

A new genus and a new species of crickets (Orthoptera: Gryllidae, Gryllinae) from Africa

By

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Abstract: *Pollogryllus* gen.n. (type-species: *Gryllus fuliginatus* Chop.) and *Platygyllus congolensis* sp. n. are described. The new genus is related to *Scapsipedus* Sauss. and *Plebeiogryllus* Rand. but distinct from both by some peculiarities of male genitalia. The new species differs from all other species of the genus *Platygyllus* Chop. by its simple spermatophore sack.

This paper is based on unidentified cricket material of the Hungarian Natural History Museum (Budapest). Author is very grateful to Dr. H. STEINMANN for the loan of this material.

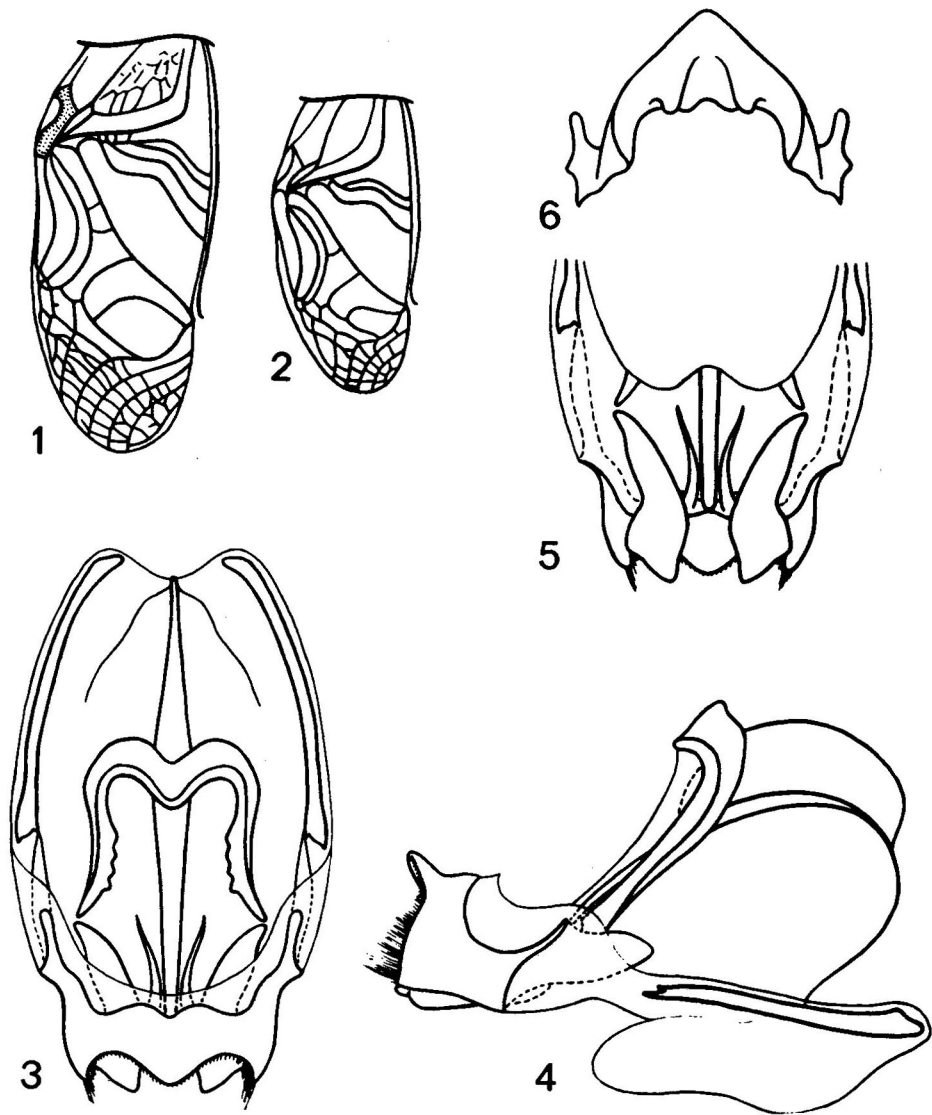
Genus *Pollogryllus* gen. n.

