Maabella gen. nov. (Streblidae: Ascodipterinae) from Guangxi Province, China and Vietnam with notes on preservation of Ascodipterinae

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Abstract

Endoparasitic Ascodipterinae (Streblidae) were collected from bats from southeast China and northern Vietnam. Among this material, the new genus and species *Maabella stomalata* is described. The dealate females of this new taxon from China were attached over the joints of the wings of *Rhinolophus affinis* Horsfield and *Rhinolophus macrotis* Blyth. They were also removed from the wings of *Rhinolophus paradoxalophus* (Bourret) and *R. macrotis* from Vietnam. Clarification of the relationships of the streblid genera *Ascodipteron* Adensamer, 1896, *Maabella*, and *Paraascodipteron* Advani and Vazirani, 1981 is discussed. Techniques are presented for the preparation and preservation of these small obligate parasites.

Key words: *Ascodipteron*, bat flies, endoparasite, neosome, *Paraascodipteron*, *Rhinolophus*

Introduction

Ascodipterinae (Streblidae) occur only in the Old World and are parasites of bats. Currently two genera belong to this subfamily. They include *Ascodipteron* Adensamer, 1896 and *Paraascodipteron* Advani and Vazirani, 1981. The latter genus was described from one male and this specimen is currently inaccessible in the National Collections of Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. The placement of this genus within the Ascodipterinae is disputable (see discussion). Maa (1965a) revised the African species of *Ascodipteron* and Theodor (1968) subsequently enhanced some descriptions of material from the Afrotropical Region and the Palaearctic Region (Mediterranean Subregion). Twelve species of *Ascodipteron* are currently recognized from these regions [(Afrotropical): Hutson and Oldroyd 1980, Maa 1965a, 1965b, and Theodor 1968;