



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3635.4.10>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:516B9D7F-56AD-4F42-A322-0B87AB1DAA44>

A review of the genera *Acathrito* Lyneborg, *Phycus* Walker and *Salentia* Costa (Diptera: Therevidae: Phycinae) from Egypt

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Abstract

The Egyptian fauna of the three genera *Acathrito* Lyneborg, *Phycus* Walker and *Salentia* Costa of subfamily Phycinae (Therevidae) is revised. Five species are recognized, three species of *Phycus* (including *Phycus rufofemoratus* Kröber as a new record) and one species for each of *Acathrito* and *Salentia*. A key to Egyptian *Phycus* species is included. Illustrations, specimens examined and distributions are given for each species.

Key words: Stiletto fly, Palaearctic, Afrotropical, Egypt

Introduction

The phycine subfamily of stiletto flies is distributed worldwide (with the exception of Australia and Antarctica) and comprises 128 species in 18 genera (Hauser 2005; Hauser & Webb 2007). The following reviews of *Acathrito* Lyneborg, *Phycus* Walker and *Salentia* Costa are the last complementary studies in the series of papers on the Phycinae in Egypt by Mohammad & Badrawy (2011); Badrawy & Mohammad (2011); Winterton *et al.* 2012; Badrawy & Mohammad (2012 in press;) reviewing the subfamily Phycinae in Egypt.

In the Palaearctic Region, the Phycinae currently includes about 40 species belonging to seven genera (*Acathrito* Lyneborg, *Actorthia* Kröber, *Efflatouniella* Kröber, *Phycus* Walker, *Ruppellia* Wiedemann, *Salentia* Costa, *Yemenia* Koçak & Kemal) according to the last published catalog of Lyneborg (1989). Lyneborg (2002) added one new species, *Phycus lacteipennis*, from Morocco while Mohammad & Badrawy (2011) added two new species of *Efflatouniella* from Egypt. Badrawy & Mohammad (2011) newly synonymized the two species of genus *Ruppellia* [*R. pallida* Kröber and *R. apicalis* Kröber] with *R. semiflava* Wiedemann. Winterton *et al.* (2012) described a new genus from Egypt, and provided a key to genera to the Palaearctic region.

The genus *Phycus* was described by Walker (1850) based on a female specimen collected from North Bengal (India). Lyneborg (1983) published a diagnosis of *Phycus* and gave a list of the four described Palaearctic species. Members of this genus are of medium to large size, elongate, easily recognized by the elongate flagellum, longer than head; palpus two segmented; prosternal depression without setae; male eyes dichoptic; vein C ending at CuA_2+A_1 ; gonocoxites separated; hypandrium absent or very small; ventral apodeme forked. They are usually black in colour, sometimes reddish-brown (Lyneborg 1978, 1983, 1987, 2003; Hauser 2005).

Phycus is widely distributed with species recorded throughout the Afrotropical, Palaearctic, Oriental, Nearctic and Neotropical regions (Lyneborg 2003). In the Afrotropical Region, species can be found throughout most of Africa, but they seem to be absent in the central tropical regions and in Madagascar. In the Palaearctic Region, species are known from the southern Mediterranean area (Morocco to Israel) through the Middle East (Iran, Iraq) to Central Asia (Uzbekistan). In the Oriental Region, species are known from Nepal through India, south to Sri Lanka, and east to the Philippines and Borneo. In the Nearctic Region, the genus is confined to California in the United States, extending through Mexico into Costa Rica (Hauser 2005).