



***Parameristomerinx copelandi*—a new genus and species of Afrotropical
Pachygastrinae and a new generic synonym of *Dolichodema* Kertész
(Diptera: Stratiomyidae)**

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Abstract

A new genus and species, *Parameristomerinx copelandi* **gen. et sp. n.** (Diptera: Stratiomyidae: Pachygastrinae) is described from material from Kenya. This genus is similar to the Afrotropical genera *Meristomerinx* Enderlein, 1914 and *Meristomerina* James, 1952. A new generic synonym is also proposed, *Nemodema* Lindner, 1958 = *Dolichodema* Kertész, 1916, **syn. n.** A key is included for the six genera related to *Meristomerinx*.

Key words: Diptera, Stratiomyidae, Pachygastrinae, *Parameristomerinx*, *Dolichodema*, Afrotropical

Introduction

The Afrotropical genera of pachygastrine Stratiomyidae that have previously been placed in the tribe Meristomerini (Enderlein 1914; James 1952) are generally similar in appearance and likely form a monophyletic group, although this has not been studied in an analytical fashion. The two Oriental genera included in the tribe by James (1952), *Stratiosphecomyia* Brunetti and *Parastratiosphecomyia* Brunetti, are less similar in appearance and may not be related. In subsequent publications James and other authors have not formally recognized the tribe Meristomerini (e.g., James 1980; Woodley 1987, 1997). This is reasonable since Pachygastrinae contain more than 175 genera (Woodley 2001), of which some are poorly defined, and others have not been critically studied on a worldwide basis since the early part of the 20th Century (Kertész 1916).

Pachygastrinae are separated from other stratiomyids primarily based on the absence of vein M_3 . Within the Afrotropical pachygastrines, the *Meristomerinx* group of genera can be separated from other genera in the subfamily based on two wing venational characters. First, vein R_{2+3} originates well beyond crossvein r-m such that the segment of Rs between r-m and the origin of R_{2+3} is longer to much longer than r-m itself. R_{2+3} thus arises well beyond the middle, and sometimes beyond the apex, of the discal cell in these genera. (In *Ashantina* Kertész, R_{2+3} originates near the middle of the discal cell, and the section of Rs between r-m and R_{2+3} is about as long as r-m). Second, the section of vein CuA_1 that forms the posterior edge of the discal cell is shorter to much shorter than the section of the vein between the anteroapical edge of cell cup and the discal cell. (In *Ashantina*, the section of CuA_1 forming the posterior edge of the discal cell is slightly longer than the other section). The following key will separate the genera placed near *Meristomerinx*. Even though it conflicts slightly with the venational characters as noted above, *Ashantina* is included in this key as it has traditionally been placed in this group of genera and probably forms a monophyletic group with them.