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Pamphagidae (Orthoptera: Caelifera) of North Africa: key to genera and the annotated check-list of species

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Abstract

At least 95 species of Pamphagidae belonging to 17 genera are known in North Africa. Taxonomic status is fairly known, with some exception, mainly due to scarcity of available specimens of some genera in museums and collections. In this paper, the author proposes a new key to genera and reports the annotated list of all the known species, based on specimens examined in different European museums. Concerning the subfamily Thrinchinae, he proposes to consider only the following species of the genus *Tmethis*: *T. cisti*, *T. harterti* new status, *T. maroccanus* and *T. pulchripennis*. He also considers *Neotmethis bidentatus* synonym of *T. harterti*, and the three newly described species of the genus *Tuarega* as synonyms of *T. insignis*. In addition, he proposes to remove *Batrachotettix elephas* from the synonyms of *T. insignis*, because its description consents to establish that it belongs to a South African Porthetinae, not to a Thrinchinae. With regard to the subfamily Pamphaginae, the author recognizes the presence in North Africa of three tribes, until now containing 90 species: Finotiini, Pamphagini and Euryparaphini; *Amigus* is definitively considered a valid genus within the tribe Pamphagini, with the only species *A. nigroadspersus*. Additionally, he proposes a new key to species of the genus *Paracinipe*. He considers *Paracinipe theryi* as a valid species; previously it has been listed as subspecies of *P. dolichocera*. He also establishes that *Acinipe calabra* of Italy is the same taxon living in North Africa. Further, he describes *Euryparaphes rungsi* new species from Middle Atlas, and *Paraeumigus lopezi* new species from West Morocco, and synonymizes *Eunapiodes granosus rungsi* with *E. atlantis*. Finally, he reports biometric data of the genera *Tmethis*, *Paracinipe*, *Paraeumigus* and *Eunapiodes*.

Key words: Thrinchinae, Pamphaginae, *Euryparaphes rungsi* n. sp., *Paraeumigus lopezi* n. sp., Synonymies

Introduction

This paper is mainly based on the study of specimens preserved in the following institutions: Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid (MNCN); Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN); Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna (NMW); Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milan (MSNM); Museo Civico di Storia Naturale 'G. Doria', Genoa (MSNG); Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, Turin (MSNT); Museo di Zoologia Università La Sapienza, Rome (MZR); Dipartimento di Agraria Università, Portici (Naples) (DAP); collection B. Massa Università, Palermo (BMCP). Some specimens were photographed with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera, mounted on a Wild M5 Stereomicroscope. Mounted specimens were measured with a digital calliper (precision 0.01 mm); as precise measurement of wingless insects with large abdomen is difficult, total length was measured from the vertex to the apex of hind femur. New synonyms are reported within square brackets.

Results

Key to North African subfamilies of Pamphagidae

- 1. Fully winged species. Thrinchinae
- Apterous or squamipterous species. Pamphaginae