



## ***Afrotilobezzia*, a new genus of predatory biting midges from the Afrotropical Region (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae)**

RYSZARD SZADZIEWSKI & PATRYCJA DOMINIAK<sup>1</sup>

*Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Parasitology, University of Gdańsk, Wita Stwosza 59, 80-308 Gdańsk, Poland*

<sup>1</sup>*Corresponding author. E-mail: heliocopris@gmail.com*

### **Abstract**

A new genus *Afrotilobezzia* **gen. nov.** including *A. clastrieri* **sp. nov.** and *A. ornatithorax* (Clastrier, 1988) **comb. nov.** is described from West Africa (Nigeria and Guinea).

**Key words:** Ceratopogonidae, Ceratopogonini, *Afrotilobezzia*, new genus, new species, Africa

### **Introduction**

Biting midges are a relatively well-studied, large family of the nematoceros Diptera. The recent World fauna of this family comprises over 6200 species grouped in 111 genera and 4 subfamilies (Borkent 2015). However, although they are present on every continent except Antarctica, our knowledge of their taxonomy and geographical distribution is unsatisfactory. Especially neglected is the fauna of the Afrotropical Region, where ca. 700 species in 50 genera have been reported (de Meillon & Wirth 1991). In addition, the South African biting midge fauna has a relatively high level of endemism.

The paper describes and illustrates a new genus and a new species of the Ceratopogonini. Containing exclusively predatory biting midges, this tribe is represented by ca. 1000 extant species in 58 genera (Borkent 2015), of which over 120 species in 25 genera, including 15 endemic genera, are known from the Afrotropical Region (Wirth & Grogan 1988, de Meillon & Wirth 1991).

### **Material and methods**

Two females from the collection of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Parasitology, University of Gdańsk, and the Museum national d'Histoire naturelle in Paris were examined.

The specialized morphological terms and abbreviations used in the paper follow those explained by Wirth & Grogan (1988) and de Meillon & Wirth (1991). The photographs were taken with a Leica DM6000 using LAS Montage multifocus.

### **Systematics**

#### **Subfamily Ceratopogoninae**

#### **Tribe Ceratopogonini**

#### ***Afrotilobezzia* gen. nov.**

Type-species: *Afrotilobezzia clastrieri* **sp. nov.**, by present designation.

## References

- Borkent, A. (2015) *World species of biting midges (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae)*. Available from: <http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/cee/FLYTREE/CeratopogonidaeCatalog.pdf> (accessed 11 February 2015)
- Clastrier, J. (1976) Étude systématique du genre *Stilobezzia* [Dipt. Ceratopogonidae]. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France*, New Series, 12, 567–378.
- Clastrier, J. (1988) Description de cinq nouveaux *Stilobezzia* de la République de Guinée (Diptera, Ceratopogonidae). *Nouvelle Revue d'Entomologie*, New Series, 5, 121–132.
- de Meillon, B. & Wirth, W.W. (1991) The genera and subgenera (excluding *Culicoides*) of the Afrotropical biting midges (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae). *Annals of the Natal Museum*, 32, 27–147.
- Kaczorowska, E. (2000) The thoracic morphology of biting midges (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae). *Polish Journal of Entomology*, 69, 87–131.
- Wirth, W.W. & Grogan, W.L. (1988) The predaceous midges of the world (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae; tribe Ceratopogonini). *Flora & Fauna Handbook*, 4, 1–160.