

Review of the genus *Villa* Lioy (Bombyliidae, Diptera) from Egypt, with descriptions of two new species

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Abstract

A review of the genus *Villa* Lioy in Egypt was carried out. Seven species were found, two of them are described as new, namely: *V. efflatouni* **sp. nov.** and *V. stenozoides* **sp. nov.**; *V. aegyptiaca* Engel is raised to species level (**stat. nov.**) and a lectotype designated; and *V. bivirgata* Austen and *V. panisoides* Bezzi are recorded for the first time from Egypt. Another two species, *V. cana* (Meigen) and *V. micrargyra* (Walker) were previously recorded in Egypt. The study of type specimens showed that *V. senecio* (Loew), wrongly recorded from Egypt, is a synonym of *V. ixion* (Fabricius) **syn. nov.** A key, diagnoses, and illustrations of genitalia and wings of some species are provided.

Key words: *Villa*, *V. efflatouni* **sp. nov.**, *V. stenozoides* **sp. nov.**, Egypt, Bombyliidae, Diptera, taxonomy.

Introduction

The great Egyptian dipterist, H. C. Efflatoun Bey (1893–1957) and his associates made extensive collections of Egyptian Bombyliidae. He published the first part of a monograph on Egyptian Bombyliidae covering the 'Homeophthalmae' in 1945 but did not complete the work. After his death Dr J. Bowden was commissioned to study the 'Tomophthalmae' and produce the second part of the work but did not publish his results. However, he did add identification labels to many specimens including many of genus *Villa*.

Earlier, Efflatoun Bey sent specimens to the Italian dipterist, Mario Bezzi, who published the first review of the Egyptian Bombyliidae (Bezzi, 1925, 1926) which provides a key and notes on five species—*V. cana* (Meigen) as *V. quinquefasciata* (Meigen), *V. haesitans* Becker, *V. micrargyra* (Walker), *V. senecio* (Loew) and *V. ventruosa*