



Revision of *Epyris afer* (Magretti, 1884), comb. rev. (Hymenoptera: Bethylidae) with new synonymy and description of two new species

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Abstract

Pristocera afra Magretti, 1884 which currently belongs to genus *Epyris* Westwood is revised and redescribed. The lectotype of *P. afra* Magretti is designated. New synonymy is proposed for *Epyris afer* (Magretti, 1884): *Epyris pilosipes* Kieffer, 1904, **syn. nov.**; *Epyris analis* Kieffer, 1905, **syn. nov.**; *Epyris secundus* Brues, 1906, **syn. nov.**; *Epyris rugicollis* Cameron, 1906, **syn. nov.**; *Epyris plurilineata* Turner, 1928, **syn. nov.** Two new species *Epyris enerterus* Stein & Azevedo, **sp. nov.** (Myanmar) and *Epyris penatii* Stein & Azevedo, **sp. nov.** (Sudan) are described and illustrated. *Epyris afer* (Magretti) is newly recorded from Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Key words: Epyrinae, *Disepyrus*, *Lytepyris*, *Pristocera*, new synonymy, lectotype designation

Introduction

Magretti (1884) described *Pristocera afra* based on five syntypes collected on flowers of Asclepiadoideae from Sudan and Ethiopia. According to him, the main diagnostic characters to identify this species were the five prepectal discal carinae, the metasoma black basally and reddish apically and the legs brown-reddish. In Magretti's work there is no evidence of comparison between this species with similar species, nor any character that justifies its classification as *Pristocera* Klug.

Magretti (1897) observed, among the bethylids from Myanmar collected by Leonardo Fea, specimens that fit his concept of *P. afra*. In that study, he analyzed the concept of this species and transferred it to *Epyris* Westwood. Magretti *op. cit.* reported the similarity of this species with *E. piceiventris* Westwood, 1874 (presently in *Rhabdepyris* Kieffer) and *E. lathrobioides* Westwood, 1874 (presently in *Apenesia* Westwood), both Australian species.

Kieffer (1913) created the genus *Lytepyris* Kieffer, which had as its main diagnostic character, the radial vein shorter than basal vein. The species *E. afer* and *Trachepyrus biscrensis* Kieffer & Marshall, 1906 were included in this genus. Kieffer (1914) designated *L. biscrensis* as type-species of the genus.

While studying the type-species of *Lytepyris* Kieffer and *Disepyrus* Kieffer, Terayama (2004) concluded they had no significant generic differences and proposed the former as junior synonym of the latter. He also transferred the two *Lytepyris* species to *Disepyrus*.

According to Gordh and Móczár (1990) the type depository of *Disepyrus afer* is dubious. However, recently, the syntypes series and some additional specimens of this taxon were found in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria" (MCSN), Genoa (Italy), by Fabio Penati.

Our research show that none of the specimens of *Disepyrus afer* belong to *Disepyrus* but rather to *Epyris*, based on the scutellar pits are not connected by any groove, the setae of the protarsomeres are not stout, the eyes are not large, and the stigma is not large. We observed a wide range of structural variation representing multiple species within the material identified as *D. afer*. Therefore, the aim of this study is to review the taxonomic identity of *D. afer*, designate a lectotype, propose new synonyms, and describe new species previously confused under this name.