Maginnis, 2010). A high incidence of structure loss and  
26 regeneration in insect appendages, such as the legs, antennae and cerci, a process that  
27 increases survival opportunities, has been reported (Bely and Nyberg, 2010; Tan et al.,  
28 2013; Wu et al., 2019; Emberts, 2016). For the nymph described in this article,  
29 exaggerated antennae may have been a powerful tool to focus the attention of a predator  
30 on the antennae rather than on the head or any other part of the body, thus avoiding a  
31 deadly attack. The nymph is similar to some extant coreids, in that the leaf-like  
32 broadened antennal segments and hind tibiae may have broken up and attracted the  
33 attention of a predator to the expendable appendages (Schuh and Slater, 1995). Molting  
34 behavior in the nymphal stage provides a greater possibility for regeneration of  
35 antennae (Leston, 1957). The exaggerated antennae of *M. wuae* gen. et sp. nov.  
36 constitute possible evidence for defensive behavior approximately 99 million years ago.

37

#### 38 **Antennal expansion and extinction risk**

39 Extremely specialized traits have advantages in mate-finding, sexual display and  
40 defense, but the production and maintenance of these traits are associated with a  
41 corresponding cost, which could restrict the ability of individuals and populations to  
42 adapt to changing environments and accordingly increase the risk of species extinction  
43 (Tanaka, 1996). Male cytheroid ostracods with large sperm pumping and copulatory  
44 apparatuses exhibit extinction rates ten times higher than those species with the lowest



1 investment in apparatuses, indicating that specialized features associated with sexual  
2 selection may be a high risk factor for species extinction (Martins et al., 2018). The  
3 damselfly *Yijenplatycnemis huangi* possessed exaggerated pod-like tibiae that probably  
4 slowed its flight speed, making it easier to prey upon and less likely to escape predators  
5 (Zheng et al., 2017). Extremely elongated abdomens and sexual organs in male  
6 mecopterans produce a large, heavy body, which causes them to move slowly when  
7 avoiding enemies and making them more visible to predators (Wang et al., 2013).

8 However, the spectacular antennae are more likely to have exposed the individual,  
9 increasing the chance of being discovered and preyed upon. In addition, the large  
10 appendages probably made it move slowly, which would have been a disadvantage  
11 when fleeing a predator. Moreover, exaggerated structures require more energy to  
12 produce and maintain, which increases the probability of extinction when the external  
13 environment changes drastically.

## 14 **Material and Methods**

15  
16 The coreid nymph described herein is preserved in a piece of golden-brown  
17 Myanmar amber from an amber deposit in the Hukawng Valley of Myanmar. The age  
18 has been estimated to be ca. 99 Ma ( $98.8 \pm 0.6$  Ma; earliest Cenomanian, Upper  
19 Cretaceous) based on U-Pb dating of zircons from the volcanoclastic matrix of the  
20 amber-bearing deposit (Shi et al., 2012). The mining locality is at Noiye Bum, near  
21 Tanai Village ( $26^{\circ}21'33.41''\text{N}$ ,  $96^{\circ}43'11.88''\text{E}$ ) (Cruickshank and Ko, 2003; Grimaldi  
22 et al., 2002). Details of the geology and stratigraphy of the deposit have been described  
23 in previous publications (Cruickshank and Ko, 2003; Shi et al., 2012).

24 The piece of amber was cut, ground and polished to a length  $\times$  width  $\times$  height of  
25 approximately  $26.75 \times 20.14 \times 12.43$  mm. The specimen was examined with a LEICA  
26 M125 C dissecting microscope.

27 Photographs were obtained with a LEICA MC 190 HD fitted to a LEICA M125 C  
28 stereomicroscope and a Nikon Digital Sight DS-R1i fitted to a Nikon AZ100M  
29 stereomicroscope. Images were stacked with Helicon Focus 6. Photographic figures  
30 were constructed in Adobe Photoshop CC.

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32  
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## 10 **Figure captions:**

11 **Fig. 1 Overview of the amber.** Scale bar, 5 mm.

