A new genus and four new species of Isometopinae (Hemiptera: Miridae) from South Africa

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Abstract

Namaquaropus niger gen nov. & sp.nov. is described from South Africa. In addition, two new species of the subgenus Jehania Distant of Isometopus Fieber (I. mirus sp. nov. and I. maculipennis sp. nov.), and Paloniella flavicolor sp. nov. are described. With these, the known species of Isometopinae in South Africa now number sixteen.

Key words: Hemiptera, Miridae, Isometopinae, South Africa

Introduction

The Isometopinae comprises small, generally strongly cryptic insects that are thus usually rare in many collections in the world. They are predaceous on soft-bodied insects, mostly aphids and scale insects, for which they may at times constitute important natural control agents.

The first isometopine from South Africa was described in 1947 as Letaba bedfordi Hesse based on specimens collected on citrus from Letaba, where they were observed to be feeding on the citrus red scale, Chrysomphalus aonidum Linnaeus. Subsequently, Carvalho (1951) described Paramyiomma hemialba from the Cape Province while Hoberlandt (1959) described P. milleri from Transvaal. Slater and Schuh (1969) added six new species namely, Isometopidea miriformis, Magnocellus turneri, and Letaba cuneata from the Cape Province; M. transvaalensis and L. umbrosa from Transvaal; and Myiomma capeneri from Orange Free State. Smith (1967) synonymized Paramyiomma Carvalho with Myiomma Puton, while Akingbohungbe (1996) synonymized Letaba Hesse with Paloniella Poppius, and Magnocellus Smith with Isometopus Fieber. He further erected a new genus, Slateropus for I. miriformis Slater and Schuh, and described S. perplexus, Isometopus insperatus, and I. intermedius as additional new species. Thus, to date, the South African isometopine