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A revision of the Egyptian species of the genus *Actorthia* Kröber (Diptera: Therevidae: Phycinae)

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Abstract

The genus *Actorthia* Kröber, 1912 was described based on a single female from Tourrah (Egypt) and is revised for the first time since the original description. *Actorthia khedivialis* (Becker, 1912) is newly synonymized with *A. frontata* (Kröber, 1912) based on examination of the type specimens of both species recently discovered in the Cairo University Collection (Egypt) and Natural History Museum (Austria), respectively. *Actorthia efflatouni* Kröber, 1925 is confirmed as a synonym of *A. micans* (Kröber, 1923) and *Actorthia olivierii* (Macquart, 1840) is transferred to *Phycus*. *Actorthia pulchella* Kröber, 1927 is recorded in Israel for the first time. The three Egyptian species of *Actorthia* are diagnosed and illustrated along with colour images of the type specimens, and a key to the Egyptian species is included.

Key words: Stiletto fly, Asiloidea, Egypt

Introduction

The stiletto fly subfamily Phycinae is distributed worldwide (with the exception of Australia and Antarctica) and comprises approximately 18 genera with over 130 described and undescribed species (Hauser & Webb 2007; Winterton *et al.* 2012). In the Palaearctic region Phycinae includes about 40 species belonging to seven genera according to the last published catalogue (Lyneborg 1989). Lyneborg (2002) added one new species *Phycus lacteipennis* from Morocco, while Mohammad & Badrawy (2011) recently added two new species of *Efflatouniella* Kröber from Egypt. Badrawy & Mohammad (2011) newly synonymized the two species of *Ruppellia* Wiedemann [*R. pallida* Kröber and *R. apicalis* Kröber] with *R. semiflava* Wiedemann.

The genus *Actorthia* was described by Kröber (1912) based on a single female specimen collected from Tourrah (south of Cairo – Egypt). Lyneborg (1983) published a diagnosis of *Actorthia* and listed the 15 described species. Members of this genus are small to medium sized, and are easily recognized by their wing venation: vein C ends at CuA_2+A_1 , vein M_3 reaches the wing margin while cell r_4 is wide, and because the flagellum is narrower than the scape. Body color is usually black or brown but is sometimes pale orange (Lyneborg 1983; Hauser 2005).

Actorthia is primarily distributed along the arid, desert belt of the Palaearctic region, where several species occur in North Africa (Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt), and the Middle East (Israel, Iraq, Iran) to Oman, to Central Asia, and as far as Mongolia. The genus penetrates south into the Saharan section of the Afrotropical region, being recorded from Mauritania and Djibouti (Lyneborg 1983, Hauser 2005). Egypt contains the type localities of four species: *A. frontata* (Kröber), *A. khedivialis* (Becker), *A. micans* (Kröber) and *A. pulchella* Kröber (Kröber 1937, Steyskal & El-Bialy 1967).

While Kröber (1912) described *Actorthia* based on *A. frontata*, in the same year Becker (1912) described *G. khedivialis* in the new genus *Gyrophthalmus*. Kröber (1924) subsequently synonymized *Gyrophthalmus* with *Actorthia* and reviewed the two species (*A. frontata* and *A. khedivialis*) while describing *A. micans* from Sakkara (in *Orthactia* Kröber, 1912). He restated these decisions in a later paper (Kröber 1925a), and in the same year (Kröber 1925b) described *A. efflatouni* from Abu Rawash. Soon afterwards (Kröber 1927) he added another new