12 **Fig. 2 Head of *M. wuae* gen. et sp. nov. (STJS0003).** A, C–I. Lateral views of the  
13 antenna: (A) Overall view. Scale bar, 1 mm. (C) First segment. Scale bar, 200  $\mu$ m. (D)  
14 Second segment. Scale bar, 1 mm. (E) Third segment. Scale bar, 1 mm. (F) Fourth  
15 segment. Scale bar, 1 mm. (G) Setae on the distal extension of the fourth antennal axis.  
16 Scale bar, 100  $\mu$ m. (H) Setae on the proximal extension of the fourth antennal axis.  
17 Scale bar, 100  $\mu$ m. (I) Strong keratin thickening of the proximal margin of the fourth  
18 antennal axis. Scale bar, 200  $\mu$ m. (B) Ven-lateral view of head. Scale bar, 500  $\mu$ m.

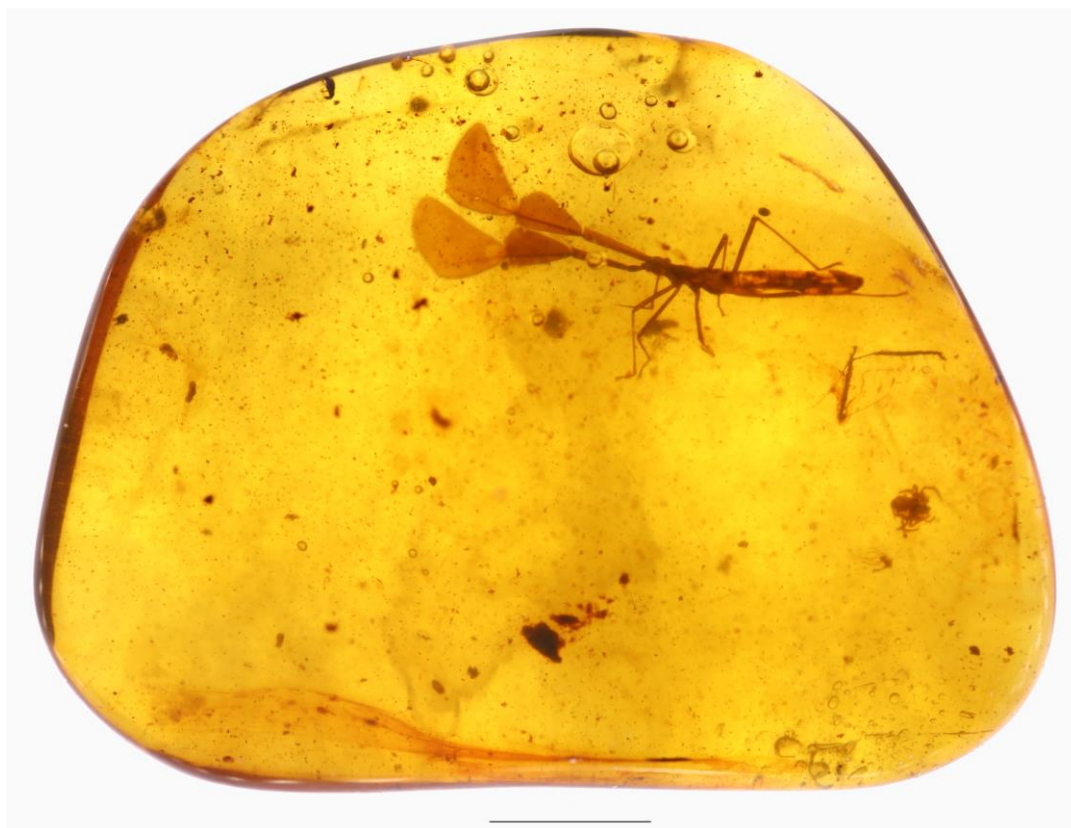
19 **Fig. 3 Thorax and abdomen of *M. wuae* gen. et sp. nov. (STJS0003).** (A) Dorsal  
20 view of body. Scale bar, 1 mm. (B) Dorsal view of wing buds. Scale bar, 500  $\mu$ m. (C)  
21 Lateral views of tibiae and tarsi of fore leg. Scale bar, 1 mm. (D) Lateral views of tibiae  
22 and tarsi of middle leg. Scale bar, 500  $\mu$ m. (E) Lateral views of tibiae and tarsi of hind  
23 leg. Scale bar, 1 mm.

