A NEW GENUS (PLUMERELLA) AND A NEW SPECIES OF GRASS FEEDING LEAFHOPPER FROM MEXICO

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A NEW GENUS (PLUMERELLA) AND A NEW SPECIES OF GRASS FEEDING LEAFHOPPER FROM MEXICO

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The specimens from which the following genus and species are described seem to live at a quite definite and limited ecological range. They occur only in the alpine flora at altitudes of 10,000 to 10,500 feet in the tropical portion of the Sierra Madre Mountains. A large series of specimens were collected from tall, thick tufts of bunch grass growing under the pines and firs on the slopes at the tops of the range at Rio Frio, some 30 miles from Mexico City. Extensive collecting at different altitudes and in many associations indicates that this species occurs only at this altitude and under these specific conditions.

Genus **Plumerella** N. G.

In general appearance resembling *Draeculacephala* and closely related to it. Vertex more elongate and tubular, the upper surface is convexly rounded from the lateral margins, not depressed, evenly sloping from anterior portion of pronotum to blunt apex. Ocelli minute, on posterior portion of vertex, three-fourths the distance from apex to pronotum Face long, contour almost straight in profile or slightly concave from apex of vertex to clypeus. Body elongate, narrow, elytra without reticulate cross veins at apex.

Genotype, *alpina*, n. sp.

At the present time specimens from which this genus is described are known only from Mexico. Dr. C. C. Plummer assisted in collecting the original series, as well as many other interesting species, and I take pleasure in naming this genus in his honor.

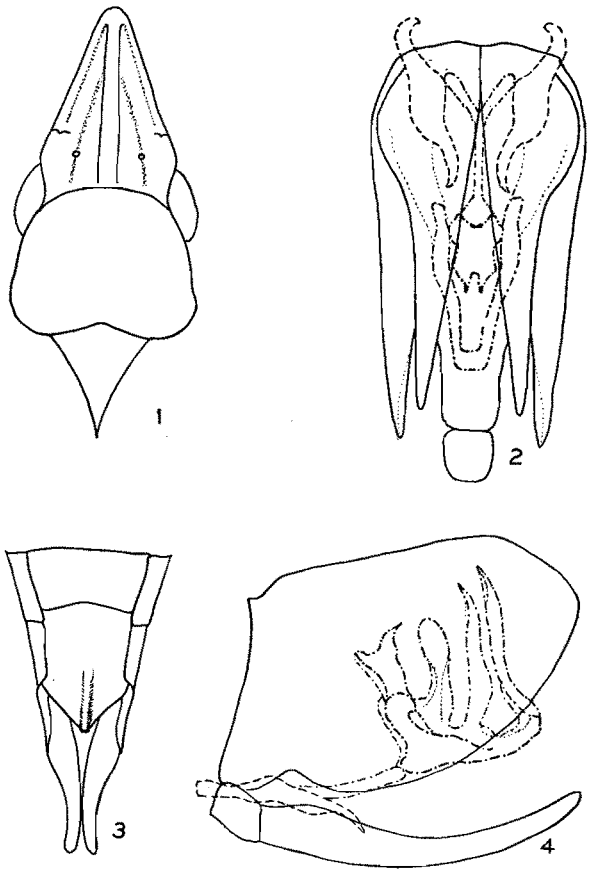
Plummerella alpina n. sp.

(Figs. 1–4)

Superficially resembling a "long nosed" species of *Draeculacephala*. Length, 7.5–9 mm.

Vertex strongly produced, apex blunt, about one-fourth longer on middle than basal width between eyes. Convexly rounded between lateral margins. Margin thick at apex. Ocelli minute, distant from eyes and more than three-fourths the distance from apex to pronotum. Pronotum deeply, broadly notched at middle on posterior margin.

Color.—Dark green, yellow and marked with black. Vertex yellowish, central half sometimes rusty in color. A pair of proximal narrow black longitudinal lines on middle. In well marked specimens with a pair of longitudinal, divergent lines from apex which are often broken and pass through the ocelli. Pronotum yellow to dark green, usually with black longitudinal lines at margin, a longitudinal line at middle, and one on outer margin either side of darker median color band. Scutellum



Plummerella alpina. 1. Dorsal view of head and pronotum. 2. Ventral view of male genitalia. 3. Ventral view of apical portion of female abdomen. 4. Lateral view of male genitalia showing aedeagus.

yellow, a pair of small, proximal black dashes just behind margin of pronotum and a proximal pair on disc. Elytra dark green, veins paler but not conspicuous. Face varying from entirely black in the males with a few pale areas on clypeus and lorae, to a broad, black elongate band in females, extending from apex to tip of clypeus. Marginal line on vertex and a few arcs just beneath dark brown to black.

Genitalia.—Female last ventral segment roundedly produced posteriorly and distinctly keeled on middle at apex. Male plates long and slender, triangular with long alternate apices which almost reach the apices of the pygofers. Male styles with apical fourth narrowed, central half broad, and basal fourth narrowed with tip curved inwardly. The aedeagus is a complicated structure with a series of processes extending dorsally from the ventral base. At the anterior end is a pair of short basal processes, between which is another process which is divided apically into two divergent portions which are broadened at their apices; just posterior to this is a tubular structure which is broadly rounded at apex. The two processes which are posterior to the tube are longer and have pointed apical tips, the posterior of the two being slightly longer.

Holotype male, allotype female and male and female paratypes from Rio Frio, Mexico, D. F., October 7 and 18, 1941, collected by C. C. Plummer, J. S. Caldwell, E. E. Good and the author, in the author's collection, and paratypes in the U. S. National Museum collection. A series of specimens are also at hand labeled "Mexico" and kindly loaned for study by Dr. Edward S. Ross, Assistant Curator of Insects at the California Academy of Sciences. These have been made paratypes and are deposited in the insect collection of that institution.