



***Afrostilobezzia*, a new genus of predatory biting midges from the Afrotropical Region (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae)**

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Abstract

A new genus *Afrostilobezzia* **gen. nov.** including *A. clastrieri* **sp. nov.** and *A. ornatithorax* (Clastrier, 1988) **comb. nov.** is described from West Africa (Nigeria and Guinea).

Key words: Ceratopogonidae, Ceratopogonini, *Afrostilobezzia*, new genus, new species, Africa

Introduction

Biting midges are a relatively well-studied, large family of the nematoceros Diptera. The recent World fauna of this family comprises over 6200 species grouped in 111 genera and 4 subfamilies (Borkent 2015). However, although they are present on every continent except Antarctica, our knowledge of their taxonomy and geographical distribution is unsatisfactory. Especially neglected is the fauna of the Afrotropical Region, where ca. 700 species in 50 genera have been reported (de Meillon & Wirth 1991). In addition, the South African biting midge fauna has a relatively high level of endemism.

The paper describes and illustrates a new genus and a new species of the Ceratopogonini. Containing exclusively predatory biting midges, this tribe is represented by ca. 1000 extant species in 58 genera (Borkent 2015), of which over 120 species in 25 genera, including 15 endemic genera, are known from the Afrotropical Region (Wirth & Grogan 1988, de Meillon & Wirth 1991).

Material and methods

Two females from the collection of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Parasitology, University of Gdańsk, and the Museum national d'Histoire naturelle in Paris were examined.

The specialized morphological terms and abbreviations used in the paper follow those explained by Wirth & Grogan (1988) and de Meillon & Wirth (1991). The photographs were taken with a Leica DM6000 using LAS Montage multifocus.

Systematics

Subfamily Ceratopogoninae

Tribe Ceratopogonini

***Afrostilobezzia* gen. nov.**

Type-species: *Afrostilobezzia clastrieri* **sp. nov.**, by present designation.