

A review of the type material of the Southern African genus *Stenobasipteron* Lichtwardt, 1910 (Diptera: Nemestrinidae), with transfer of two species to *Prosoeca* Schiner, 1867

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Abstract

Stenobasipteron is a long-proboscid genus of Nemestrininae endemic to southeast Africa (South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi), Swaziland and Mozambique being new country records. There has been recent research interest in *Stenobasipteron* by pollination biologists, and a pollination guild centred on a species reputed to be *S. wiedemanni* is now established in the literature. Consequently an urgent need has developed to provide accurate identifications of all described species.

A provisional generic diagnosis is provided, and problems with distinguishing *Stenobasipteron* from *Prosoeca* Schiner are discussed. In addition to the markedly narrowed wing base (a character state traditionally used to identify the genus), the following combination of character states are included in the revised generic diagnosis of *Stenobasipteron*: striking body markings absent, ocellar protuberance not prominent in profile, proboscis subequal to or longer than body length, wing usually appearing mostly brown infusate (infuscation sometimes paler towards posterior margin) and abdominal T3 and T4 with short recumbent vestiture (longer erect hairing nearly always absent).

The revised generic concept of *Stenobasipteron* is now found to include only three named species: *S. arnoldi* Bequaert, 1925 (Zimbabwe), *S. gracile* Lichtwardt, 1910 (Zimbabwe) and *S. wiedemanni* Lichtwardt, 1910 (Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa). A notable fauna of undescribed *Stenobasipteron* species occurs in the Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces (northeastern South Africa), Mozambique, Zimbabwe and probably Malawi. Two species are transferred to *Prosoeca* and the following new combinations are established: *P. difficile* (Bequaert, 1925) (Zimbabwe) and *P. minimum* (Bezzi, 1924) (Western Cape, South Africa). An annotated key to the accepted species of *Stenobasipteron* s.s., largely based on type material, is presented.

Key words: Nemestrinidae, Southern Africa, *Stenobasipteron*, *Prosoeca*, type material, new combinations