



## Long-legged flies (Diptera: Dolichopodidae) in the collection of the Natal Museum: A review of C.H. Curran's types, new synonyms, and new combinations

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### Abstract

C.H. Curran's Dolichopodidae types in the collection of the Natal Museum are reviewed. *Campsicnemoides* Curran, 1927, is placed here in synonymy to *Acropsilus* Mik, 1878 (**syn. nov.**; male holotype of *Campsicnemoides vorax* Curran, 1927, has been examined in the collection of NMSA, redescribed and illustrated, and a new combination is here proposed, *Acropsilus vorax* (Curran, 1927), **comb. nov.**). The following recombinations are also proposed (**comb. nov.**): *Trigonocera munroi* (Curran, 1926c) [*Diaphorus*], *Micromorphus aristalis* (Curran, 1926a) [*Sympycnus*], *Peloropecodes niger* (Curran, 1926a) [*Sympycnus*]. The following synonyms are proposed in this paper (**syn. nov.**): *Sympycnus discrepans* Parent, 1934, *S. rusticus* Parent, 1935, and *S. allotarsis* Meuffels & Grootaert, 2007, are placed in synonymy to *Sympycnus basilaris* (Curran, 1924); *Diaphorus inversus* Curran, 1924, is placed in synonymy to *Diaphorus dasyncnemus* Loew, 1858; *Medetera longitarsis* Curran, 1924, and *M. afra* Curran, 1927, are placed in synonymy with *Medetera simplicis* Curran, 1924.

**Key words:** Diptera, Dolichopodidae, *Campsicnemoides*, *Acropsilus*, South Africa, new synonym, new combination, C.H. Curran

### Introduction

Wiedemann (1824, 1830), Walker (1849) and Loew (1858, 1860) were the first who described a few long-legged flies from southern Africa prior to Curran's treatment of plentiful unsorted material collected mainly by H.K. Munro (Curran 1924, 1925a, 1926a, 1926b, 1926c, 1927, 1929). Only a few dolichopodid species were subsequently described from South Africa (Parent 1932, 1934, 1939; Vanschuytbroeck 1960; Naglis 1999).

Afrotropical long-legged flies have been actively studied over the last decade by Grichanov (see References). However, our knowledge about southern African, and especially South African, dolichopodids is far from being comprehensive. Study of Curran's types is an important step in investigation of the South African Dolichopodidae as some of his species were rather briefly described and not illustrated, and others were misplaced by Curran at generic level. In addition, many new genera have been described after Curran's work, while some have been synonymized or raised from synonymy. The present paper was prompted by vast materials accumulated at the Natal Museum and by an opportunity for the senior author to visit this famous dipterological collection.