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**The subgenus *Stegomyia* of *Aedes* in the Afrotropical Region
with keys to the species (Diptera: Culicidae)**

YIAU-MIN HUANG



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	4
INTRODUCTION	4
MATERIALS AND METHODS	6
Subgenus <i>Stegomyia</i> Theobald	6
CHARACTERISTICS	6
SYSTEMATICS	7
AFFINITY	15
CHARACTERIZATION OF THE GROUPS IN THE AFROTROPICAL REGION	15
THE <i>AEGYPTI</i> GROUP	15
THE <i>AFRICANUS</i> GROUP	16
THE <i>APICOARGENTEUS</i> GROUP	16
THE <i>DENDROPHILUS</i> GROUP	16
THE <i>METALLICUS</i> GROUP	16
THE <i>POWERI</i> GROUP	17
THE <i>PSEUDONIGERIA</i> GROUP	17
THE <i>SIMPSONI</i> GROUP	17
THE <i>GRANTI</i> GROUP	17
THE <i>SCUTELLARIS</i> GROUP	18
THE <i>UNILINEATUS</i> GROUP	18
DISTRIBUTION	18
BIONOMICS	19
MEDICAL IMPORTANCE	19
KEYS TO THE SECTIONS, GROUPS, SUBGROUPS AND SPECIES OF THE SUBGENUS	22
Males and Females	22
THE <i>AEGYPTI</i> GROUP	23
THE <i>AFRICANUS</i> GROUP	24
THE <i>APICOARGENTEUS</i> GROUP	25
THE <i>DENDROPHILUS</i> GROUP	25
THE <i>POWERI</i> GROUP	27
THE <i>PSEUDONIGERIA</i> GROUP	28
THE <i>SIMPSONI</i> GROUP	28

Male Genitalia	29
THE AEGYPTI GROUP	31
THE AFRICANUS GROUP	31
THE APICOARGENTEUS GROUP	32
THE DENDROPHILUS GROUP	33
THE POWERI GROUP	34
THE SIMPSONI GROUP	35
NEW SPECIES OF AEADES (STEGOMYIA) FROM THE AFROTROPICAL REGION	36
<i>Aedes (Stegomyia) ealaensis</i> New Species	36
<i>Aedes (Stegomyia) ethiopiensis</i> New Species	39
<i>Aedes (Stegomyia) gandaensis</i> New Species	41
<i>Aedes (Stegomyia) hogsbackensis</i> New Species	43
<i>Aedes (Stegomyia) mpusiensis</i> New Species	47
<i>Aedes (Stegomyia) sampi</i> New Species	49
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	51
LITERATURE CITED	52
APPENDIX I. Present status of the species of <i>Aedes (Stegomyia)</i> in the Afrotropical Region	109
LIST OF COUNTRY ABBREVIATIONS	111
APPENDIX II. Distribution list of the species of <i>Aedes (Stegomyia)</i> in the Afrotropical Region	112
INDEX	117

ABSTRACT

The subgenus *Stegomyia* Theobald of the genus *Aedes* Meigen in the Afrotropical Region is characterized. Eleven species groups are recognized and diagnosed. The taxonomy, distribution, bionomics and medical importance of the species of the region are discussed and summarized. Keys and illustrations are provided for the identification of the 11 species groups and 59 species and subspecies known to occur in this region. Information on the present status of the species of the African *Stegomyia* is summarized. Six new species: *Aedes ealaensis*, *ethiopiensis*, *gandaensis*, *hogsbackensis*, *mpusiensis* and *sampi* are recognized. *Aedes blacklocki* Evans is restored to specific status. One subspecies, *denderensis* Wolfs is elevated to specific status.

Key words: Mosquitoes, *Stegomyia*, characteristic, systematics, medical significance, identification, new species, Afrotropical Region

INTRODUCTION

On a worldwide basis, *Stegomyia* Theobald is one of the most important subgenera of mosquitoes from the standpoint of transmitting pathogens. *Aedes aegypti* (Linnaeus) is the classical vector of urban yellow fever in the African and American tropics and is also the primary vector of dengue throughout most of the tropical world. *Aedes albopictus* (Skuse) is also an important vector of dengue. African species in the subgenus *Stegomyia* have been implicated as natural hosts, vectors, and/or reservoirs of eight viruses, six of which cause human illness (Chikungunya, dengue 1 and 2, Dugbe, Rift Valley fever, yellow fever and Zika). Chikungunya, dengue and yellow fever are the most important arboviruses associated with *Stegomyia* as Huang (1990) has already noted. Various species of *Stego-*