



Membracidae of Gabon: the genus *Hamma* Buckton, 1905 (Hemiptera: Auchenorrhyncha) with description of three new species

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Abstract

Specimens of Membracidae belonging to the genus *Hamma* collected in several surveys conducted between 2009 and 2012 in Gabon were examined. They represent six species, of which three are described as new to science: *Hamma bouldardi* n. sp., *Hamma carlini* n. sp., *Hamma franciscae* n. sp.

Résumé

Les auteurs identifient les différents spécimens de la famille des Membracidae appartenant au genre *Hamma* collectés pendant plusieurs expéditions dans les années 2009-2012 au Gabon.

Six espèces sont dénombrées en tout, dont trois nouvelles espèces pour la science: *Hamma bouldardi* n. sp., *Hamma carlini* n. sp., *Hamma franciscae* n. sp.

Riassunto

Sono esaminati gli esemplari della famiglia Membracidae appartenenti al genere *Hamma* raccolti in alcune spedizioni negli anni dal 2009 al 2012 in Gabon. Si segnalano sei specie, di cui tre risultano nuove per la scienza: *Hamma bouldardi* n. sp., *Hamma carlini* n. sp., *Hamma franciscae* n. sp.

Key word: Membracidae, *Hamma*, taxonomy, new records, new species, Gabon, Equatorial Africa.

Introduction

The Gabon represents one of the most well-conserved natural areas in the South Saharan Africa and a sanctuary of the equatorial forest. Its policy about wildlife conservation is encouraging and tends to promote research for knowledge and conservation.

The present work is the first of a series addressing the family Membracidae Rafinesque, 1815. Systematic studies on these insects have increased recently, but not yet sufficiently to invalidate the statement of Buckton (1905) that “[...] numerous species have hitherto engaged less attention from the entomologist than they deserve [...]”.

Previous studies of Centrotinae Amyot & Serville, 1843 in Africa and of the genus *Hamma* Buckton, 1905 are summarized in the works of Stål (1866), Goding (1932), Capener (e.g., 1968, 1972), and Boulard (e.g., 1968,

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