

## Descriptions of the males of two recently described South African Panurginae (Hymenoptera: Andrenidae), with updated keys to the African species of *Melitturga* and *Meliturgula*

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### Abstract

No updated key to South African Panurginae species has been produced since the last work of Eardley (1991). In the present paper, descriptions of the unknown sex of 2 recently described species: *Melitturga barbareae* Eardley, 1991 and *Meliturgula eardleyana* Patiny, 2000 are provided, along with updated keys taking into account the taxa described since 1991. The biogeographical characteristics of the concerned taxa are also briefly discussed illustrated with maps.

**Key words:** South Africa, biogeography, Panurginae, *Melitturga*, *Meliturgula*, male

### Introduction

The South African subregion contains 3 panurgine (Andrenidae) genera: *Mermiglossa* Friese, 1913, *Melitturga* Latreille, 1809 and *Meliturgula* Friese, 1903. *Mermiglossa* is a single species genus, endemic in Namibia and considered to belong to the same subtribe (*Mermiglossina*) as the West Palaearctic genus *Plesiopanurgus* Cameron, 1907 (Ascher, 2004; Patiny, 1999, 2001). The two other South-African panurgine genera, *Melitturga* and *Meliturgula*, seem to be sister-genera of each other (Patiny, 1999, 2001). *Melitturga* includes worldwide 16 species distributed in 3 subgenera, *Melitturga* s.str., *Melitturga* (*Petrusianna*) Patiny, 1998 and *Melitturga* (*Australomelitturga*) Patiny, 1999 (including five species; table 1). The latter is the single *Melitturga* group present in the Southern Hemisphere, where it is nearly restricted to Southern Africa. *Meliturgula* is also a widely distributed genus in the Palaearctic and Ethiopian regions. This genus contains twelve species, also subdivided in three subgenera: *Meliturgula* s.str., *Meliturgula* (*Poecilomelitta*) Friese, 1912 and *Meliturgula* (*Popovmeliturgula*) Patiny, 1999. The two first are