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To cite this article: A. C. Eyles (1998) The identity of *Romna marginicollis* (Reuter), a new name for *marginicollis* sensu Eyles & Carvalho, and notes on two other mirids (Hemiptera), *New Zealand Journal of Zoology*, 25:1, 43-46, DOI: [10.1080/03014223.1998.9518135](https://doi.org/10.1080/03014223.1998.9518135)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03014223.1998.9518135>



Published online: 30 Mar 2010.



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The identity of *Romna marginicollis* (Reuter), a new name for *marginicollis* sensu Eyles & Carvalho, and notes on two other mirids (Hemiptera)

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Abstract *Romna marginicollis* (Reuter) is considered to be the junior synonym of *R. capsoides* (White). *R. marginicollis* sensu Eyles & Carvalho is renamed and redescribed as *R. tenera* n. sp. from New Zealand. Its distribution record is extended to the North Island. Habitus photographs of *R. capsoides*, *R. marginicollis*, and *R. tenera* are provided. A host plant and new localities are recorded for *R. pallida* Eyles & Carvalho, and a new host plant is recorded for *R. scotti* (White).

Keywords Hemiptera; Miridae; Deraeocorinae; *Romna*; holotype; *Oxychilophora marginicollis*; *Romna capsoides*; new synonymy; new name; new species; *R. pallida*; *R. scotti*; New Zealand

INTRODUCTION

When we were revising the New Zealand Deraeocorinae (Eyles & Carvalho 1988) we did not find the holotype of *Oxychilophora marginicollis* Reuter, 1908, believed to be in Helsinki. In our opinion there were two possibilities: either *marginicollis* would prove to be a synonym of *Romna capsoides* (White, 1878), or it would prove to be a valid species. Without seeing the holotype, we could not be certain that the species we “redescribed” as *marginicollis* was conspecific with the type. However, rather than propose a new name that might need to be synonymised later, we thought it more practical to place a species of that size and colour under the available name *marginicollis*.

Location of the holotype in Vienna now allows for the synonymy of *O. marginicollis* Reuter with *R. capsoides* (White). The species regarded as *R. marginicollis* by Eyles & Carvalho (1988) is a new species, and a new name for it is published herein.

TAXONOMY

In the descriptions all measurements are in millimetres; those of females are given in parentheses. For overall length and width the range is given. All other measurements are means of 7 males and 10 females. The two-letter area codes (e.g., NN for the Nelson area) are those proposed by Crosby et al. (1976).

Abbreviations for repositories

CGNZ: Chris Green collection, Henderson, Auckland, New Zealand.

FRNZ: New Zealand Forest Research Institute, Rotorua, New Zealand.

JCMC: J. C. M. Carvalho collection, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

LUNZ: Lincoln University, Lincoln, New Zealand.

NMNZ: National Museum, Wellington, New Zealand.

NZAC: New Zealand Arthropod Collection, Landcare Research, Auckland, New Zealand.

***Romna capsoides* (White)** (Fig. 1, 2)

Morna capsoides White, 1878: 131 (original description).
Romna capsoides: Kirkaldy 1906: 141 (in renamed genus).
Oxychilophora marginicollis Reuter, 1908: 183 (**new synonymy**).

A very robust species, broadly oval, mainly brown, with pronotal carinae pale. Punctuation coarse, vertex broad, antecocular part of head about as long as an eye. Length 7.0–8.6 (7.7–8.6); width 3.15–3.60 (3.6–4.4); vertex width 0.65 (0.65); pronotal width at base 2.6 (3.0).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **Holotype** ♀ (Fig. 1) of *Oxychilophora marginicollis* Reuter (6.40 ×

3.33 mm), with labels "Novara Exp. Auckland", "*Oxyphilophora marginicollis* n. sp. O. M. Reuter det.", "HOLOTYPE *Oxyphilophora marginicollis* Reut." on red card, plus "*Romna*". I have added "*Romna capsoides* (White, 1878) det. A. C. Eyles 1996" on white card. In Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Zweite Zoologische Abteilung (Insekten).

