



Article

Annotated catalogue of the flat bug family Aradidae Brullé, 1836 of Madagascar and adjacent islands (Hemiptera: Heteroptera)

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Abstract

The last comprehensive list of Aradidae of Madagascar and adjacent islands was published by Hoberlandt (1963), comprising 20 genera and 53 species. The present annotated catalog includes many new taxa described since Hoberlandt's work, refers to taxonomic changes and synonymies and gives the actual systematic assignment and distribution of 85 species belonging to 33 genera.

Key words: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Aradidae, catalogue, Madagascar, Comores, Mauritius, Réunion, Rodriguez

Introduction

Although still insufficiently explored, the flat bug fauna of Madagascar and adjacent islands (Comores, Mauritius, Réunion, Rodriguez, Aldabra, Tromelin) is very diverse and rich in genera and species. Nearly all of the species are endemic to Madagascar or to one or more islands. Only two species described from Madagascar are also recorded from mainland Africa: (*Breviscutaneurus breviscutatus* (Bergroth, 1894), *Brachyrhynchus sulcicornis* (Signoret, 1860), and two described from Africa occur also in Madagascar: (*Aradus flavicornis* Dalman, 1823; *Neuroctenus caffer* (Stål, 1855).

Compared with other countries or nearby regions, investigation of the Madagascan aradid-fauna started rather late. The first species of Aradidae from Madagascar were described by Signoret (1860):

Aneurus bilobus (presently *Neuroctenus bilobus*)

Aneurus tenuicornis (presently *Neuroctenus tenuicornis*)

Mezira crassicornis (presently *Strigocoris crassicornis*)

Mezira sulcicornis (presently *Brachyrhynchus sulcicornis*)

Mezira rugosa (preoccupied, new name *Brachyrhynchus monedulus* Stål, 1865)

More than fifty years later, Bergroth (1914) described three additional species belonging to the genus *Aneurus*, one of them from Réunion:

Aneurus grandiusculus (generic status unclear)

Aneurus mjöberi (generic status unclear)

Aneurus angustus (presently *Breviscutaneurus angustus*)

Ten years later China (1924) recorded another new species from Rodriguez Island (*Mezira gulliveri*, presently *Neuroctenus gulliveri*) and (1955) one from Tromelin Island east of Madagascar (*Pictinus pauliani*, its taxonomic status being unclear). In the same year Kiritshenko (1955) described *Aradus apicicornis*.

The break through in studies involving Madagascan aradids was due to the great Czech Heteropterist Ludvik Hoberlandt (1957) who described numerous new genera and species and presented the first list of the Aradidae from Madagascar and adjacent islands, recording 37 species from 11 genera.