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## Sawflies of Ethiopia (Hymenoptera: Argidae, Tenthredinidae)

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### Abstract

Sawflies were collected in Ethiopia during 2010–2013. Three species represent new records for the country: *Arge deckerti* Koch, 2005, *Athalia excisa* Koch, 2006 and *Xenapates nigrifrons* Koch, 2012. *Arge flavifrons* Mocsáry, 1909, **syn. n.** and *A. transvaalensis* Cameron, 1911, **syn. n.** are subjective synonyms of *A. micheli* (Buysson, 1900) that is re-described here. *Athalia fumosa* Gribodo, 1879 **sp. rev.** is recognized as a valid species and is removed from synonymy with *A. scioensis* Gribodo, 1879. *Distega braunsi* Enslin, 1911 **syn. n.** and *D. brunniventris* Enslin, 1913 **syn. n.** are subjective synonyms of *D. montium* Konow, 1907. *Pseudoneacidiophora* Koch, 1998 is a new junior synonym of *Kivua* Forsius, 1934 (**syn. n.**), resulting in the new combination *Kivua pleuritica* (**comb. n.**) for *Athalia pleuritica* Forsius, 1927. *Kivua camerunensis* **nom. n.** is proposed for *P. bicolor* Koch, 1998 (preoccupied in *Kivua* by *K. bicolor* (Pasteels, 1949) (*Bicrista bicolor* Pasteels)), the second species formerly included in *Pseudoneacidiophora*. The female of *Distega abyssinica* Pasteels, 1955 is described for the first time. An annotated and illustrated list including six distribution maps is given for Ethiopian sawflies. It is composed of 34 species belonging to the genus *Arge* (Argidae), and seven genera of Tenthredinidae: *Athalia* (Athaliinae), *Kivua*, *Neacidiophora*, *Xenapates* (Allantinae), *Distega*, *Trisodontophyes* (Blennocampinae), and *Dulophanes* (Selandriinae). Some ecological aspects of *Athalia* species are discussed, especially for the most abundantly collected *A. vollenhoveni* Gribodo, 1879.

**Key words:** checklist, geographic distribution, taxonomy, new synonyms, new combinations, new replacement name, host plant, Afrotropical Region, Horn of Africa

### Introduction

Ethiopia is a plant and animal biodiversity hotspot due to its unique topography and geographic situation linking the Palearctic and Afrotropic regions. However, it is heavily and negatively impacted by expanding anthropogenic activities such as agriculture, livestock grazing, and, indirectly, global change, which together eliminated 97% of Ethiopia's original forest (Loader *et al.* 2009; Weinsheimer *et al.* 2010). Exploration of the country is difficult and our knowledge of several major taxonomical groups such as Hymenoptera remains incomplete. The last significant collection of Ethiopian Hymenoptera is from the years 1945–1946 by Ken Guichard (material deposited at the BMNH). A Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) project resumed taxonomic work on the Ethiopian entomofauna from 2010 to 2013 and was mainly devoted to hymenopterans such as bees (*e.g.* Michez & Pauly 2012; Kuhlmann & Pauly 2013; Pauly & Hora 2013). The present work details the sawflies (Hymenoptera: Symphyta) collected during this period, and, more generally, it reviews our knowledge of Ethiopian sawflies.

Sawflies comprise over 8,300 described species, worldwide, including over 900 Argidae and 5,700 Tenthredinidae species (Taeger *et al.* 2010). A major part of sawfly species known from Ethiopia belong to *Athalia*. Taeger *et al.* (2010) listed 46 species for the Afrotropical region (sub-Saharan Africa) and Koch (2010) described two further species for southern Africa. However, this number is expected to be three times higher (Koch 2006). The larvae of most *Athalia* species feed on Brassicaceae such as mustard, turnip and radish, and include significant