Camptotarsopoda annulitarsis Stein: redescription, description of terminalia and new record to South Africa (Diptera: Muscidae)

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Abstract

Camptotarsopoda Strand (Diptera, Muscidae) comprises five species restricted to the Afrotropical region. The genus belongs to the subfamily Coenosinae and tribe Limnophorini. The type-species, C. annulitarsis (Stein), is redescribed and the male and female terminalia are described and illustrated for the first time. The species is newly recorded from South Africa. The systematic placement of the genus is confirmed among the basal Limnophorini.

Key words: Afrotropical region, Limnophorini, morphology, taxonomy

Introduction

The Afrotropical genus Camptotarsopoda Strand was originally described by Stein (1913) under the name Camptotarsus (preoccupied by Thorell, 1887 in Arachnida) as a new genus of “Limnophorinarum”, differing from other genera by the unique male mid basal tarsomere that is slightly bowed and bears a set of short setae. The genus is known only from the Afrotropical region, with five species, all described by Stein (1913): C. albitarsis, C. annulitarsis, C. nitida, C. pallipes and C. pilifemur.

Malloch (1929a) considered that the genus belongs to Phaoninae and expressed his opinion that “this group is entitled at most to subgeneric rank of Helina Robineau-Desvoidy”. According to Malloch, there is “no good distinguishing character for separating the genus Camptotarsopoda from certain Helina, especially the group generally accepted as Melanochelia Rondani”, which is now a junior synonym of Limnophora. He provided a key to the five species largely based upon Stein’s original descriptions.

Malloch (1929b) reinforced his previous idea of considering the genus as a subgenus of Helina and made some comments on the new name Camptotarsopoda proposed by Strand (1928).

Séguy (1937) designated C. annulitarsis as type-species, presented a generic diagnosis and a list of species. Emden (1951) made comments on Malloch’s view and treated Camptotarsopoda as a valid genus within Limnophorinae. He also presented a key to segregate the five species, based on his examined material.

Hennig (1965) mentioned that both Camptotarsopoda and Prototridinae Emden are considered by Emden (1951:441) “as obviously transitional between the Limnophora-group and Hydratida-group”. Hennig (1965) considered that these transitional forms do not exist, and Prototridinae is a polyphyletic genus with one of the species belonging to Azelia Robineau-Desvoidy and the other to Hydratidae Robineau-Desvoidy. With regard to Camptotarsopoda, Hennig (1965) considered that the genus is probably monophyletic and could be related to Spilogona, but he did not come to any conclusion about the position of Camptotarsopoda and its relationship with Spilogona, because the ovipositor (that is an important feature in this group) was not described at that time.

Pont (1980) catalogued the species also considering the genus among the Limnophorinae.

Couri (2007) and Couri & Pont (in press) presented a key to the Afrotropical Muscidae genera, where Camptotarsopoda can be easily separated from other Afrotropical Muscidae genera.

In this paper, the type-species C. annulitarsis is redescribed and the male and female terminalia are described for the first time. The catalogue of the genus and its species is updated.
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References


