CONCERNING GERRIS (GERRISELLA) POISSON AND A NEW GENUS FOR SOME NEW WORLD GERRIS SPECIES

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In 1940 Dr. Raymond Poisson described Gerris settembrinoi from Belgian Congo, and placed it in the new subgenus Gerrisella. In our generic revision of the Gerridae we have occasion to reevaluate generic and subgeneric characters in the family. Through the kindness of Dr. A. Collart we have been privileged to study the types of this species preserved in the Royal Museum of Natural History of Belgium. Careful examination has indicated that the species in question does not belong to the genus Gerris, but represents a valid genus. Gerris (Gerrisella) settembrinoi Poisson thus is the type species of the genus Gerrisella, which we describe below.

There is no label on any specimen to mark it as holotype, allotype, or paratype. However, in the description by Poisson we find “Distribution : Congo belge, distr. Congo-Ubangi. 1 mâle et 1 femelle macroptères (types); 1 mâle et 1 femelle aptères sans rudiments élytraux: Kogbwa, 10 XII, 1935 (G. Settembrino) Mus. Roy. Hist. Nat. Belgique”. Therefore it is clear that the macropterous male and female are the types in the sense of holotype and allotype, and that the apterous forms are paratypes, or more precisely morphotypes. We therefore place a lectotype label on the macropterous male.

Gerrisella Poisson

Figure 1, Figure 2 (A-D)

Head with eyes relatively large. Eyes prominent with inner margin greatly indented, thus head greatly widened posteriorly between eyes. Clypeus elevated, well defined on basal margin. Labrum slender and elongate. Antennae slender, first segment about as long as second and third segments together, second, third and fourth segments subequal in length. Rostrum with terminal segment on mesosternum.

Pronotum in apterous forms only feebly produced, with broadly rounded posterior margin; posterior margin of mesonotum rounded; metasternum about one fourth as long as mesosternum; omphalium present. Front leg moderately stout, without sexual difference in shape; femur distinctly longer than tibia; first tarsal segment greatly reduced. Middle leg much longer than hind leg; femur a little longer than tibia; first tarsal segment about three times as long as second. Hind leg with femur almost four times as long as tibia; first tarsal segment only slightly longer than second.

Abdomen without connexival spines in both sexes. Seventh segment longer than sixth in both sexes. Male without median emargination on ventral posterior margin of seventh segment; eighth segment greatly prolonged dorsally and with broadly rounded posterior margin; pygophore

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simply rounded on apical margin; paramere greatly reduced and hidden; suranal plate with ventrally directed lateral flaps (Poisson described these as “griffes génitales” in fig. 3, A, g 1940). Female with seventh segment much longer than sixth; eighth segment well exposed.

Figure 1.
Left, the wingless male of Gerrisella settembrinoi Poisson. Right, the winged male of the same species.

MACROPTEROUS FORMS: Pronotum with humeri located at middle. Forewing with Subc.2 united with R+M at the point of branching into R and M.

The genus Gerrisella is distinguishable from Gerris in the following key characters:

1. The pronotum is only feebly prolonged in wingless forms in Gerrisella.
Figure 2.

A. *Gerrisella settembrinoi* Poisson, The male antenna.
B. *Gerrisella settembrinoi* Poisson, The female front leg.
C. *Gerrisella settembrinoi* Poisson, Ventral view of the female abdomen.
D. *Gerrisella settembrinoi* Poisson, Lateral view of the male apical abdominal segments. a, The suranal plate.
E. *Eurygerris fuscinervis* (Berg), a, The anterior lobe of the pronotum b, The posterior lobe of the pronotum c, The mesonotum.
F. *Eurygerris fuscinervis* (Berg), The male front leg.
2. The hind tibia is about one-fourth as long as femur, while it is at least one half as long as femur in Gerris.

3. The lateral margin of the suranal plate in the male of Gerrisella is modified.

4. In macropterous forms the humeri are closer to the middle of the pronotum in Gerrisella than in Gerris.

In our study of the Western Hemisphere species assigned to Gerris there is one group of species which stands quite apart from all the others. This is apparent in the key to Gerris in “The Gerrinae of the Western Hemisphere” by C. J. Drake and H. M. Harris (1934) and also in “Gerrinae in the University of Kansas Collection” by Louis C. Kuitert (1942). We propose for them:

**Eurygerris** gen. nov.

Type species of the genus: *Gerris fuscinervis* (Berg)

**Figure 2** (E-G)

Body widened across mesoacetabula. Female considerably larger than male in most species.

Antennae with first segment longer than second, shorter than second and third together, second, third and fourth subequal in length. Pronotum in wingless forms not prolonged to posterior margin of mesonotum or, if it is, anterior lobe distinctly sutured off (mexicanus Champion). Sc. vein of forewing united with R+M before the point of branching into R and M respectively (except in an occasional mexicanus). Omphalium present. Male front femur strongly arched and depressed on inner margin basally; first tarsal segment as long as or only slightly longer than second. Middle leg with femur a little longer than tibia; tibia usually curved; first tarsal segment five to six times as long as second. Hind leg shorter than middle leg; femur much longer than tibia. Abdomen without connival spines; seventh segment longer than sixth in both sexes. Pygophore simply rounded on apical margin. Paramere vestigial. Suranal plate simple.

To this genus belong the following species: *Eurygerris fuscinervis* (Berg), *E. mexicanus* Champion, *E. flavolineatus* Champion, *E. beieri* Drake and Harris, *E. cariniventris* Champion, *E. kahli* Drake and Harris, *E. summatus* Drake and Harris, and *E. carmelus* Drake and Harris.

Since *E. summatus* Drake and Harris is known only from females it is not mentioned in the published keys which are based upon males.

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