



Review of the tribe Aphoebantini Becker (Bombyliidae, Diptera) from Egypt, with description of a new species

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Abstract

A review of the tribe Aphoebantini Becker from Egypt is given. The study recorded five species under two genera, one of the species (*Cononedys bilobatoides* **spec. nov.**) is described and illustrated as new. Three of the four remaining species were originally described from Egypt by Bezzi (1925), namely: *Aphoebantus wadensis* Bezzi, *Aphoebantus dichromatopa* Bezzi, and *Aphoebantus efflatouni* Bezzi. Lectotypes and paralectotypes for these species are designated herein. The fifth species (*Aphoebantus escheri* Bezzi, 1908) was described from Algeria, and recorded only in Algeria and Egypt. A key to the genera and species of Aphoebantini, is provided.

Key words: Bombyliidae, Aphoebantini, *Cononedys bilobatoides*, Egypt, lectotypes

Introduction

The tribe Aphoebantini Becker (Type genus: *Aphoebantus* Loew, 1872) is the most plesiomorphic tribe of subfamily Anthracinae (Yeates, 1994). It is characterized by the presence of an indented eye with bisecting line, two-segmented palpi, costal hook present, R_{2+3} arising at an acute angle close to the origin of R_s (Greathead and Evenhuis 2001). The genera contained in it were included in the Lomatiinae by Bezzi (1924) and Hesse (1956), but transferred to the Anthracinae by Bowden (1980) and Yeates (1994). There are two genera, *Aphoebantus* Loew (1 species) and *Cononedys* Hermann (4 species), representing this tribe in the Egyptian fauna. Bezzi (1924) separated genus *Cononedys* from genus *Aphoebantus* based on the former having cell r_5 and the anal cell closed and pulvilli sometimes present and the latter having these cells closed and pulvilli sometimes distinct. Hermann (1907) noted that *Cononedys* has a closed cell r_5 and a narrower head than *Aphoebantus*. Hull (1973) synonymized *Cononedys* with *Aphoebantus*, but Greathead (1996) concluded that *Cononedys* spp. have a distinctive apomorphic aedeagus and a narrow apodeme on tergite 8 as well as a pear-shaped spermatheca which separate them from *Aphoebantus* spp. He considered *Cononedys* a genus distinct from *Aphoebantus* by the apomorphic state of the aedeagus and the characters of the female genitalia and possibly also the number of flagellomeres. According to Zaitzev (1966), Hull (1973), Yeates (1994), and the recent classification by Greathead and Evenhuis (2001), the two genera can be separated by the antenna with two flagellomeres in the genus *Aphoebantus* while in genus *Cononedys* it has three flagellomeres, and also by the aedeagus which is conical in *Aphoebantus* but elongate and narrow in *Cononedys*.

In the present study, a key for genera and species, diagnoses and some illustrations, especially for genitalia, are provided as an aid to identification. A description of a new species is given as well.