Systematic notes on Dolichopodidae (Diptera)
of Tristan da Cunha

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Hydrophorus carmichaeli (Walker), H. christopherseni Frey and H. tristanensis (Macquart) are transferred to Hydatostega. New records are given for H. carmichaeli and H. tristanensis.

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Introduction

Only three species of long-legged flies are known from the South Atlantic Tristan da Cunha Islands (Frey, 1954). Two of them were originally described in the genus Medetera Fischer von Waldheim, 1819 (Dyte, 1967). All the species have been included in the Afrotropical catalogue within the genus Hydrophorus Fallén, 1823 (Dyte & Smith, 1980). Later, Grichanov (1997) has not mentioned them in his review of Afrotropical Hydrophorinae because of their uncertain position.

I have examined recently the material of all three species listed by Frey (1954) and deposited in the Helsinki Zoological Museum (ZMH). The examination has revealed that they should be transferred to the hydrophorine genus Hydatostega Philippi, 1865. The cluster of long pale hairs on the mesanepimeron just anterior to the spiracle distinguishes this genus from all others in the subfamily (Hurley, 1995). Hydatostega has been recently restored and separated from Hydrophorus by Hurley (1995). Three species of the genus are known from the Nearctic and restricted mainly to montane regions (Pollet et al., 2004). At least five species have been found in the Neotropics; they are confined to high altitudes or high latitudes (Hurley, 1995).

Hydatostega carmichaeli (Walker), comb. n.


Material examined. Tristan da Cunha: 11♂♀, Inaccessible I., Malaise trap, on slight cliff face, on water surface, and net sweeping along water edge; 6, 10 and 19.X. 1989 (A.J. Gardiner & H. Barber) [NMP].

Hydatostega christopherseni (Frey), comb. n.


Hydatostega tristanensis (Macquart), comb. n.

= Medeterus [sic] tristanensis Macquart, 1847a: 72 (in separate, 1847b: 56).


Key to Hydatostega species of Tristan da Cunha

1. Two pairs of strong scutellar setae; lateral scutellars half as long as median ones. Acrostichal setae distinctly biseriate, numerous. Body length 5.0-5.5 mm
   
   - One pair of strong scutellar setae and 1-2 short lateral hairs. Acrostichal setae absent, or only 2-3 pairs of acrostichals present

2. Fore femur with at least 5 long setae, as long as femur diameter. Palpus and fore coxa (anteriorly) densely covered with long yellow hairs. Larger species: body length 6-7 mm
   
   - Fore femur with setae that are not longer than half of femur diameter. Hairs on palpus and fore coxa sparser and shorter. Smaller species: body length 4-5 mm

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References


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