

**ELSIELLA, A NEW GENUS FOR *EBORA PLANA* WALKER, 1867
(HEMIPTERA: PENTATOMIDAE)**

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Abstract.—*Elsiella*, a new genus for the "lost" Ecuadorian species *Ebora plana* Walker, 1867, belongs among those genera of the tribe Pentatomini characterized by the specialized elevations on the midline of the pro-, meso-, and metasterna. Its siblinship appears to lie with the genus *Serdia* Stål.

The Ecuadorian species *Ebora plana* was described by Walker (1867: 416-417), along with three Australian species, in his new genus *Ebora*. Commenting upon this species he wrote, "This species may be the type of a distinct genus." Much later Kirkaldy (1909: XXXII) selected the Australian species *Ebora circumdata* Walker as the type-species of *Ebora* and then (1909: 186) placed that genus in synonymy under the genus *Notius* Dallas (1851: 155) in the tribe Halyini; he placed the species *Ebora plana* in his list of "Pentatominae of uncertain position," a status which it has retained.

Now, through the kind and persistent searching of the collection of the British Museum (Natural History) by Dr. W. R. Dolling, Walker's type-specimen has been located. That specimen is in reasonable study condition but the pin broke the scutellum, dislocated the pronotum, and in passing out of the insect's body exploded the metasternal elevation; in addition, dermestids damaged the dorsum of the abdomen and destroyed all the membrane on one wing and the base of the other membrane. Fortunately at least one of each appendage is present. Thus it was possible for my wife, Elsie Herbold Froeschner, to reconstruct nearly the entire dorsal aspect of the holotype (except the base of the membranes) in her drawing (Fig. 1). The original locality label bearing the word "Archidona" is still present. Because the holotype appears so very brittle and has had the abdomen cleaned out by dermestids I made no attempt to dissect it.

Unfortunately the original description omitted mention of most of the important structural characters and thus prevented subsequent generic

placement of the species. The following combination of characters necessitates considering "*Ebora*" *plana* as a member of the tribe Pentatomini in the subfamily Pentatominae: Head without a preocular angulation; labium arising near anterior ends of the parallel bucculae; antennophores not visible dorsally; antenna five-segmented; pronotum laterally not explanate; elongate scutellum extending beyond apices of frena; hemelytral membranous veins not anastomosing; abdomen ventrally transversely convex (no longitudinal median sulcus) without stridular areas; trichobothria of abdominal segment VII (last pregenital) laterad of line connecting outer margins of spiracles; and three-segmented tarsi.

"*Ebora*" *plana* belongs to that section of the tribe Pentatomini characterized by specialized elevations of the midline of the pro-, meso- and metasterna, the latter abutting against the subbasal elevation of the abdomen. In Rolston et al. (1980) key to American genera of this group, "*Ebora*" *plana* would be a member of the genus *Serdia* Stål. In spite of the close sibblingship with *Serdia* implied by common possession of the specialized elevations of the sterna and abdomen and the derived condition of elongate juga meeting anterior to the clypeus, the general aspect of "*Ebora*" *plana* and certain details of structure are certainly not included in the present concept of *Serdia*. To avoid destroying the current uniformity of *Serdia* by expanding it to accommodate "*Ebora*" *plana* before genitalic features can be examined, a new genus *Elsiella* is proposed for that species.

The following couplet presents a ready means of separating the two genera:

- Antennal segment II much shortened, distinctly less than $\frac{1}{2}$ as long as segment III. Metapleural evaporatium not rugose. General coloration dull sordid yellow with numerous fuscous punctures *Serdia* Stål
- Antennal segment II much longer, about $\frac{4}{5}$ as long as segment III. Metapleural evaporatium strongly rugose. General coloration shining reddish chestnut with concolorous punctures *Elsiella*, new genus

Elsiella Froeschner, NEW GENUS

Figs. 1, 2

Description.—Broadly oblong oval; greatest width (across abdomen near apex of scutellum) slightly more than $\frac{1}{2}$ length (ratio 60:112). Dorsal and ventral surfaces shining, former with numerous close set fine distinct punctures, venter distinctly convex, strongly punctate on pleura, vaguely punctate on sides of abdomen. Head and anterior $\frac{2}{3}$ of pronotum declivitous.