Plus 3 ♀ (NMNZ; Australian Museum, Sydney): WA, start of Mt Holdsworth track, on *Nothofagus*, 10 Dec 1996, A. C. Eyles (Fig. 2).

***Romna tenera* n. sp.** (Fig. 3, 4)

Romna marginicollis sensu Eyles & Carvalho 1988: 71–72, 76 [not sensu Reuter, 1908] (misidentification on original description only, as Reuter's type not located).

Romna tenera Eyles this paper (n. sp. name provided).

Length 6.5–7.0 (6.20–6.97); width 2.59–2.80 (2.86–3.20). Head: length (clypeus to carina) 0.87 (1.0); width 1.24 (1.29); vertex width 0.38 (0.50). Antennae: length of segments 0.67: 2.36: 0.69: 0.58 (0.57: 2.20: 0.70: 0.64). Pronotum: length 1.22 (1.28); width at base 2.28 (2.48).

Light brown, with cuneus tinted red or orange. Head with ornate brown and pale markings. Calli black in some males. Scutellum orange-brown, with mid-longitudinal pale line, and 2 pale dashes laterally in basal half. Clavus often with pale mottling in apical half; corium usually pale in basal half, with some pale mottling following claval suture and before cuneus. Cuneus with opaque creamy background overlaid by varying amounts of light or dark orange, reddish-orange, pink, red, or reddish-brown.

Macropterous, finely punctate, sexually dimorphic. Males elongate, delicate looking, with eyes projecting laterally well beyond anterior of pronotum (Fig. 3). Vertex very narrow, anteocular part of head short, posterior margin of pronotum with V-shaped sinuation in middle. Females oval and a little more robust than males (Fig. 4). Vertex wider, eyes less prominent.

TYPE DATA: **Holotype** ♂ (7.48 × 2.59 mm) and **allotype** ♀ HB, NE Ruahine Ranges, on *Nothofagus cliffortioides*, 24 Jan 1979, M. A. Stoodley (NZAC, donated by FRNZ). **Paratypes** (12♂ 14♀; CGNZ, FRNZ, JCMC, LUNZ, NZAC): 1♂ 1♀ same data as holotype; TO, 1♂ Mt Ruapehu, above F & B Lodge, *Nothofagus* at night, 28 Jan 1996, O. R. Green; BP, 1♂ Mt Te Aroha summit, 10 Jan 1986, C. J. Green; TK, 1♂ Waitanga Plateau, 520 m, MV light trap in forest, 16–18 Dec 1988, J. S. Dugdale & K. J. Fox; NN, 1♂ Dun Mountain, 610 m (2000 ft), 19 Jan 1931, E. S. Gourlay; 1♂ same data except 3 Jan 1933; 1♀ Dun Mountain, 915 m (3000 ft), 7 Jan

1934, E.S.G.; 1♀ same data except 17 Jan 1921, A. Philpott; 1♂ Third House, Dun Mountain Track, 10 Jan 1942, A. Hamilton; 1♀ Gordon's Pyramid, 2 Feb 1923, A.P.; 2♀ Mt Arthur, 1220 m (4000 ft), 2 Mar 1923, A.P.; 1♂ 1♀ Mt Arthur, 15 Feb 1946, E.S.G. (Gourlay Collection Acc. 1970); 1♂ Cobb Valley, Cobb River Track, 840 m, 11 Feb 1985, J. S. Ensor; MK, 2♂ 3♀ Mt Sebastopol Track, 884 m (2900 ft), 7 Jan 1966, J. I. Townsend; FD, 4♀ Spey River at Dashwood Stream, on *Nothofagus*, Jan 1970, A. C. Eyles (Manapouri Exp. 1970); 1♂ West Arm, Lake Manapouri, at light, 7 Jan 1970, J. S. Dugdale (Manapouri Exp. 1970).

DIAGNOSIS: *R. tenera* n. sp. is distinguished from *R. capsoides* by its delicate appearance and absence of pale pronotal sides, and from *capsoides*, and the other larger species, by the narrow vertex and sexual dimorphism.

DISTRIBUTION: Widely distributed in the South Island (Eyles & Carvalho 1988) and now recorded likewise from the North Island.

