



Review of the species of *Betasyrphus* Matsumura, 1917 (Diptera: Syrphidae) from Madagascar with description of a new species

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Abstract

The species of the genus *Betasyrphus* Matsumura, 1917 from Madagascar are reviewed. *Betasyrphus keiseri* **sp. nov.** is described from Vohipara (Ramonafana National Park) and compared to the type material of *Betasyrphus serarius* (Wiedemann, 1830). The latter species could not be confirmed from the Afrotropical region and has to be deleted from the Afrotropical catalogue. The male genitalia of the new species are figured and a key to the species from Madagascar is given. The genus contains 12 described Afrotropical species, excluding two taxa of uncertain status. Only two valid species exist in Madagascar.

Key words: *Betasyrphus*, Syrphidae, Madagascar

Introduction

The genus *Betasyrphus* Matsumura is known from the Afrotropical region with 11 species in Smith & Vockeroth (1980) and 12 species in Dirickx (1998). In his assessment of the Afrotropical Syrphidae fauna, Whittington (2003) lists *Betasyrphus* among the Afrotropical genera in need of revision with existing keys covering only 66 % of the species. The most complete key is given in Curran (1938) under *Syrphus*, section I, species with hairy eyes. The status of the two unplaced Syrphini (*Xanthogramma notogramma* Bezzi and *Syrphus schultzeianus* Bezzi, both later listed under “*Syrphus*” by Whittington) remains to be clarified.

Keiser (1971) in his extensive work on Syrphidae from Madagascar reports two species of *Betasyrphus*, namely *Betasyrphus* (*Metasyrphus*) *stuckenbergi* (Keiser, 1971) and *Betasyrphus serarius* (Wiedemann, 1830). Earlier citations of *Betasyrphus serarius* from Madagascar are from van Doesburg (1957). The original description of the latter is based on Palaearctic material from China. Smith & Vockeroth (1980) and later De Meyer, De Bruyn & Janssens (1990) doubted the occurrence of *Betasyrphus serarius* in the Afrotropical region. During my studies in Madagascar only females of *B. serarius/keiseri* could be observed. Examining the collection of Keiser (NHMB), with some type material in MNHN clarified that the species believed to be *B. serarius* by Keiser (1971) is a new species. This new species is described below and additional observations are provided.

A full revision of the Afrotropical *Betasyrphus* is a separate and quite intensive work, as there is a considerable amount of material to examine and it appears that there are several difficult species complexes represented. Thus this work will focus on the two Madagascar species, comparing them to closely related species as appropriate.

Materials and methods

Specimens from the following collections have been examined: