The status of *Crossopalpus obscuripes* (Adams), a new junior synonym of *Crossopalpus aenescens* (Wiedemann) (Diptera: Hybotidae: Tachydromiinae)

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Adams (1905) described a new species, *Stilpon obscuripes*, from two female specimens collected near Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Harare, Zimbabwe) by Frank L. Snow. Although Smith (1969) briefly treated this species under the genus *Stilpon* Loew in his monograph on the Empididae of southern Africa, it is evident that he had not seen the type material. The species remained little known until Cumming & Cooper (1992) examined the syntypes and transferred the species to *Crossopalpus* Bigot, indicating that *C. obscuripes* (Adams) was allied to *C. aenescens* (Wiedemann). During preparation of the Hybotidae chapter for the Manual of Afrotropical Diptera (Sinclair & Cumming, accepted), *C. obscuripes* was re-examined and discovered to be identical to *C. aenescens*, which was originally described from South Africa. The *Crossopalpus aenescens*-group was previously studied by Collin (1960), who recognized four included species, and Smith (1967), who provided a key to the species and illustrations of the male terminalia (i.e., right surstylus) of this complex.

**Crossopalpus aenescens** (Wiedemann)

(Fig. 1)

*Drapetis aenescens* Wiedemann, 1830: 649. Type locality: “the Cape” [South Africa].

*Drapetis crassa* Loew, 1858: 341. Type locality: “the Cape” [South Africa].

*Stilpon obscuripes* Adams, 1905: 156, syn. nov. Type locality: Salisbury, Rhodesia [Zimbabwe].

*Stilpon obscuripes*: Smith, 1969: 51 (key); Smith, 1980: 433 (catalogue).


**Additional material examined.** Botswana: Serowe Farmer’s Brigade [22°9'56.38"S 26°43'31.37"E], viii.1991, Malaise trap (2 ♀, CMNH). Madagascar: Mahajanga Prov., Parc Nat. Tsingy de Bemaraha, 50 m, 19°8'31"S 44°49'41"E, 6–10.xi.2001, Malaise trap, tropical dry forest (1 ♂, 2 ♀, CAS); Mahajanga Prov., Forêt de Tsimembo, 20 m, 19°1'17"S 44°26'26"E, 21–25.xi.2001, Malaise trap, tropical dry forest (1 ♂, 1 ♀, CAS); Toliara Prov., Forêt de Kirindy, 100 m, 20°2'42"S 44°39'44"E, 28.xii.–2.iii.2001, at light, tropical dry forest (1 ♂, 1 ♀, CAS). Namibia: Caprivi Pk, 18°9'56"S 21°44'31"E, 16–18.xii.1999 (1 ♀, NMNW); Kavango, Popa Falls, 18°7'S 21°33'E, 26–31.viii.1971 (1 ♀, NMNW); Kaudom Game Res., Leeupan, 18°40'5 S 20°52'E, 25.i.1992 (1 ♀, NMNW).
STATUS OF CROSSOPALPUS OBSCURIPES (ADAMS)

**Diagnosis.** Moderately large mostly black species, 2.5–3.5 mm in length. Head, except ventral gena, clypeus and proboscis, covered in grey tomentum; palpus dark brown to black, densely tomentose; antenna dark brown to black. Thorax with scutum shiny black, covered in long pale hair-like setae; pleura shiny black with patches of grey tomentum on postpronotal lobe, proepisternum, proepimeron, anepisternum and anepimeron, with band of grey tomentum running from ventral katepisternum to laterotergite and metepimeron. Legs yellowish brown to brown.
with femora (except apices) black, apical tarsomeres brown to black; hind femur without long anterodorsal setae; hind tibia with long ventral setae. Wing hyaline with brown veins; R_{4+5} and M_{1} convergent apically. Halter pale yellow. Abdomen shiny black, covered in long pale hair-like setae; tergite 3 not thickened medially along posterior margin; tergite 4 desclerotized anteriorly with eversible paired sacs that contain long hair-like microtrichia, sacs concealed underneath tergite 3 as described by Shamshev et al. (2005) for other species in *Crossopalpus aenescens*-group. Male genitalia large, longer than tergites 6–7 combined; right surstylus divided into two projected lobes, lower lobe (positionally) expanded apically and truncate (see Smith 1967, fig. 3), upper lobe (positionally) elongate and rounded apically (see Smith 1967, fig. 4). Female terminalia with cercus black.

**Remarks.** *Crossopalpus aenescens* has been recorded from Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda (Smith 1967, 1969, 1980; Grootaert & Shamshev 2013). The species is now also known from Botswana, Madagascar and Zimbabwe, and is often collected along shorelines. Smith (1975) indicates that records from Taiwan are probably based on misidentified specimens.

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**References**


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