BIOLOGY: Occurs on *Nothofagus* Blume, and *N. solandri* var. *cliffortioides* (Hook. f.) Poole (Fagaceae).

REMARKS: As this species is keyed, described, and illustrated, including male genitalia, under the name *marginicollis* by Eyles & Carvalho (1988), a full description is not given here. Additional information on colour is provided above.

Notes on *R. pallida* Eyles & Carvalho, 1988

The description was based on a male from Whangarei and four females from Akaroa, but nothing was known about its biology. This species has now been collected in two further localities, Waikanae and Wellington, on kowhai, *Sophora microphylla* Ait. (Papilionaceae).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: 3 specimens (NMNZ, NZAC): 1♀ WN, Wilton's Bush, on kowhai, 24 Nov 1996, A. C. Eyles; 1♂ same data except on *Pseudopanax* under kowhai; 1♂ WN, Waikanae, Edgewater Park, on *Sophora microphylla*, 15 Dec 1996, A.C.E.

Notes on *R. scotti* (White, 1878)

Previously, *R. scotti* has been reported on six plant species (Eyles & Carvalho 1988), but as five involved single specimens, a true host relationship is not established. The sixth involved three of each sex on hazel, *Corylus* L. sp. (Corylaceae), an introduced tree.

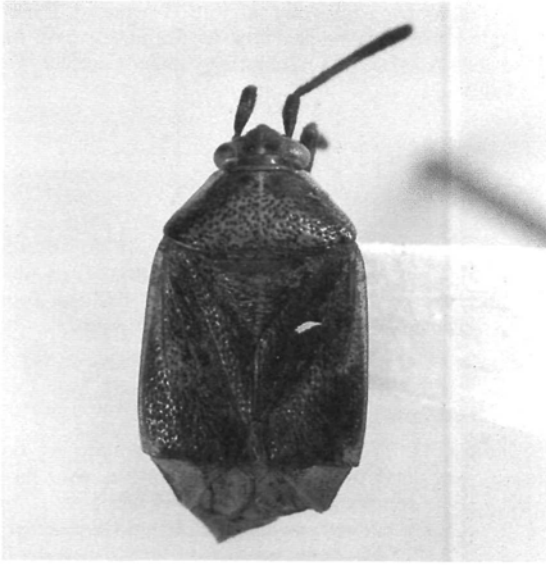


Fig. 1 Holotype ♀ of *Oxychilophora marginicollis* Reuter, 1908, a junior synonym of *Romna capsoides* (White, 1878).

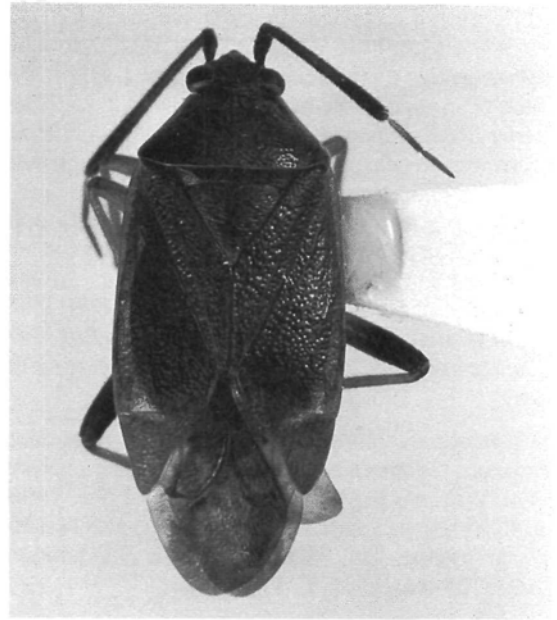


Fig. 2 *Romna capsoides* (White) ♀ (near Mt Holdsworth).

