

First report of *Aethaloptera dispar* Brauer 1875 (Trichoptera: Hydropsychidae) from Ile-Ife, southwestern Nigeria, West Africa

SYLVESTER SUNDAY OGBOGU

Department of Zoology, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife 220005, Osun State, Nigeria;
email: sogbogu@oauife.edu.ng

Abstract

Aethaloptera dispar is for the first time reported from Ile-Ife in southwestern Nigeria. Morphological features that do not conform to those in the description of the species elsewhere in the Afrotropical region are highlighted. It is suggested that the material studied represents a form distinct from *A. dispar* previously reported in Nigeria. Possible links between polymorphism and adaptation to habitat and climatic conditions in the species are briefly discussed.

Key words: Trichoptera, Hydropsychidae, *Aethaloptera dispar*, Nigeria, Afrotropical region

Introduction

The genus *Aethaloptera* Brauer 1875 belongs to the hydropsychid subfamily Macronematinae, tribe Polymorphanisini. Morse (1999) included the genus in the subfamily Oestropsinae, tribe Oestropsini Brauer, 1875, but Barnard (1980) pointed out that these represent unnecessary replacement names. The species of *Aethoptera* are well known and distributed in the Afrotropical, Australian, Oriental and Palearctic regions of the world (Barnard 1980). The two species that are known to occur in the Afrotropical region are *A. maxima* Ulmer 1906 and *A. dispar* Brauer (Kimmins 1962, Jaquemart 1963, Gibbs 1973, Barnard 1980, Statzner 1982, Scott 1983, Statzner & Gibon 1984). Of the two, *A. maxima* has been described in detail by Scott (1983) based on material from South Africa. Scott did not describe *A. dispar* but noted in agreement with Barnard's (1980) finding that it is widely distributed in the northern part of the Afrotropical region, unlike *A. maxima* that is confined to the south. Although this gap in the knowledge of *A. dispar* was filled by some studies in West Africa (Petr 1970, Gibbs 1973, Service & Elouard 1980, Statzner 1982, Statzner & Gibon 1984, and Kjaerandsen & Andersen 1997), most of them were in countries in Onchocerciasis (River blindness) Control Programme (OCP) areas