24 **Fig. 4 Reconstruction of the habitus of *M. wuae* gen. et sp. nov. (STJS0003).** Scale  
25 bar, 1 mm.

26 **Fig. 5 Images of some modern coreids.** (A–B) *Chariesterus antennator* (downloaded  
27 from <https://www.gbif.org/occurrence/gallery>). (C–D) *Chariesterus armatus*  
28 (downloaded from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/brutamonte>). (E–F) *Dalader* sp.  
29 (downloaded from <http://www.natureloveyou.sg>). (G–H) *Thasus neocalifornicus*  
30 (downloaded from <http://arizonabeetlesbugsbirdsandmore.blogspot.com>). A, C, E, G.  
31 Nymphs; B, D, F, H. Adults.

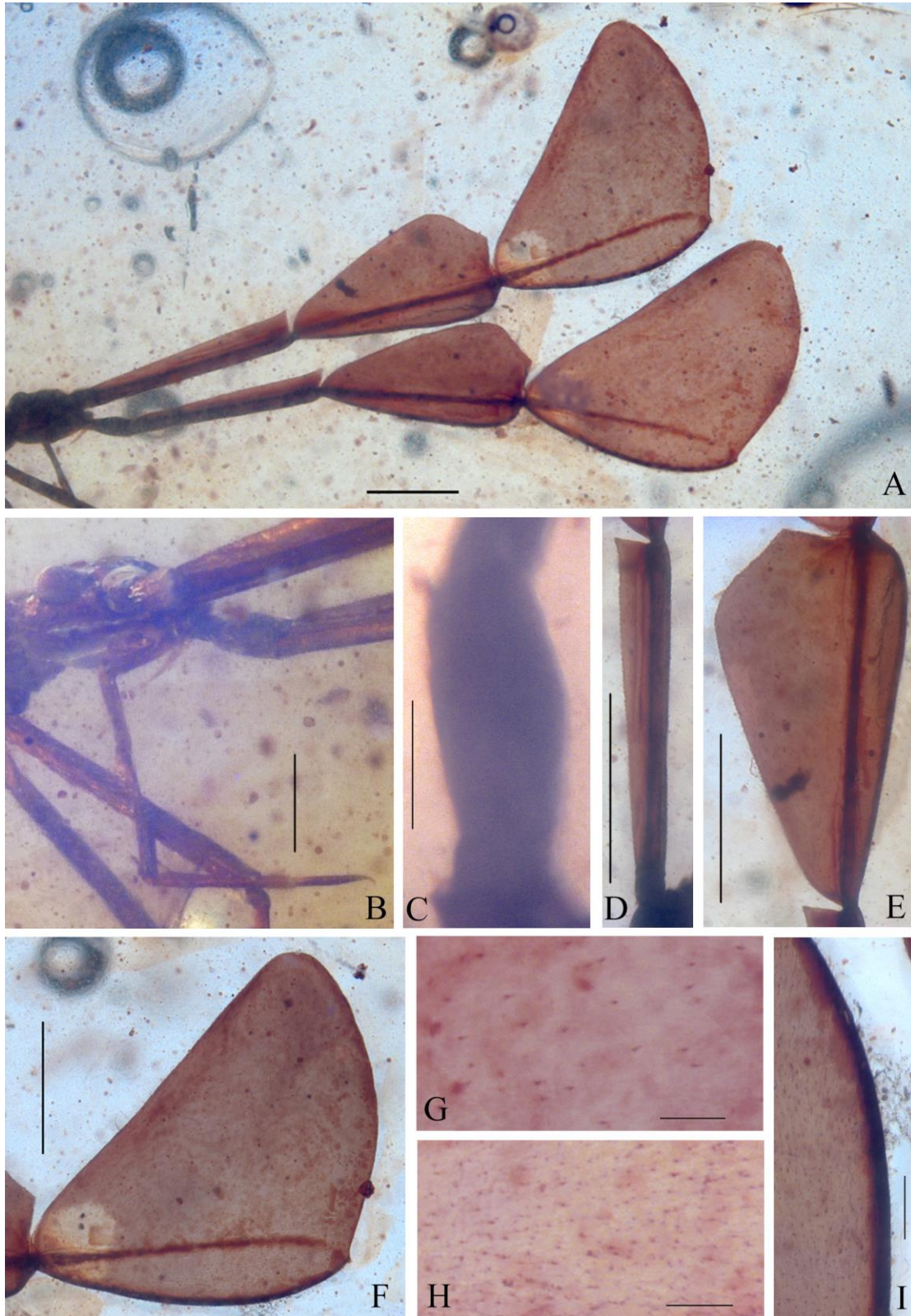
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1 **Fig. 1**



