



Two new species of *Bolbella* Giglio-Tos, 1915 from Southern Africa (Dictyoptera: Mantodea)

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Abstract

The following two new species of the genus *Bolbella* Giglio-Tos, 1915, from Southern Africa, are described as new to science: *Bolbella kaltenbachi* n. sp. (South Africa), *Bolbella uhligi* n. sp. (Zimbabwe). The new species are illustrated with their copulatory apparatus and general habitus, and compared with their closest relatives. Additionally, a key to the males of the genus *Bolbella* is provided.

Key words: Insecta, Dictyoptera, Mantodea, new species, Southern Africa, taxonomy

Introduction

In 1871, Stål described the first species *punctigera* under the genus *Gonypeta*, while today it is acknowledged as belonging to *Bolbella*. At the same time, Saussure (1871) described the synonymical species *Ameles natalensis* which is the same species Stål described as *Gonypeta punctigera*. Westwood, in 1889, described *Gonypeta debilitata* which is also a synonym of *G. punctigera*. In 1915, Giglio-Tos transferred this species to a new genus, *Bolbella*, instituted by himself, which is still accepted today, and sorted it into the subfamily Iridopteriginae. Subsequently, Beier described another species of the genus *Bolbella*, which he called *B. rhodesiaca* Beier, 1930. In the book series *Genera Insectorum*, Beier (1935) classified *Bolbella* under the subfamily Mantinae and the tribe Iridopterygini. Years later, he described another species, *Bolbella brevis* Beier, 1953. This species led him to redefine *Bolbella* (Beier 1953) and to place it within the present-day tribe Amelini instead of within Iridopterygini.

In 1996, Kaltenbach described *Bolbella affinis* in the first part of the monographic letters about Southern Africans mantids. Ehrmann (2002) listed all known species of *Bolbella* with type locality and type depository, and sorted them under the subfamily Amelinae (see also Beier, 1964; 1968; Kaltenbach, 1996; 1998). In the latest complete species catalogue by Otte & Spearman (2005) *Bolbella* is placed in the same subfamily, which includes 27 genera and 138 species.

The holotypes of the new species *Bolbella kaltenbachi* n. sp., *Bolbella uhligi* n. sp., were collected by entomologists of the Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin ZMB in the course of scientific projects.

The terminology for the single parts of the copulatory apparatus are taken from Beier (1968, 1970) and Snodgrass (1937). Genitalia were prepared according to the method set out by Kaltenbach (1998). They were embedded in Euparal on a special label and subsequently attached to their respective type specimen.