



***Soares testudinarius* gen. et sp. nov. (Hemiptera: Fulgoromorpha: Flatidae), a new representative of the tribe Phantiini from Madagascar**

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Abstract

This paper describes a new flatid genus, *Soares* **gen. nov.**, and a new species *S. testudinarius* **sp. nov.** from Madagascar. The new genus is assigned to the tribe Phantiini (subfamily Flatinae), which is recorded from Madagascar for the first time. Additionally, the illustrations of the female internal genital structures are provided.

Key words: Planthoppers, Phantiini, new record tribe, taxonomy, Madagascar

Introduction

The Flatidae constitutes one of the largest families within the Fulgoromorpha with about 1450 described species in 298 genera distributed worldwide (Bourgoin 2011). These phytophagous insects are highly diverse in terms of their colour and size (from 4.5 up to 32 mm), found on all continents, but are especially common and abundant in the tropics (O'Brien 2002).

Our knowledge on the world fauna of Flatidae is very uneven. There are recent revisions from the Oriental (Medler 1991, 1996, 1999, 2006) and Australasian (Fletcher 1988; Medler 2000) regions. However, less attention was given to the Afrotropic where 231 species in 74 genera have been recorded so far (Medler 1988, 2001).

The data on the flatid fauna of Madagascar, when compared with those of the African continent, seems extremely scarce, in spite of the fact that the island is one of eight important global biodiversity hotspots (Myers *et al.* 2000; Ganzhorn *et al.* 2001; Wilmé *et al.* 2006).

The known flatid fauna of Madagascar consists of 33 species of Flatinae and 37 species of Flatoidinae (Metcalf 1957; Synave 1956). Preliminary studies based on the material from several museum collections indicate that the biodiversity of Flatinae in Madagascar is much higher than previously estimated (Świerczewski & Stroiński 2011; Stroiński & Świerczewski 2011).

The new genus described below belongs to Phantiini—a small flatid tribe established by Melichar (1923), distributed worldwide and containing 12 genera with 35 species. In Afrotropic it is represented by 6 genera and 11 species. Most members of the Afrotropical Phantiini are short, globular species, nearly as broad as long, with overall color brown or rarely green and body length not exceeding 6 mm. Although Medler (2001) in his revision of South African Flatidae mentioned the Phantiini genus *Paroxychara* Lallemand & Synave, 1952 from Madagascar, he did not give any source for this information so we assume that our paper is the first true record of Phantiini for the island.

Material and methods

The studied material comes from the entomological collection of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN), Paris, France.