



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4027.4.9>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:8DEE3134-4198-4B51-98F0-876B843F04EB>

A pictorial key to the species of the *Aedes* (*Zavortinkius*) in the Afrotropical Region (Diptera: Culicidae)

YIAU-MIN HUANG¹ & LEOPOLDO M. RUEDA²

¹Department of Entomology, P.O. Box 37012, MSC C1109, MRC 534, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20013-7012, U.S.A.
E-mail: huangy@si.edu

²Walter Reed Biosystematics Unit, Entomology Branch, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver Spring, MD 20910-7500, U.S.A. Mailing address: Walter Reed Biosystematics Unit, Museum Support Center (MRC 534), Smithsonian Institution, 4210 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD 20746, U.S.A.
E-mail: ruedapol@si.edu

Abstract. Six species of the subgenus *Zavortinkius* of *Aedes* Meigen in the Afrotropical Region are treated in a pictorial key based on diagnostic morphological features. Images of the diagnostic morphological structures of the adult thorax and leg are included.

Key words: Culicidae, *Aedes*, mosquitoes, identification key, Africa

Introduction

In “Mosquitoes of the Ethiopian Region, in the Subgenus *Finlaya* Theobald”, Edwards (1941: 119) noted that the African species of this subgenus belong to two very distinct groups: the Wellmanii Group without metallic markings, and the Fulgens Group of black species with silvery markings on the thorax and abdomen.

Edwards (1941: 120), in his “Key to Ethiopian Species of *Finlaya*”, included three species in the **Couplet 1a**. “**Metallic silvery markings on thorax and abdomen, including a double row of silver scales extending nearly whole length of scutum in middle**”: (1) *longipalpis* (Grunberg, 1905: 383), from Duala (Hafen), Cameroon; (2) *fulgens* (Edwards, 1917: 213), from Zanzibar (Tanganyika), Tanzania; and (3) *monetus* Edwards (1935a: 132), from Maevatanane, Madagascar. Edwards (1941: 120) also included six species from Africa in the **Couplet 1b**. “**No metallic silvery scales on thorax or abdomen**”: (1) *wellmanii* (Theobald, 1905b: 103) from Bihe, Angola; (2) *ingrami* Edwards (1930a: 296) from Aburi, (Gold Coast) Ghana; (3) *embuensis* Edwards (1930a: 295) from Embu, Kenya; (4) *nyasae* Edwards (1930a: 296) from Fort Johnston, (Nyasaland) Malawi; (5) *barnardi* Edwards (1924a: 161) from Oudebosch, Cape Province, Republic of South Africa (Union of South Africa); and (6) *pulchrithorax* Edwards (1939a: 17) from Nairobi, Kenya. Reinert (1999) removed *Aedes longipalpis* (Grunberg, 1905) from the Fulgens Group of the subgenus *Finlaya* Theobald (1903) and defined a new subgenus, *Zavortinkius* for that species and its relatives. Reinert (1999) included 11 species (4 new species, and 7 species previously assigned to the subgenus *Finlaya*) in his new subgenus, *Aedes* (*Zavortinkius*).

To assist entomologists and other field workers in the identification of mosquitoes from Africa, we provide a pictorial key as an add-on to the key of Huang (2001). A few additional characters, indicated by a double asterisks (**), were added as needed to facilitate identification. Images of the diagnostic morphological structures of the adult thorax and leg are also included in the supplemental pictorial key.

Material and methods

This study is based on specimens in the mosquito collection of the Department of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History (USNM), Smithsonian Institution. Other specimens were borrowed from individuals and institutions noted in the acknowledgments. The terminology follows Harbach and Knight (1980, 1982) with the exception of “tarsal claws,” which is retained for “ungues.” Terminology for wing venation follows Belkin (1962).