

meeting dorsum through a broad smooth curve (Fig. 6), (India) *occidua*

Species-groups of *Vombisidris*

V. bilongrudi-group. Subocular groove incomplete or absent. Includes *bilongrudi*, *acherdos*.

V. philax-group. Subocular groove complete. Legs and antennae relatively long (key couplet 3). Propodeal spines long and downcurved. Metanotal groove vestigial to absent. Includes *philax*, *nahet*, *renateae*, *regina*.

V. dryas-group. Subocular groove complete. Legs and antennae relatively short (key couplet 3). Propodeal spines short to long but not usually downcurved. Metanotal groove broad and strongly impressed in profile, trench-like. Includes *dryas*, *lochme*, *xylochos*.

V. australis-group. Subocular groove complete. Legs and antennae relatively short. Metanotal groove vestigial to absent. A convenience-group to hold species not fitting any of the above groups. Includes *australis*, *harpeza*, *occidua*.

bilongrudi-group

Vombisidris acherdos sp.n. (Fig. 7)

Holotype worker. TL 4.2, HL 1.00, HW 0.87, CI 87, SL 0.74, SI 85, PW 0.64, AL 1.18. Maximum diameter of eye 0.23 (0.26 × HW) and with 14 ommatidia in the longest row. Mandibles unsculptured. Sculpture of head capsule feeble, consisting of scattered short longitudinal rugulae dorsally; no rugoreticulum. Weak ground-sculpture present above the eye but head capsule otherwise mostly smooth. Subocular groove incomplete, running only from base of mandible to anterior angle of eye. Dorsal alitrunk evenly convex in profile, the propodeum sloping steeply so that the spines appear to be set low down. Mesonotum unarmed. Metanotal groove absent. Dorsal alitrunk with fine superficial sculpture only. Petiole shape as in Fig. 7. Base of first gastral tergite unsculptured. Pilosity sparse and fine everywhere, the hairs acute; only one pair present on the sloping portion of the propodeal dorsum. Colour uniform dark brown.

Paratype worker. TL 4.4, HL 1.00, HW 0.85,

CI 85, SL 0.74, SI 87, PW 0.64, AL 1.18. Maximum diameter of eye 0.24 (0.28 × HW). As holotype but slightly lighter in shade.

Holotype worker, PAPUA NEW GUINEA: 6 km NE Kundiawa, 5.59S, 144.56E, 19.vi.1980, 2000 m, no.4498, on low vegetation, montane forest (*P. S. Ward*) (BMNH).

Paratype, one worker with same data as holotype (MCZ).

Vombisidris bilongrudi (Taylor) comb.n.

Leptothorax bilongrudi Taylor, 1989: 605, Figs 1–3. *Holotype worker* and *paratype workers* and *females*, PAPUA NEW GUINEA: West Sepik Prov., Victor Emmanuel Range, 5.07S, 141.38E, near Telefomin, 1550 m, 17–19.viii.1984, no. 305 (*R.J. Kohout*). [*Paratype worker* in BMNH examined.]

philax-group

Vombisidris nahet sp.n. (Fig. 3)

Holotype worker. TL 4.1, HL 0.82, HW 0.68, CI 83, SL 0.62, SI 91, PW 0.55, AL 1.02. Maximum diameter of eye 0.19 (0.28 × HW) and with 10 ommatidia in the longest row. Cephalic dorsum with a rugoreticulum everywhere. Subocular groove complete. Sides of head weakly convergent behind eyes. Alitrunk long and low, reticulate-rugose everywhere. Sides of mesonotum obtusely angular in dorsal view. Propodeal spines very long and strongly arched along their length. Metanotal groove absent. Peduncle of petiole long, the spiracle approximately at the midlength. Petiole and postpetiole reticulate-rugulose. First gastral tergite glassy smooth except for a band of short basigastral costulae immediately behind the postpetiole. All dorsal surfaces of body with dense standing pilosity. Colour yellow, the gaster paler than the head and alitrunk.

Paratype worker. TL 3.8, HL 0.80, HW 0.66, CI 83, SL 0.60, SI 91, PW 0.53, AL 0.98. Maximum diameter of eye 0.19 (0.29 × HW), as holotype.

Holotype worker, INDONESIA: Sulawesi Utara, G. Mogogonipa, 1000 m, 26.iv–22.v.1985 (*J. Martin*) (BMNH).