



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3718.4.3>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:FDB50FF7-78F4-48B0-AF1E-F45106B99FB7>

## Annotated checklist of the flat bug family Aradidae Brullé, 1836 from East Africa (Hemiptera, Heteroptera)

ERNST HEISS

Research Entomologist, Tiroler Landesmuseum, Josef Schraffl Strasse 2a, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria. E-mail: aradus@aon.at

### Abstract

The flat bug fauna of East African countries has never been the subject of a comprehensive study. Most descriptions and distribution data are from colonial times, with most records coming from what is present day Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. In this checklist, the data from all available literature was assembled, and references are given for 16 genera and 37 species.

**Key words:** Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Aradidae, checklist, East Africa, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Mozambique, Zambia

### Introduction

Information on the very rich and diverse flat bug fauna of Africa has been published in very dispersed literature, often making it difficult to obtain. Jacobs (1986) treated the subsaharan species of the genus *Aneurys* Curtis (1825), and Heiss (2012) published an annotated catalogue of the Aradidae from Madagascar and adjacent islands. The only comprehensive list of Aradidae from the entire African continent has to be extracted from the World catalog published by Kormilev & Froeschner (1987).

The present paper assembles all literature data available for the East African countries between about 15° North and 20° South including the following countries (as presently recognized): Ethiopia, South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, parts of Mozambique and Zambia. No aradid records are known from Eritrea, Djibuti, Somalia, Somaliland, Malawi and Zimbabwe which are within this geographical range.

Although the first African aradid species was described by Fabricius in 1798 (*Acanthia membranacea* {now *Brachyrhynchus membranaceus*} from “Cap.Bon.spei” = Cape of Good Hope, South Africa), only a few additional species were described by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Dalman, 1823, Germar, 1837, Signoret, 1858, Stål, 1865 and Bergroth, 1894a,b). The first aradid described from East Africa was *Brachyrhynchus abyssinicus* Bergroth, 1895 (presently *Mezira abyssinica*) from “Abyssinia” [now Ethiopia]; Horvath (1910) described *Neuroctenus socialis* from “Deutsch Ostafrika” [now Tanzania] and *Calisius verruciger* from „Africa orientalis britannica“ [now Kenya], and Mancini (1939) described *Aradus zavattarii* from “Italian East Africa” [now Ethiopia].

The Belgian entomologist H.Schouteden, working on the very rich Heteroptera collections assembled by expeditions to the former “Congo Belge” [now Democratic Republic of the Congo], described numerous Aradidae from that vast and diverse country (Schouteden 1919a, b, 1952). In his 1952 paper, he also reports one species (*Mezira luberoensis*) from Kenya. Additionally, three of his congolese species (*Aneurys congolensis*, *Brachyrhynchus dispar*, *Brachyrhynchus overlaeti*) were later reported by Hoberlandt (1956), Jacobs (1986), and Kormilev (1976) also from East African countries. Schouteden (1952) also described *Mezira ukerewensis* from the Ukerewe Island in Victoria Lake, now belonging to Tanzania.

Some of the taxa described or recorded from Eastern Congo provinces (e.g. Ituri, Kivu or Katanga) which share common borders with East African countries (South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia) may also occur in these countries but are not included in the present checklist.

The great Czech heteropterologist, L. Hoberlandt (1956), studied particularly the African flat bug fauna and