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Omoleon jeanneli, new record from Kenya and a redescription (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae)

ROLAND DOBOSZ[1] & LEVENTE ÁBRAHÁM[2]

[1]*Upper Silesian Museum, Natural History Department, Sobieskiego 2, PL 41-902 Bytom, Poland. E-mail: dobosz@muzeum.bytom.pl*
[2]*Rippl-Rónai Museum, Natural History Department, H-7400 Kaposvár, P.O. Box 70, Hungary. E-mail: labraham@smmi.hu*

Abstract

A poorly known species of antlions, *Omoleon jeanneli* Navás, 1936 is redescribed and illustrated with five photos and genitalia drawings. A key for African Dendroleontini is given. This is the first record of *O. jeanneli* from Kenya.

Key words: Neuroptera, Myrmeleontidae, Dendroleontini, *Omoleon*, redescription, Kenya

Introduction

In 2010, Dr. Miroslav Snížek, Czech entomologist collected about 2000 neuropteran specimens in Kenya. In the spring of 2011, this material was donated to the Upper Silesian Museum, Bytom (Poland) and the authors have recently started the identification of antlions and owlflies. So far several interesting and little known species have been found.

From taxonomical and morphological point of view, one of the most interesting species is *Omoleon jeanneli* Navás, 1936. Several key characters were missing from the original description due to the poor preservation of the single specimen on which the genus was established. This is the reason why we are going to redescribe and illustrate this interesting species. This is the first record of this species from Kenya.

Dendroleontini Banks, 1899 have been reported only from the Southern part of the Afrotropical region so far. Except for *Omoleon,* the genera, *Cymothales* Gerstaecker, 1893*, Bankisus* Navás, 1912 and *Tricholeon* Esben-Petersen, 1925 were revised by Mansell (1985, 1987, 1988). After this, only a few new species (Hölzel & Monserrat 2002, Ábrahám 2009) were added from the transition zone between Palaearctic and Afrotropical, from northern Africa to South Europe. The latest world catalogue (Stange 2004) listed *Omoleon* Navás, 1936 as a monotypic genus and only the type specimen was known. According to the original description (Navás 1936) the type specimen from Ethiopia preserved in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France (MNHN) is in poor condition, its abdomen is missing.

Myrmeleontidae Stephens, 1836

Dendroleontini Banks, 1899

Omoleon Navás, 1936

Type species. Omoleon jeanneli Navás, 1936; by original designation and monotypy.

Distribution. This monospecific genus is known only from East Africa.

Remarks. *Omoleon jeanneli* Navás, 1936 superficially resembles *Doblina tristigatus* (Fraser, 1951), but it is easily distinguishable by the costal area of the forewing. Species of the genus *Doblina* Navás, 1927 have two rows

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Forewing with acute apex and obtuse basal area with concave intrusion. Membrane transparent, with larger and smaller, dark brown to brown shadows and dots. C yellow except where brown patterned. A few cross-veins before pterostigma bifurcated. Most part of Sc and R brown, but yellow at median part and interrupted with brown dashes at costal cross-veins. Radial veins rather brown proximally and yellowish-brown to yellow distally. Number of radial veins 14 in Rs and 4–5 radial cross-veins in front of origin of Rs. In radial sector, anterior Banksian-line recognizable. M yellow proximally, brownish distally with dark brown dashes at costal cross-veins. CuA1 yellow, interrupted with dark brown dashes at cross-veins. Anal veins mostly yellow. In the middle of marginal area "*Dendroleon*-type" pattern, a semicircular oculus present. Pterostigma brown.

Hindwing with dominantly yellow longitudinal veins. CuA1 yellow, interrupted with dark brown dashes at cross veins. Membrane in costal area with brown shadowing apically. Pterostigma brownish. Cross-veins before pterostigma bifurcated. Dark brown, irregular shaped spots right below, at subapical margin and where M and CuA1 reach hind margin. 1 radial cross-vein in front of origin of Rs.

Abdomen: 16 mm long. Tergite 1 as long as wide, brown. Tergite 2 almost 1.5 times longer than wide, brown. Tergite 1–4 brown with large, central, yellow spot in lateral view. Other tergites brown. Tergite 1–5 with short white hairs, other tergites with short, shining black hairs. Sternite 1 dominantly brown, sternite 2–4 yellow to brown, other sternites brownish with similar pubescence like tergites.

Genitalia: Female. In lateral view (Fig. 6) tergite 9 subdiamond-shaped, yellow, with indistinct brownish pattern, with short black hairs. Ectoproct long, oval, yellow, with black hairs. In ventral view (Fig. 7) posterior gonopophysis with elongated and bended backwards and with strong rigid black bristles; anterior gonopophysis short lobe-like with black bristles and tooth-like pregenital plate. Anterior gonapophysis somewhat shorter than lateral gonapophysis. Spermatheca bent as in Figs. 6–7.

Key for Dendroleontini of Africa

1.	Costal area narrow, with only simple cross-veins	3
-	Costal area wide, divided by cross-veins or costal veins bifurcated, species known only from Madagascar	2
2.	Costal veins, except the basal area, almost entirely bifurcated	***Voltor***
-	Costal area divided by cross-veins	***Doblina***
3.	Hindwing never longer than forewing, apex rounded	4
-	Hindwing always longer than forewing, strongly concave below acute apices	***Cymothales***
4.	Legs with tibial spurs	5
-	Legs without tibial spurs	***Bankisus***
5.	Legs with opposable tarsal claws and lacking larger spots on forewing.	***Tricholeon***
-	Legs without opposable tarsal claws and wings with larger brown markings	***Omoleon***

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