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Taxonomic revision of the Afrotropical species of the tribe Eudorylini (Diptera, Pipunculidae)

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ABSTRACT

This paper revises the Afrotropical species of the tribe Eudorylini. The four genera (*Claraeola*, *Clistoabdominalis*, *Dasydorylas*, *Eudorylas*) present in the Afrotropical Region comprise 77 species (4, 4, 8 and 61 species respectively), 15 of them are new to science: *Clistoabdominalis namibiensis*, *Dasydorylas bodocsi*, *D. okongoensis*, *Eudorylas angolae*, *E. barracloughi*, *E. brandbergensis*, *E. femoralis*, *E. gabela*, *E. hirsutus*, *E. lobus*, *E. pectinatus*, *E. pilulus*, *E. protumidus*, *E. rooibergensis* and *E. skorpionensis*. Six new species name combinations are published: *Claraeola hadrosoma*, *Clistoabdominalis crassus*, *Dasydorylas africanus*, *D. evanidus*, *D. minymerus* and *D. turneri*.

Type material for all available species was studied and species are (re)described in detail. Drawings of male and female terminalia are presented and an identification key to the males (only males were available in the majority of the species) is provided as well as individual species diagnoses for an easier species recognition.

Eight new synonymies are proposed: *Dorilas* (*Eudorylas*) *dorsalis* and *Dorilas* (*Eudorylas*) *apiculatus* to *Dasydorylas evanidus*, *Pipunculus* (*Eudorylas*) *fractus* to *Eudorylas amitinus*, *Dorilas* (*Eudorylas*) *pusillus* to *Eudorylas diversus*, *Dorilas* (*Eudorylas*) *modicus* to *Eudorylas encerus*, *Dorilas* (*Eudorylas*) *megacanthus* to *Eudorylas garambensis* and *Dorilas* (*Eudorylas*) *quadratus* and *Pipunculus* (*Eudorylas*) *eremnoptera* to *Pipunculus mutillatus*.

A discussion on earlier methodology of species description within this group, in particular that of D. E. Hardy's works, is given.

INTRODUCTION

Pipunculidae or big-headed flies are usually small or medium sized, inconspicuous flies (except for *Nephrocerus* spp.) and are characterised by their large compound eyes occupying most of the hemispherical head. They are closely related to hover flies (Syrphidae), but can easily be differentiated by their wing venation, the cell r4+5 being open and the vena spuria being absent (Papp and Schumann 2000: 177). A recent paper by Wiegmann et al. (2011) based on molecular data (incl. nuclear gene and total mitochondrium sequences) suggests that Pipunculidae are the sister group to Schizophora.

About 1,400 species have been described world-wide so far, but the fauna is still considered to be poorly known and an estimate of well over 2,000 is given by Skevington and Yeates (2001). During the larval stage pipunculids are almost exclusively endoparasitoids of Auchenorrhyncha; hosts have been recorded from Cicadellidae, Cixiidae, Cercopidae, Flatidae, Fulgoridae, Delphacidae and Membracidae (ferrar 1987). *Nephrocerus* is the only genus to develop in adult tipulidae according to Koenig and Young (2007) and Kehlmaier and Floren (2010). These authors reported larvae of North American and European *Nephrocerus* species and described their life cycle and developmental stages. All species of *Eudorylas* are parasitoids of the homopteran family Cicadellidae with the only exception being australian *E. helluo* (attacking Flatidae) according to Coe (1966). Together with Dryinidae (Hymenoptera) and Strepsiptera, Pipunculidae are considered as the most