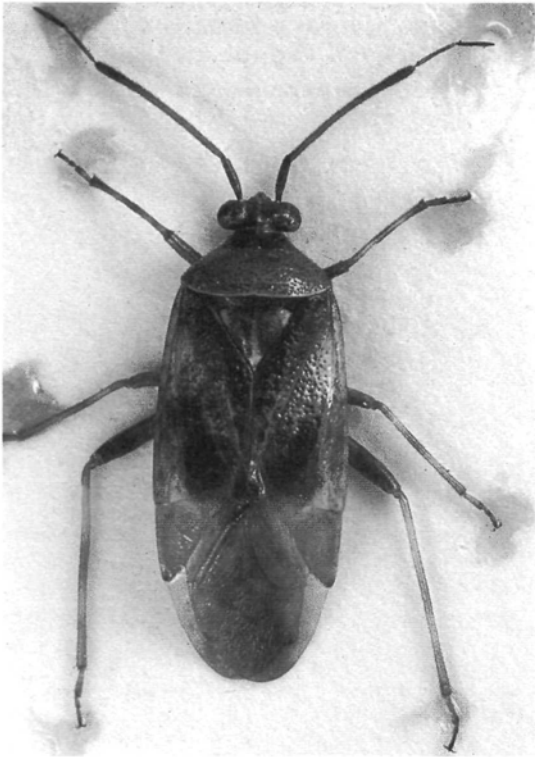


Fig. 3 *Romna tenera* n. sp. holotype ♂.

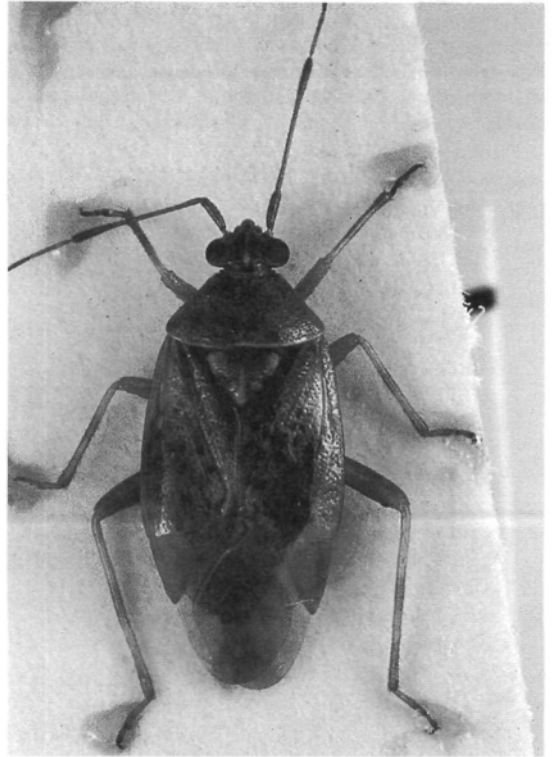


Fig. 4 *Romna tenera* n. sp. allotype ♀.

Recently I collected 10 adults and many 4th and 5th instar nymphs at Wilton's Bush, Wellington, on native golden totara trees, *Podocarpus* L'Herit. hybrids (*P. totara* G. Benn. ex D. Don \times *P. acutifolius* Kirk) (Podocarpaceae). There is no doubt that *R. scotti* was breeding on these totaras, so a definite host relationship is now established.

Looking through other relatively recently collected undetermined Miridae, I found two further specimens collected on *P. totara*. Some Deraeocorinae are predacious (Schuh 1995); if *R. scotti* is predacious or partly so, then this link with *Podocarpus* should make it easier to determine its prey.

MATERIAL EXAMINED (NMNZ, NZAC, Australian Museum, Sydney): 9♂ 1♀ plus six 5th instar nymphs WN, Wilton's Bush on *Podocarpus*, 24 Nov 1996, A. C. Eyles; 1♂ (reared from late instar) plus one 4th instar nymph TO, Taumarunui, ex *Podocarpus totara*, 24 Nov 1983, C. F. Butcher.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank the following for the loan of specimens: Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (H. Zettel) for the holotype of *Oxychilophora marginicollis* Reuter; Forest Research Institute (R. Crabtree); Lincoln University (J. Marris); New Zealand Arthropod Collection (M.-C. Larivière); and C. J. Green, Henderson. The habitus

photographs were taken by Andrew Townsend. Funds for this research were provided by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology under contract No. EYL601.

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