Head triangular, median length equalling width of vertex plus one eye; eye immersed about $\frac{1}{2}$ way in head, in contact with anterior margin of pronotum (distorted in pinned holotype, hence illustrated (Fig. 1) as re-

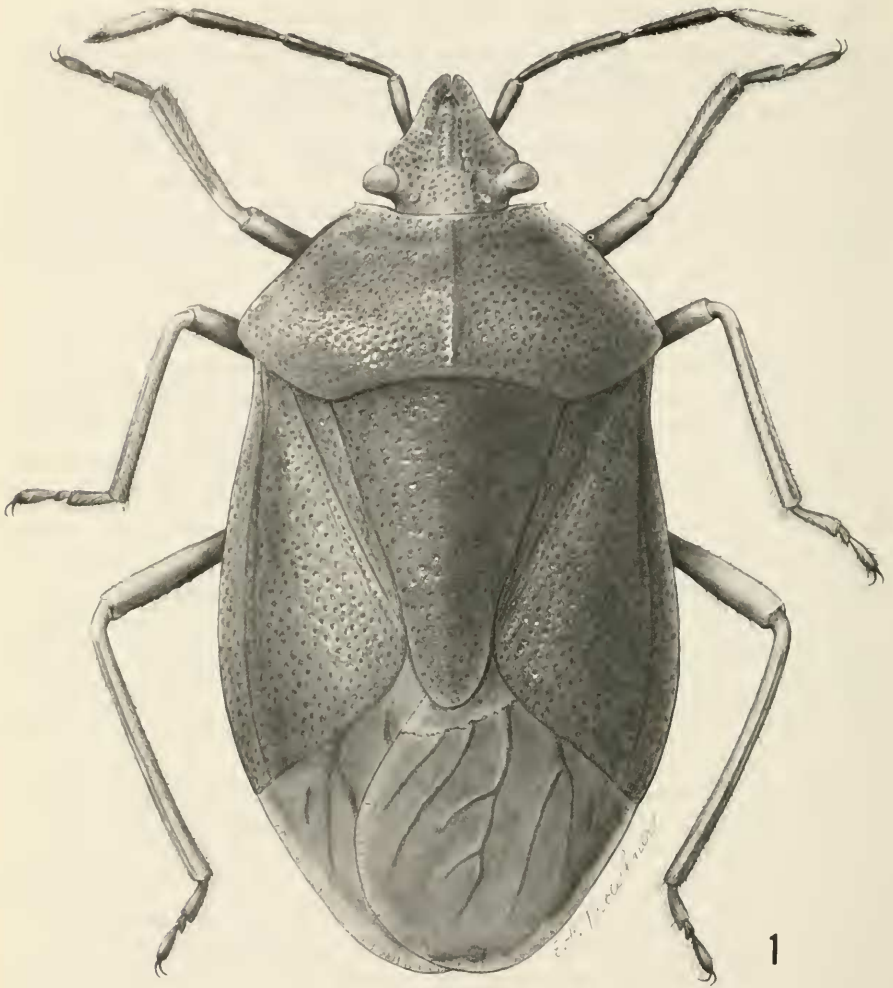


Fig. 1. *Elsiella plana*. Dorsal view of holotype (partially reconstructed: head probably should be inserted up to eyes).

moved from anterior margin); juga with apices obliquely elevated, distinctly surpassing and contiguous anterior to apex of clypeus. Ocelli situated well behind imaginary line connecting posterior margins of eyes. Interocellar space approximately $3\times$ space between ocellus and closest eye. Antenna slender, cylindrical, 5-segmented, segment I attaining apex of head, ratio of segments I-V, 40:35:45:60:97. Bucculae as long as labial segment I, gradually evanescent posteriorly. Labium reaching between posterior coxae, segments I-IV in the ratios 45:85:65:58.

