A new synonymy and a new species of Mydidae (Diptera) from Madagascar

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Kondratieff et al. (2005) proposed a new genus of mydas fly, Hessemydas from Madagascar and included two new species, H. parkeri Kondratieff, Carr and Irwin and H. tulear Kondratieff, Carr and Irwin. Additionally, the previously described Leptomydas seyrigi Séguy, the only mydas fly previously known from the island was placed in Hessemydas. Séguy (1960) originally described this species from a single male collected at Behara. Kondratieff et al. (2005) indicated that despite numerous inquires to the Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France, the holotype of L. seyrigi was unavailable for examination. However, recently, through the courtesy of Christophe Daugeron, the holotype was located and made available for examination. Unfortunately, H. tulear was determined to be a junior subjective synonym of H. seyrigi. Also recently, Norman D. Penny, California Academy of Sciences made additional specimens of mydas flies available from Madagascar for determination. Among this material, a new species of Hessemydas was discovered and is described below.

Hessemydas seyrigi (Séguy)


Comments. Séguy (1960) described H. seyrigi from a single male specimen and his original description did not include any specific details of the genitalia, characters necessary for species identification. Kondratieff et al. (2005) provided a complete description of the male of this species under H. tulear, including providing illustrations of the genitalia. Comparison of recently collected specimens (Kondratieff et al. 2005) with the holotype of H. seyrigi indicated only one difference that the pilosity of the face of the holotype is predominantly black, whereas all other material examined exhibited white to yellow pilosity. The holotype specimen appears to be slightly greased.

Hessemydas daugeroni, sp. nov.
(Figs. 1–4)


Diagnosis. The male of H. daugeroni is most similar to the male of H. seyrigi but can be distinguished by the shape of the gonocoxite bearing an elongate, subparallel process (Figs. 1–3). Illustrations of the male genitalia of H. seyrigi (H. tulear) as for comparison are provided by Kondratieff et al. (2005); the process of the gonocoxite is broad proximally and distally tapers to a curved, blunt apex. Females are presently not associated. All the material listed below was collected by malaise traps and these specimens are imperfect, missing in part mouthparts, legs or antennae.

Description. Male: Length 14–15 mm, length of wing 8.0–8.5 mm. Head: Black, frons silver-gray pollinose, pilosity of face long, white to yellow; oral cavity narrow, triangular or narrowed dorsally; occiput with long white to yellow pilosity; postocciput with white pilosity. Labium black, extending anteriorly equidistant to pedicel, apical portion