Type-species: *Gryllus fuliginatus* Chopard, 1961.

Size small or medium for the subfamily. Body rather stout, pubescent. Head round, shining, uniformly dark without pattern. Frons between antennae noticeably wider than antennal pocket. Clypeofrontal suture feebly curved. Ocelli rather large. Ocelli disposed in the form of triangle. Pronotum transverse, with almost parallel lateral sides, pubescent and unicoloured. Male elytra with 2-3 curved oblique veins and rather small quadrangular mirror (Fig. 2). Female elytra with cellular venation at the dorsal field. Legs rather stout, pubescent and unicoloured. Anterior tibiae with large oval external tympanum and very small internal one. Male genitalia rather short (Figs 3-6). Epiphallus short, with 3 short projections at the posterior edge and 2 rather long apodemal processes at the anterior edge. Ectoparameres stout, with narrow semimembranous mesal lobes. Endoparameres long, with small apodema at the base. Virga rather wide, almost straight. Spermatophore sack rather small, with very large superior apodema.

Included species: *Modicogryllus nigrodorsatus* Chopard, 1961 and possible *Gryllulus obscuripennis* Chopard, 1938.

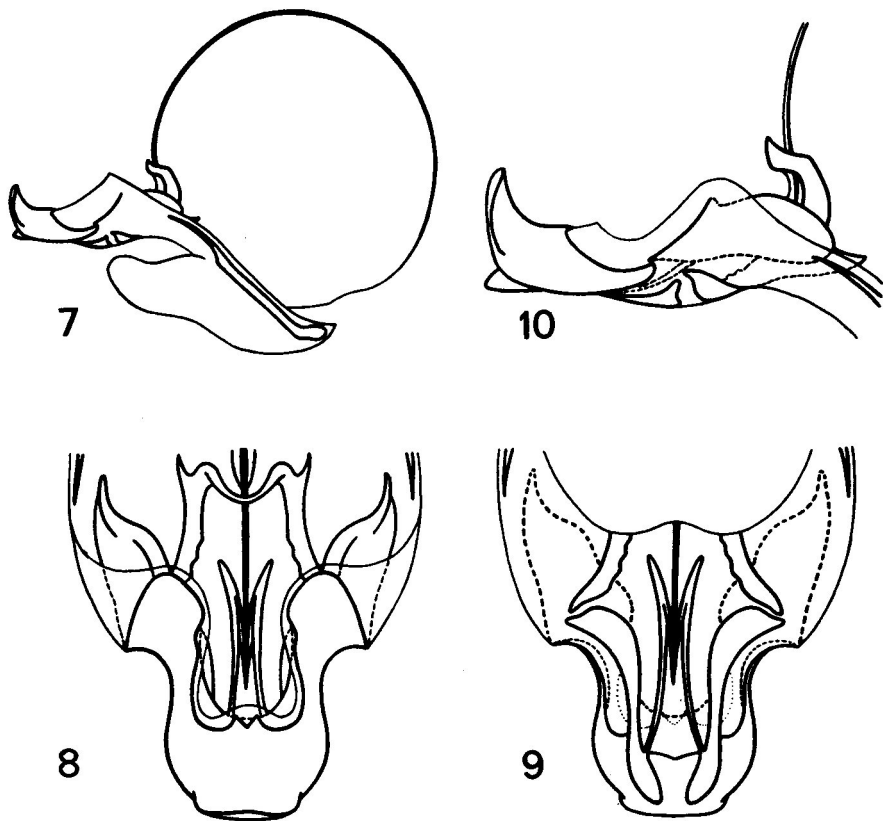
Diagnosis. General aspect as in the genus *Modicogryllus* Chop., but head without pattern and male genitalia with simple ectoparameres. *Pollogryllus* gen. n. is related to *Scapsipedus* Sauss. and *Plebeiogryllus* Rand. but distinct from both by habitus and peculiarities of male genitalia (spermatophore sack with large superior apodema, but virga without strong widening at base).



