



A new species of *Palpares* Rambur (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae) with an identification key to the species of West Africa

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Abstract

Palpares longimaculatus **nov. sp.** is described from West Africa. This species resembles *P. radiatus* Rambur, 1842 and *P. incommodus* (Walker, 1853) from the same region and is very similar to *P. kalahariensis* Stitz, 1912 from South Africa. The characters differentiating these species are indicated. An identification key to the West African species of *Palpares* is provided and all the keyed species are illustrated.

Key words: Palparinae, Africa, Afrotropical Region, antlion

Introduction

The West African Palparinae have been revised by Prost (1995) who included 18 species: *Stenares arenosus* Navás, 1924, *S. hyaena* (Dalman, 1823), *Lachlathetes gigas* (Dalman, 1823), *Nosa tigris* (Dalman, 1823), *Tomatares clavicornis* (Latreille, 1830), *Palpares cephalotes* (Klug, 1834), *P. digitatus* Gerstaecker, 1894, *P. furfuraceus* Rambur, 1842, *P. incommodus* (Walker, 1853), *P. latipennis* Rambur, 1842, *P. nigrescens* Navás, 1913, *P. obsoletus* Gerstaecker, 1888, *P. radiatus* Rambur, 1842, *P. reticulatus* Stitz, 1912, *P. spectrum* Rambur, 1842, *P. tessellatus* Rambur, 1842, *P. umbrosus* Kolbe, 1898 and *P. zebroides* Fraser, 1950. Since this publication, some nomenclatural changes have been made. Mansell (1996) confirmed *P. spectrum* as type species of the re-instated genus *Palparellus* Navás, 1912. Stange (2004) retained the genus *Parapalpares* Insom & Carfí, 1988 whose type species is *P. latipennis*. He also transferred *P. furfuraceus* to the genus *Lachlathetes* Navás, 1926 and *P. reticulatus* into the genus *Gonicercus* Insom and Carfí, 1988, synonymising it with *G. klugi* (Kolbe, 1898) and synonymising *P. tessellatus* with *P. percheronii* (Guérin-Méneville, 1831). Finally *Parapalpares papilionoides* (Klug, 1834) must be added to the list of Prost (1995) (Aspöck *et al.*, 2001; Insom & Carfí, 1988; Prost, 2010; Stange, 2004). Taking all of these modifications into account, the genus *Palpares* Rambur is currently represented by 10 species in West Africa. Still, the placement of these species is largely unresolved and most, if not all, should be transferred to other genera after revision of the entire tribe Palparini (Mansell, 2004). The proposal of Insom & Carfí (1988) for the division of the genus *Palpares* into several genera cannot be regarded as an exhaustive revision of the genus because of the low number of species examined (Mansell, 1992). According to these authors only the Palearctic species *P. libelloides* (Linnaeus, 1764) should be retained in the genus *Palpares*.

In this paper we describe a new species in the genus *Palpares*, but which will probably be transferred to another genus after the revision of the tribe Palparini. An identification key to the West African species retained in the genus *Palpares* including the new species is provided and all the keyed species are illustrated.

Material and methods

All specimens representing the type series were collected at the same locality, a rather small savanna with lateritic soil, covered by patches of dry grass. This site is located close to the city of Bobo-Dioulasso in the South West of