



A survey of the genus *Phortica* Schiner from Kenya, Africa (Diptera: Drosophilidae)

STÉPHANE PRIGENT¹ & HONG-WEI CHEN^{2,3}

¹Research Center for Biodiversity, Academia Sinica, Taipei 11529, China

²Department of Entomology, South China Agricultural University, Tianhe, Guangzhou, 510642 China

³Corresponding author. E-mail: hongweic@scau.edu.cn

Abstract

Nine species of the genus *Phortica* are found from Kenya, African, including two known and seven new species: *Phortica* (*Allophortica*) *sexpunctata* (Séguy, 1938), *P. (Phortica) sobodo* Burla, 1954, *P. (P.) angulata* **sp. nov.**, *P. (P.) curvispina* **sp. nov.**, *P. (P.) machoruka* **sp. nov.**, *P. (P.) manjano* **sp. nov.**, *P. (P.) melanopous* **sp. nov.**, *P. (P.) vinywelea* **sp. nov.** and *P. (P.) unispina* **sp. nov.** The seven new species belong to the *foliiseta* species complex that is early found from the Oriental Region. A key to all Kenyan species is provided.

Key words: Africa, Drosophilidae, Kenya, *Phortica*, taxonomy

Introduction

Recently, the genus *Phortica* Schiner, 1862 has been studied (Máca 2003, Chen *et al.* 2005a, b, 2007), and subdivided into three subgenera by Máca (2003). Among the three subgenera, *Allophortica* Máca consists of three species from Africa and Europe; *Sinophthalmus* Coquillett consists of two species and one subspecies from Central America; the largest one, *Phortica* (s. str.), consists of 96 species, and is broadly distributed in the World, except for the Neotropical region (Chen *et al.* 2007).

To date, six *Phortica* species have been recorded from the Afrotropical region, this number is increased by our recent discovery of seven new species of the *Phortica* (*P. foliiseta*) species complex (Table 1), which suggests a biogeographical relationship between the Afrotropical and Oriental Regions. Among these Afrotropical species, *P. africana* (Malloch, 1925), *P. flavithorax* Duda, 1939 and *P. sobodo* Burla, 1954 are kept in the *Phortica* (s. str.), but have not yet been assigned to any species complex or groups (Máca 1977, 2003; Tsacas & Okada 1983; Chen & Toda 1997, 1998) not referenced, due to the poor original descriptions based on the female holotype.

Material and methods

Most specimens examined are males, they were captured while they hovering in front of people's eyes in the forest, or resting on tree trunks by the S. Prigent in Kakamega equatorial forest (alt. 1600 m; 0°14' N, 34°52' E), Kenya, October 11–23, 2002, and deposited in the following institutions: National Museum of Natural History, Paris, France (MNHN); National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya (NMK); Department of Entomology, South China Agricultural University, China (SCAU). For morphological terminology and the definitions of indices see Chen & Toda (2001).