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A new species of Spongilla-fly from Western Africa (Neuroptera: Sisyridae)

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Abstract

A new species of spongilla-fly (Neuropterida, Neuroptera, Sisyridae: *Sisyra*) is described from Western Africa (Guinea and Ivory Coast). This new *Sisyra* species differs from all other known African species both in its morphology and genitalia, and it seems to be most closely related to a species in Thailand.

Key words: *Sisyra*, Afrotropical, Guinea, Ivory Coast

Introduction

The neuropteran family Sisyridae (spongilla flies) is a cosmopolitan relict family, recorded from all continents except Antarctica. The two most common genera are: *Sisyra*, with about 40 described species distributed in the Palearctic, Nearctic, Oriental, Australian, and Afrotropical regions, and *Climacia*, with 21 described species from the Americas. Moreover, there are some minor genera: *Sisyrina*, with 2 described species from India and Australia, *Sisyrella*, with two described species from Japan, and *Sisyborina* with 2 described sub-Saharan species (Monserrat 1977; Oswald 2011; Flint 2012). Sisyridae depend on the existence of permanent fresh water and colonies of sponges or Bryozoa, on which the larvae feed.

In sub-Saharan Africa 8 *Sisyra* species and 2 *Sisyborina* species are known (Flint 2012), but data on Afrotropical species of Sisyridae are proportionally scarce compared to other continents (Navás 1910, 1935; Esben-Petersen 1915; Kimmins 1935; Tjeder 1957; Smithers 1957, 1961; Tjeder 1976; Meinander 1978; Elouard 1981). Furthermore, most sub-Saharan sisyrids seemed to be limited to Southern and Eastern Africa (Mansell 2010). Recently, Flint (2012) provided new data from Western Africa, expanding the geographical distribution range of spongilla flies on the western side of the African continent. Here we present a rather spectacular new species from the Western part of sub-Saharan Africa.

Material and methods

The specimens are preserved dry and pinned, or in ethyl alcohol. For clearing of the genitalia hot lactic acid was used. The terminology for the wing venation follows Tjeder (1957) and the terminology for the genital structures is based on Aspöck *et al.* (1980).

Material examined:

- 1 male, Guinea, Kindia, 1-15.v.1955. F. Schmid leg. (NHMB). The holotype.
- 7 females, 8 males, Ivory Coast, Lamto, river Bandama, 145m, N 06 15 35 / E 05 03 07, 13.viii. 2009. P. Duelli; 1 female and 3 males in 96% ETOH, 6 females and 6 males in 75% ETOH.
- 2 females, 3 males, Ivory Coast, 30km NE Yamoussoukro, Assanou-Gangoro, 182m, N 06 58 00 / E 05 07 00, 15.viii. 2009. P. Duelli and D. Kouakou; in 96% ETOH.

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