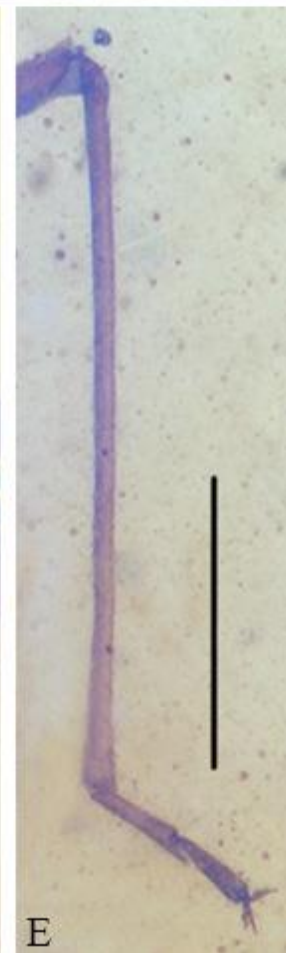
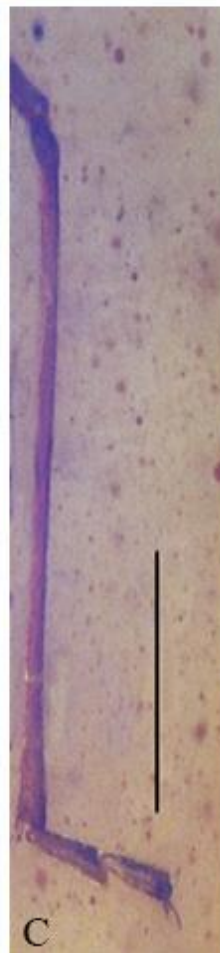
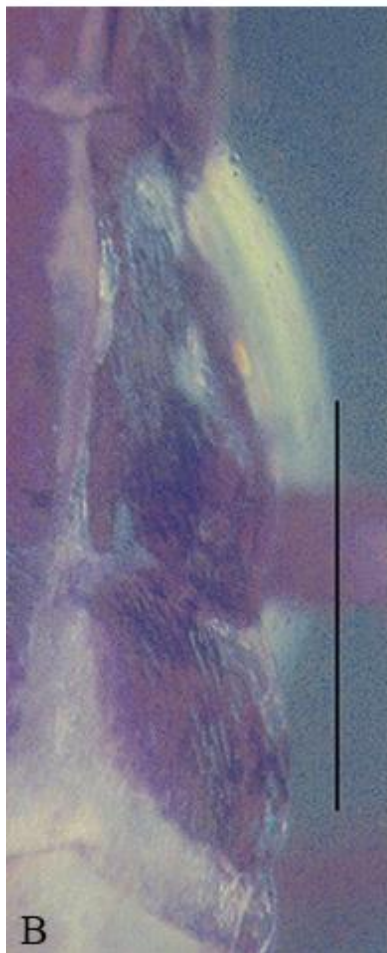
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1 **Fig. 2**



