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Revision of *Trichiscus* Benoît, 1956 (Hymenoptera, Bethyridae)

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Abstract

The species of the Afrotropical genus *Trichiscus* are revised. Fourteen species are recognized, two previously described species, *T. wittei* Benoît and *T. suzannae* Benoît, and twelve new: *T. noorti* sp. nov., *T. denisi* sp. nov., *T. briani* sp. nov., *T. copelandi* sp. nov., *T. mourei* sp. nov., *T. lynnae* sp. nov., *T. normani* sp. nov., *T. luboi* sp. nov., *T. zuparkoi* sp. nov., *T. ohli* sp. nov., *T. camargoi* sp. nov. and *T. jimi* sp. nov.. A key to species is proposed.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Bethyridae, *Trichiscus*, Taxonomy, Afrotropical, tergal process, Pristocerinae

Introduction

Trichiscus Benoît is hitherto a genus with two species restricted to Democratic Republic of the Congo (former Belgian Congo) and Rwanda. Both species were described by Benoît (1956, 1986). *Trichiscus* was initially described as subgenus by Benoît (1956) because it is very similar to *Dissomphalus* Ashmead, 1893 except for the fact that the tergal process is placed at the third metasomal segment instead of second. When Benoît (1986) described the second species he erected *Trichiscus* to genus status stating that its species has “*genitalia du male la présence de rami hypertrophiés et de cuspis porteurs d’appendices*” (= male genitalia with large rami and cuspis with appendix) which according to him are “*caractères inconnus chez les Dissomphalus africains*” (= unknown characters in African *Dissomphalus*). Terayama (1996) indicated presence of tergal process in the third metasomal segment as main sinapomorphy for the genus. The females are still unknown.

The main goal of this study is to organize the taxonomic knowledge of the species of *Trichiscus*, based mostly on the review of primary and secondary type material of all available names, and describe the new species found.

Material and methods

The material was kindly provided by the following institutions: CASC—California Academy of Sciences U.S.A. (Robert Zuparko); ISAM—Iziko South African Museum, South Africa (S. van Noort); MRAC—Musée Royal d’Afrique Centrale, Belgium (E. De Coninck); MCZH—Museum of Comparative Zoology, U.S.A. (P. Perkins), NMKE—National Museums of Kenya, Kenya (Robert Copeland); PMAE—Royal Alberta Museum, Canada (Matthias Buck).

Descriptions and illustrations were prepared to only highlight the most important and useful characters in separating the species. The nomenclature of integument sculpture follows Harris (1979), and general terms follow Evans (1964) and Azevedo (1999).

Trichiscus Benoît, 1956

Trichiscus Benoît 1956: 562 (as subgenus of *Dissomphalus* Ashmead); 1986: 293.

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