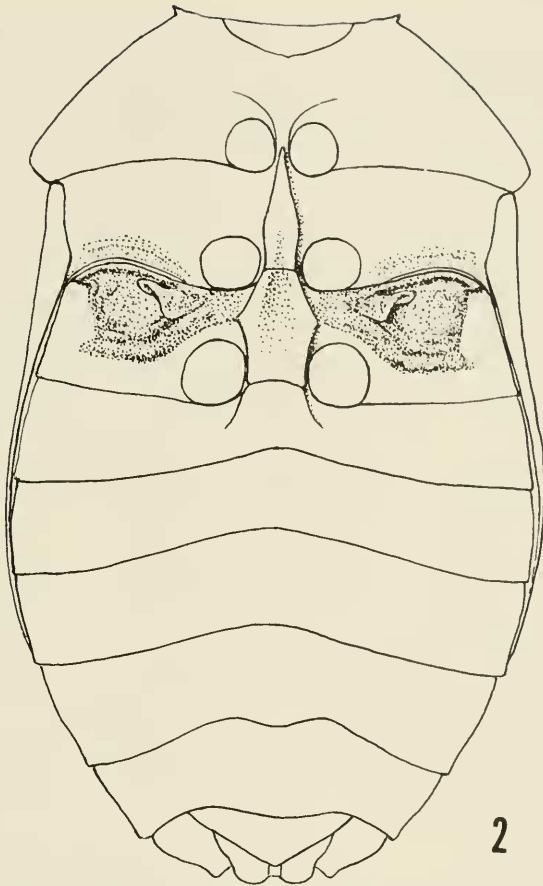


Fig. 2. *Elsiella plana*. Ventral view of thorax and abdomen.

Pronotum more than twice as wide as median length (ratio 154:65). Lateral margins slightly but distinctly recurved. Anterolateral angle projecting laterally as a very small, acute tooth. Humeral angle roundly subrectangular, not produced. Posterior margin gently concave. Median line marked by a slight, irregular carina.

Scutellum nearly $1\frac{1}{2}\times$ as long as basal width (ratio 114:81). Surface more sparsely punctate than pronotum or corium. Each basal angle with a deep, concolorous fovea. Frenum reaching apical $\frac{1}{3}$.

Hemelytron with costal outline weakly concave on basal $\frac{1}{4}$, convex beyond. Apical margin of corium mostly straight, convexly curved near scutellum. Punctures close set throughout, somewhat denser on exocorium. Membrane (reconstructed on drawing) reaching apex of abdomen; venation mostly simple, one vein with 2 branches.

Femur not armed. Tibia terete, dorsal surface with a very shallow sulcus ending basally at an obsolete conical tubercle. Tarsal segment I subequal to II plus III, II very short.

Prosternum transversely slightly elevated. Mesopleuron with posterior $\frac{1}{4}$ bearing a distinctly rugose, impunctate, dulled evaporatorium. Mesosternal median line narrowly pentagonally elevated; elevation longitudinally convex, transversely flattened; broadest basal part slightly wider than labial segment III; posterior margin weakly concave, abutting against elevated metasternum. Metapleural evaporatorium occupying all but broad lateral and posterior margins of segment. Ostiolar sulcus short, reaching less than $\frac{1}{2}$ way from ostiole to lateral margin of metapleuron. Metasternum elevated, surface slightly impressed; anteriorly as wide as elevation of mesosternum; sides diverging for about $\frac{1}{2}$ their length, thence subparallel; widest part between posterior coxae about as wide as a coxal diameter; posterior margin shallowly concave, abutting against the broad subbasal elevation of the abdomen. Abdomen, except for the polished, impunctate, broad, median stripe and lateral edges, with numerous well-separated weak to obscure punctures.

Type-species: *Ebora plana* Walker, monotypy and present designation.

This genus is named for my wife, Elsie Herbold Froeschner, whose more than 40 years of companionship, knowledge of science, artistic abilities, and sympathetic understanding of systematic entomology have made my life and my works better than they could have been without her.

Elsiella plana (Walker), NEW COMBINATION

Ebora? plana Walker, 1867: 416–417.

Length, 11.8 mm.

So far this species is known only from the type-specimen.

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