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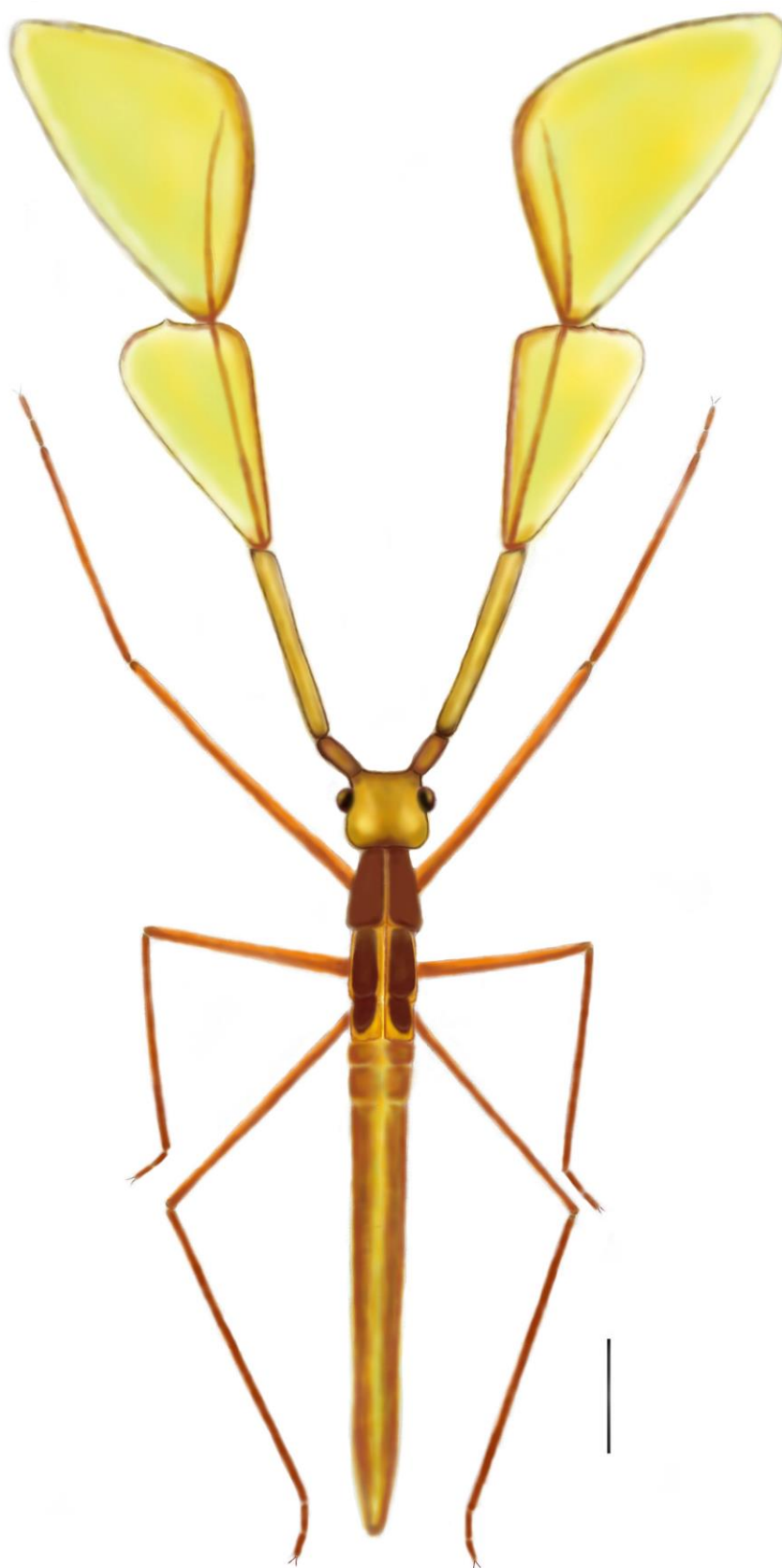
1 **Fig. 3**



