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**Revision of *Ommatius* Wiedemann (Diptera: Asilidae). IV.  
*Pygommatius* subgen. nov. with twenty-five Afrotropical species**

AUBREY G. SCARBROUGH & CLAUDIO G. MARASCIA



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### Table of contents

Abstract .....	4
Introduction .....	4
Materials and methods .....	5
<i>Pygommatius</i> , new subgenus .....	6
Species groups .....	8
Key to the Afrotropical species of the subgenus <i>Pygommatius</i> Scarbrough & Marascia .....	10
Taxa .....	16
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>alatipes</i> , sp. n. ....	16
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>albatus</i> Martin .....	18
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>bingeri</i> Oldroyd .....	20
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>brevicornis</i> Curran .....	22
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>caligula</i> Oldroyd .....	24
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>cingulatus</i> Bromley .....	26
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>comosus</i> , sp. n. ....	28
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>dasypogon</i> Oldroyd .....	30
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>digitattus</i> Oldroyd .....	32
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygodactalyus</i> ) <i>fluvius</i> , sp. n. ....	34
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>grossus</i> , sp. n. ....	35
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>imaginus</i> , sp. n. ....	37
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>jaculator</i> Walker .....	38
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>limbus</i> , sp. n. ....	40
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>litoreus</i> , sp. n. ....	41
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>lulua</i> , sp. n. ....	43
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>magnipes</i> , sp. n. ....	44
<i>Ommatius</i> ( <i>Pygommatius</i> ) <i>neglectus</i> Bromley .....	46

<i>Ommatius (Pygommatus) pectinus</i> , sp. n. . . . .	50
<i>Ommatius (Pygommatus) porticus</i> , sp. n. . . . .	52
<i>Ommatius (Pygommatus) renudus</i> , sp. n. . . . .	54
<i>Ommatius (Pygommatus) segouensis</i> , sp. n. . . . .	55
<i>Ommatius (Pygommatus) strigiatus</i> , sp. n. . . . .	56
<i>Ommatius (Pygommatus) talus</i> , sp. n. . . . .	58
<i>Ommatius (Pygommatus) vultus</i> , sp. n. . . . .	60
Acknowledgments . . . . .	61
References . . . . .	61

## Abstract

A new subgenus of *Ommatius* Wiedemann, *Pygommatus* subgen. nov., is described. Twenty-five Afrotropical species are assigned to this subgenus including *O. albatus* Martin, *O. bingeri* Oldroyd, *O. brevicornis* Curran, *O. caligula* Oldroyd, *O. cingulatus* Bromley, *O. dasypogon* Oldroyd, *O. digittatus* Oldroyd, *O. jaculator* Oldroyd, and *O. neglectus* Bromley, and the following new species: *O. alatipes*, *O. comosus*, *O. fluvius*, *O. grossus*, *O. imaginus*, *O. limbus*, *O. litoreus*, *O. lulua*, *O. magnipes*, *O. pectinus*, *O. porticus*, *O. renudus*, *O. segouensis*, *O. strigiatus*, *O. talus*, and *O. vultus*. Twenty-three species are placed in the following six species groups: the *bingeri*, the *brevicornis*, the *comosus*, the *grossus*, the *litoreus*, and the *pectinus* groups. *Ommatius ornatipes* (Engel) is officially recognized as a **secondary homonym** of *O. ornatipes* Becker, and *O. neglectus* Bromley a **junior synonym** of *O. ornatipes* (Engel) (SYN. N.). Since *Ommatius ornatipes* (Engel) is preoccupied by *O. ornatipes* Becker, *O. neglectus* is recognized as the next available name for *O. ornatipes* (Engel). The male of *O. brevicornis* and the female of *O. albatus* are described and illustrated for the first time. Illustrations of morphological structures, descriptions, and a key to all species are provided, as well as brief comments on the distribution of the group.

**Key words:** Diptera, Asilidae, *Ommatius*, new subgenus, *Pygommatus*, Afrotropical species

## Introduction

*Ommatius* Wiedemann, though common, widespread, and extremely speciose (Hull 1962), is in need of a comprehensive review. Except for erecting a few genera from *Ommatius* and adding new species, the concept of the genus remains essentially unchanged since it was originally proposed (Wiedemann 1821). Brief descriptions of species, combined with minimal use of type material for verifying the identification of species, lack of or inadequate illustrations, and failure to recognize the importance of internal structures of the terminalia have contributed to errors in identification and multiple-named species. The absence of effective regional keys for identification of species has further compounded the problem.