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Dictyopharidae planthoppers from Madagascar (Hemiptera: Fulgoroidea) – paucity of knowledge or paucity of fauna?

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Dictyopharidae Spinola, 1839 is a moderately large family of planthoppers (Hemiptera: Fulgoroidea) with 167 genera and 739 species recorded (Bourgoin 2015). These planthoppers are gathered in two subfamilies: Dictyopharinae Spinola, 1839 – generally macropterous and usually with anteriorly prolonged head and distributed worldwide; and Orgeriinae Fieber, 1872 – brachypterous (flightless) and smaller, with thickened short tegmen and rounded body, distributed in the arid regions of the Holarctic.

Continental Sub-Saharan Africa hosts 104 known species of Dictyopharidae tribes: Aluntini, Capenini, Orthopagini, Nersiini, Hastini, and majority of 80 known species is placed within Dictyopharini.

Contrary, the Dictyopharidae of Madagascar are extremely scarce: – *Aluntia hova* Nast, 1949 (Aluntini) and *Zaputala bourgoini* Emeljanov, 2008 (Dictyopharini) were known so far. A few more taxa were found recently comprising another species of Aluntini, transferred together with *Aluntia hova* to the newly established genus (Song et al. in press), and two new genera of Dictyopharini.

The Dictyopharidae of Oriental Asia are also quite numerous and diversified, with 95 species reported of the tribes: Aluntini, Arjunini, Dictyopharini, Hastini, Nersini and Orthopagini, and with majority of species divided between Orthopagini (50 species) and Dictyopharini (25 species).

Then the reasons for extremely low diversity of Dictyopharidae in Madagascar claims for attention. Is it the taxonomic bias in collecting and elaborating the fauna?

Could be reasons of such an image in biological properties of Dictyopharidae? Maybe ecological factors are limiting dictyopharid diversity in Madagascar? Or it is biogeographical history of the island, resulting in paucity of Dictyopharidae in Madagascar? These questions are raised, but for the moment only a few hypotheses could be presented, urging for testing and verification.