Zootaxa 3731 (3): 381–385
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3731.3.7
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:41E9EB0A-A74B-43FB-A4DD-21497E52FCB9

First records of the antlion genus *Solter* Navás from southern Africa, with description of a new species (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae: Myrmecaelurini)

MERVYN W. MANSELL
Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria, Pretoria 0002, South Africa. E-mail: mansel@mweb.co.za

Abstract

A new species of *Solter* Navás is described from South Africa, representing the first record of this genus from Africa south of the equator. This is a significant extension to the known distribution range of this predominantly Palaearctic genus. The species described here is characteristically reddish brown with a banded abdomen, and was recorded at three localities in arid rocky areas in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.

Key words: Neuroptera, Myrmeleontidae, Myrmecaelurini, *Solter*, new species, South Africa, Afrotropical Region

Introduction

Solter Navás, 1912 is essentially a genus of the Palaearctic Region, occurring mainly in the Middle East and Saudi Arabia (Stange 2004). The genus comprises 28 species and extends from Morocco and Portugal in the west, eastwards to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India and southwards into the northern Afrotropical Region to Sudan, Niger, Somalia and Socotra Island (Stange 2004). Four species, *S. dubiosus* Hölzel, 1981, *S. liber* Navás, 1912, *S. propheticus* Hölzel, 1981, and *S. virgilli* Navás, 1931, were hitherto known from Afrotropical Africa.

Solter species had not been recorded from south of the equator until a series of specimens that can clearly be assigned to this genus was identified from South Africa. These records represent a significant southern extension of the known range of *Solter* and a unique addition to the South African antlion fauna. The specimens were attracted to light and hand-netted in arid rocky areas of the Northern Cape Province.

Known larvae have been found under protected rock overhangs in deserts (Stange 2004), but the larva of the South African species remains unknown.

The following abbreviations are used in the text: A1–A3, anal veins; CuA, anterior cubital vein; CuP, posterior cubital vein; MP2, second branch of posterior median vein; Rs, radial sector, TA1–TA5, tarsomeres 1–5; SANC, South African National Collection of Insects, Agricultural Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa.

Solter Navás, 1912

Solter Navás, 1912: 32. Type species: *Solter liber* Navás, 1912: 33, by original designation and monotypy.
Sartous Navás, 1914: 207; Stange 2004: 279.
Nelus Navás, 1929: 44; Hölzel 1972: 33.

Diagnosis

Robust medium-sized antlions with short clavate antennae; forewings with CuP arising close to basal crossvein, 2A extends in an even curve towards 3A; hind wings with 3 or more presectoral crossveins; males with pilula axillaris, femoral sense hairs present on fore and middle femora, absent from hind femora; tarsomere 5 longer than tarsomeres 1-4 combined; tibial spurs stout, curved, extending beyond tarsomere 1.

Accepted by A. Contreras-Ramos: 25 Sept. 2013; published: 31 Oct. 2013

Acknowledgements

I thank L.P. Snyman (University of Pretoria) for the photographs. C.D. Eardley (SANC), H. Aspöck, U. Aspöck (University of Vienna), and the late H. Hölzel (Bruckl, Austria) and P. Ohm (Kiel, Germany) are thanked and acknowledged for participation in the field trips that led to the discovery of this new species. The Northern Cape Department of Nature Conservation is acknowledged for granting of research permits. C.H.Scholtz and J.B.Ball are thanked for reading and commenting on the manuscript. The JRS Foundation is sincerely acknowledged for providing a grant towards the exploration and documentation of Neuroptera biodiversity.

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*The numbers in bold after each reference correspond to the universal numbering system of Neuropterida literature in the Lacewing Digital Library portal: http://lacewing.tamu.edu/LDL/indexcontent.html. John D. Oswald, Texas A & M University, Chief Editor.