

## A new genus and four new species of Isometopinae (Hemiptera: Miridae) from South Africa

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### Abstract

*Namaquaropus niger* gen nov. & sp.nov. is described from South Africa. In addition, two new species of the subgenus *Jehania* Distant of *Isometopus* Fieber (*I. mirus* sp. nov. and *I. maculipennis* sp. nov.), and *Paloniella flavicolor* sp. nov. are described. With these, the known species of Isometopinae in South Africa now number sixteen.

**Key words:** Hemiptera, Miridae, Isometopinae, South Africa

### Introduction

The Isometopinae comprises small, generally strongly cryptic insects that are thus usually rare in many collections in the world. They are predaceous on soft-bodied insects, mostly aphids and scale insects, for which they may at times constitute important natural control agents.

The first isometopine from South Africa was described in 1947 as *Letaba bedfordi* Hesse based on specimens collected on citrus from Letaba, where they were observed to be feeding on the citrus red scale, *Chrysomphalus aonidum* Linnaeus. Subsequently, Carvalho (1951) described *Paramyiomma hemialba* from the Cape Province while Hoberlandt (1959) described *P. milleri* from Transvaal. Slater and Schuh (1969) added six new species namely, *Isometopidea miriformis*, *Magnocellus turneri*, and *Letaba cuneata* from the Cape Province; *M. transvaalensis* and *L. umbrosa* from Transvaal; and *Myiomma capeneri* from Orange Free State. Smith (1967) synonymized *Paramyiomma* Carvalho with *Myiomma* Puton, while Akingbohunge (1996) synonymized *Letaba* Hesse with *Paloniella* Poppius, and *Magnocellus* Smith with *Isometopus* Fieber. He further erected a new genus, *Slateropus* for *I. miriformis* Slater and Schuh, and described *S. perplexus*, *Isometopus insperatus*, and *I. intermedius* as additional new species. Thus, to date, the South African isometopine