



Two new species of *Isometopus* Fieber (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae: Isometopinae) and a key to all known species of the genus in Europe and the Middle-East

A. E. AKINGBOHUNGBE

Department of Crop Production and Protection, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria.

E-mail : aakingbo@oauife.edu.ng

Abstract

Isometopus gharaati n. sp. and *I. praetermissum* n. sp. are described as new species from the Middle East and southern Europe. *Isometopus praetermissum* belongs in the subgenus *Isometopus* Fieber whereas *I. gharaati* belongs in the subgenus *Jehania* Distant; and with their description, the number of known species for the genus *Isometopus* Fieber in Europe and the Middle East is now ten. A key for separating all these species is presented.

Key words : Hemiptera, Miridae, Isometopinae, South Europe, Iran, Cyprus

Introduction

The Isometopinae comprises a group of small-size, usually cryptic insects, known to prey in particular on small soft-bodied insects such as aphids and scale insects. Akingbohunge (1996) revised the subfamily as known to occur in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East and noted that there were 89 species and one subspecies. Of these, eight species belonged to the genus *Isometopus* Fieber and the subgenus *Isometopus* Fieber. These included *I. intrusus* (Herrick-Schaeffer), *I. taeniaticeps* Puton, *I. mirificus* Mulsant and Rey, *I. khaznakovi* Kiritschenko, *I. diversiceps* Linnavuori, *I. nigrutilus* Akingbohunge, *I. peregrinus* Akingbohunge, and *I. frontalis* Akingbohunge. No species of the subgenus *Jehania* Distant was reported in Europe and the Middle East then; and rather inadvertently Akingbohunge (op. cit.) overlooked *I. longirostris* Josifov which had earlier been described from Bulgaria (Josifov, 1993). Subsequently, Linnavuori, *et al.* (1998) described *I. sepehrii* from Gilan. In addition, Akingbohunge (2003) described *I. quadrivittatus* and *I. yemenensis* which represented the first records of the subgenus *Jehania* in the Middle East. He (2006) also described another species of *Jehania*, namely, *I. carinifrons* Akingbohunge, and another belonging to the subgenus *Isometopus* i.e., *I. vanharteni* Akingbohunge from Yemen. Thus to date, the known records of *Isometopus* Fieber in Europe and the Middle East comprise nine species of subgenus *Isometopus* and four species of subgenus *Jehania*.

In the present paper, two new species, one in each of the above-mentioned subgenera, are described from southern Europe, Cyprus, and Iran. A key for separating all species of *Isometopus* known in Europe and the Middle East is provided. All measurements in the descriptions are in millimeters except where proportions are used. Types for *I. praetermissum* are deposited in the collection of the U. S. National Museum of Natural History/Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. (USNM). The holotype and some paratypes for *I. gharaati* are being returned to the collector, Mohammad Gharaat, Department of Plant Protection, Urmia University, West Azerbaijan, Iran, and others are retained in my collection at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.