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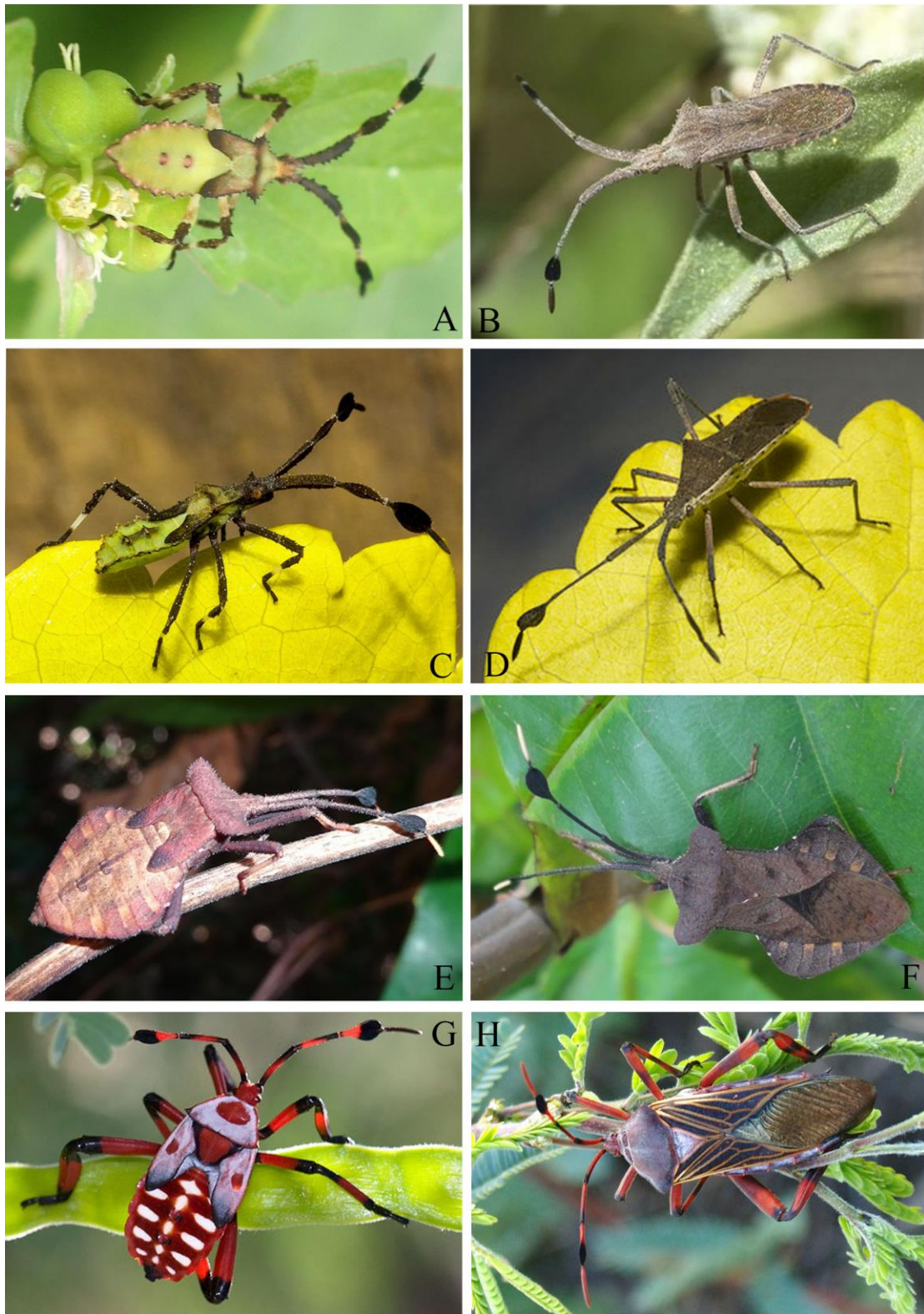


1 **Fig. 4**



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1 **Fig. 5**



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