Figs 1-2. Dorsal field of male elytrum. 1: *Platygyrillus congolensis* sp. n., 2: *Poliogryllus fuliginatus* (Chop.). - Figs 3-6. *Poliogryllus fuliginatus* (Chop.). 3: male genitalia, dorsal view, 4: same in lateral view, 5: same without anterior part, ventral view, 6: epiphallus, posterior view

Material. Congo, Lefinie reservation, Nambouli river (gallery forest), 13-15.I.1964, 5 males (holotype and paratypes), 19 females (paratypes), legit: Dr. J. BALOGH and Dr. A. ZICSI. Holotype and part of paratypes in Hungarian Natural History Museum (Budapest). Part of paratypes in Zoological Institute, Academy of Sciences of USSR (Leningrad). Material in alcohol.

Male (holotype). Size medium for subfamily and rather small for genus. Body stout, feebly pubescent. Coloration brownish. Head with almost straight clypeo-frontal suture. Width of antennal pocket about $3/4$ distance between antennae. Coloration of head dark brown with 6 indistinct short reddish longitudinal lines on posterior part of vertex. Antennae brown. Palpi yellowish-brown. Last joint of maxillar palpi dark. Pronotum almost glabrous; its length about $3/4$ its width. Disk of pronotum reddish-brown, rather light. Lateral lobes of pronotum dark brown. Elytra extending to the apex of abdomen, brownish with lighter humeral band and darker base, field of chords and apical field. Stridulatory organ with 4 curved oblique veins and nearly oval mirror (Fig. 1). Lateral field of elytra uniformly dark brown, with 9 veins and almost without transverse veinlets. Legs rather stout, pubescent, yellowish with brown spots. Posterior femora with brown apex and distinct brown oblique stripes on external face. Posterior tibiae with brown base and 6 pairs of spines.



Figs 7-10. *Platygyryllus congolensis* sp.n. 7: male genitalia, lateral view, 8: same without anterior part, dorsal view, 9: same in ventral view, 10: same in lateral view

Abdomen brown above and yellowish-brown beneath. Cerci yellowish-brown. Posterior edge of genital plate with noticeable excision. Genitalia rather narrow (Figs 7-10). Epiphallus with semimembranous inferior part and large apodemata. Posterior edge of epiphallus without lateral processes. Ectoparameres very narrow and long, widening at base. Endoparameres rather small, with apodemata in the middle but without apodema at the base. Base of virga sclerotized. Spermatophore sack simple (without loops).

Variations. Coloration insignificantly lighter or darker. Sometimes posterior part of vertex nearly reddish and longitudinal lines of vertex almost invisible. There are 2 forms: brachyptera and macroptera. Elytra of both very similar.

Female. Similar to male. Elytra of f. macroptera extending to apex of abdomen. Elytra of f. brachyptera extending to apex of 8th abdominal tergite. Venation of elytra normal; dorsal field with 9-11 veins and numerous transverse veinlets; lateral field with 10-12 veins. Coloration of elytra dark brown, brownish or reddish. Ovipositor rather long and narrow. Length of ovipositor and length of posterior femora almost equal.

Length: body of male 14-15 mm, female 13-15 mm; pronotum of male 2.8-3.2 mm, female 3-3.7 mm; elytra of male 9-10 mm, female (f. macroptera) 9-10 mm, female (f. brachyptera) 7-8 mm; posterior femora of male 8-10 mm, female 9-11 mm; ovipositor 8-10 mm.

Diagnosis. This species differs from other species of the genus *Platygyryllus* Chop. by its simple spermatophore sack. Spermatophore sack of all other species of this genus possesses loops.

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