



Revision of *Efflatouniella* Kröber, 1927 (Diptera: Therevidae)

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Abstract

In this paper, the genus *Efflatouniella* Kröber is rediagnosed and redescribed with material from Egypt and Israel. *Efflatouniella aegyptiaca* Kröber, 1927 is redescribed while *E. legaensis* **sp. nov.** and *E. sinatica* **sp. nov.** are described from South Sinai. Keys to the Egyptian phycine genera and to species of the genus *Efflatouniella* are included.

Key words: Phycinae, stiletto fly, Egypt

Introduction

The stiletto fly subfamily Phycinae is distributed worldwide (with the exception of Australia and Antarctica) and comprises 14 genera with over 130 described and undescribed species. The highest diversity is found in Africa, and the southern Palaearctic region, especially in arid, semi-desert habitats (Hauser and Webb 2007).

Phycinae are characterized by the following features: absence of appressed, lanceolate setae on the hind femur (shared with the Xestomyzinae, Agapophytinae); setae on vein R1 (also present in New World genera *Henicomys* Coquillett (Xestomyzinae) and *Protothereva* Malloch (Therevinae), but absent in the Nearctic phycine genus *Schlingeria* Irwin); three membranous spermathecae and no spermathecal sac; acanthophorite with only one kind of weak setae; the absence of a gonocoxal ventral lobe; an apical palpal pit (Lyneborg 1983, Hauser 2005).

According to the last published catalog (Lyneborg 1989), there are about 40 species of Palaearctic Phycinae belonging to seven genera [*Aathrito* Lyneborg, *Actorthia* Kröber, *Efflatouniella* Kröber, *Yemenia* Kocak & Kemal, *Phycus* Walker, *Ruppellia* Wiedemann, *Salentia* Costa] and Lyneborg (1989) considered the two species *Phycus appendiculatus* (Röder, 1894) and *Actorthia efflatouni* Kröber, 1925 as valid species in his catalog; Lyneborg (2002) also added one new species *Phycus lacteipennis* from Morocco. He also considered *Actorthia spinicornis* (Séguy, 1953) to be Afrotropical while this species is considered here as Palaearctic (M. Hauser, personal communication). Most genera are very much in need of a modern revision, but as material is usually sparse and/or not easily accessible; nearly none of the Palaearctic phycine genera have been revised in recent years (Lyneborg 1983).

There are two catalogues which cover the phycine fauna of Egypt: Steyskal & El-Bialy (1967) listing 12 species in five genera and the catalogue of Lyneborg (1989) listing 14 species in six genera. Besides the outdated works of Kröber (1912, 1913, 1925), there are no modern, comprehensive works for the identification of the Egyptian phycine fauna. Accordingly, the subfamily has never been monographed in Egypt, and the generic limits, particularly of the taxa with small body size (like *Efflatouniella*), are poorly known. Kröber (1929) provided a key to nine Egyptian genera of Therevidae, including nine phycine genera and listing 24 species, summarizing the knowledge of the time. He later (1937) published a catalogue of the Palaearctic Therevidae. Subsequently, Lyneborg (1983) published a review with a key to the seven Palaearctic phycine genera and gave a list to the described species including genus. The key to the Palaearctic genera of Therevidae of Majer (1997) included six phycine genera.

The genus *Efflatouniella* was described by Kröber (1927) based on two female specimens collected from Kerdasa (ESEC, holotype since destroyed) and Abu Rawash (CUC, cotype). The genus is characterized by its small body size (4–5 mm), female frons with black spot, thoracic setae very delicate, the basal part of the wing venation is delicate and paler than the apical part and the pulvilli are present. In Egypt, this genus was previously repre-