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Revision of the Old World *Sobarocephala* (Diptera: Clusiidae)

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Abstract

The Old World *Sobarocephala* Czerny, 1903 are revised, with 16 of the 29 known species described here as new: *S. anonymos* spec. nov., *S. apoxys* spec. nov., *S. cyclo* spec. nov., *S. doryphoros* spec. nov., *S. insolata* spec. nov., *S. kapnikos* spec. nov., *S. laticrinis* spec. nov., *S. magna* spec. nov., *S. myllolabis* spec. nov., *S. nebulosa* spec. nov., *S. nimbipennis* spec. nov., *S. orientalis* spec. nov., *S. paksana* spec. nov., *S. recava* spec. nov., *S. secaperas* spec. nov., and *S. triangula* spec. nov. Species are mostly Oriental and Afrotropical in distribution, but species also occur in Japan, Nepal and northern Australia. Species mostly belong to the exclusively Old World *S. plumicornis* species group, but there are also representatives from the predominantly New World *S. flava* and *S. flaviseta* groups. *Sobarocephala* is described for the first time from Australia, China, Laos, Sri Lanka, Madagascar and West Africa. A key and illustrations are provided.

Key words: Revision, new species, species groups, Afrotropics, Oriental Region, Australian Region, eastern Palearctic

Introduction

Sobarocephala Czerny is the most diverse genus of druid flies (Diptera: Clusiidae), with 269 species from all biogeographic regions. The genus is best represented in the New World with 240 described species, and while most of these occur in the tropical parts of Central and South America, 17 species are found exclusively or partially in the Nearctic, and several tropical species extend into temperate South America. The Neotropical Region is the center of diversity for both the genus and the subfamily Sobarocephalinae, which also includes *Apiochaeta* Czerny (temperate South America), *Chaetoclusia* Coquillett and *Procerosoma* Lonsdale & Marshall (tropical Neotropics). Genus-level relationships based on morphological and molecular data are discussed in Lonsdale *et al.* (2010).

The present study is the last in a series of *Sobarocephala* revisions by the author, this time considering those species occurring in the Old World. Treatments of the New World fauna were provided by Lonsdale & Marshall (2007, 2012) and Lonsdale *et al.* (2011). It should be noted that this revision is by no means definitive, as many of the species described here (as well as in previous works) are represented by only one or a handful of specimens derived from relatively few collection events, and focused sampling will almost certainly reveal the genus to be far more widespread and diverse than presently understood. The 29 known Old World species are distributed mostly in the Oriental and Afrotropical Regions, but several also occur in the southeast Palearctic and northern Australian Regions. As in the New World, Old World species are mostly tropical in distribution, with only *S. mitsuui* Sasakawa and *S. nepalensis* Sasakawa occurring in temperate Japan and Nepal, respectively; *S. uncinata* Sueyoshi is also known from Japan, but it is found further south in the subtropical Ryukyus. Two females of the new species *S. triangula* were collected in Northern Australia and Mt. Glorious, Queensland; these likely represent the southernmost extent of the genus, as the remainder of the continent from southern Queensland to Tasmania has been relatively well collected with no other congeners recovered. Based on known distributions, species of *Sobarocephala* are now expected to occur throughout parts of sub-Saharan Africa and the Korean Peninsula, additional countries surrounding the northern Indian Ocean, the southern and eastern provinces of China, and additional islands throughout Southeast Asia into parts of Oceania.

The African *Sobarocephala* was most recently treated by Stuckenberg (1973), who described two species and transferred *S. plumicornis* (Lamb) from *Heteromeria* Czerny. Sueyoshi (2006) discussed two species of

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