

Systematics of the genus *Epithalassius* Mik, 1891 (Diptera, Dolichopodidae)

Систематика рода *Epithalassius* Mik, 1891 (Diptera, Dolichopodidae)

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Ключевые слова: Diptera, Dolichopodidae, Палеарктика, Тропическая Африка, *Epithalassius*, новый вид, определитель.

Abstract. The genus *Epithalassius* Mik, 1891 is reviewed, illustrated and keyed, and includes seven species, one of them newly described: *E. susmani* sp. n. from Israel. A checklist of the *Epithalassius* fauna is provided along with notes on selected species and genus position. *E. corsicanus* Becker, 1910 is first recorded from Israel. A new tribe Epithalassiini, **tribus novus**, is proposed in the subfamily Hydrophorinae. A key to tribes of the subfamily is also compiled.

Резюме. Даны обзор и определитель семи видов рода *Epithalassius* Mik, 1891, в т.ч. одного нового вида *E. susmani* sp. n. из Израиля. Приведен список видов и заметки о некоторых видах и систематическом положении рода. *E. corsicanus* Becker, 1910 впервые указан для Израиля. Предложена новая триба в подсемействе Hydrophorinae – Epithalassiini, **tribus novus**. Составлен определитель триб подсемейства.

Introduction

The genus *Epithalassius* was described by Mik [1891] with only one included species *E. sanctimarci* Mik, 1891 (described by a female from Venice), which is the type species of the genus. The description has a few specific characters allowing poor association of this female with subsequently described Mediterranean species, including quadrisetose scutellum, rusty oviscapt and entirely light body setation. Strobl [in Czerny, Strobl, 1909] described *E. czernyi* from southernmost Spain (Tarifa), distinguishing it from *E. sanctimarci* by entirely black femora with only knees red-yellow, while *E. sanctimarci* was described with femora broadly ochraceous at their apex and with hind femur ochraceous also basoventrally. The male of this species was described as having cercal lobes rusty-yellow, thin, long, more or less widened at apex. Becker [1910] described *E. corsicanus* from Bastia (Corsica), distinguishing it from previously known species by bisetose scutellum and black cercal lobes. It is worth noting that he described wing vein CuA_1 as being 1.5 times longer than *m-cu*; one cercal lobe as knoblike, and another one not thickened at apex in male; female having black oviscapt. Becker [1918] included the genus into the subfamily Rhaphiinae with three known Mediterranean species, *E.*

sanctimarci (= *E. czernyi*), *E. corsicanus* and *E. caucasicus* Becker, 1918 (described by females). Later, *E. elegantulus* Villeneuve, 1920 was described from Atlantic France, *E. africanus* Parent, 1930 was described by a female from Congo and *E. stackelbergi* Bešovský, 1966 from Bulgaria. Parent [1938] included South France and Corsica into the area of *E. sanctimarci*; nevertheless, the records and identity of this species with *E. czernyi* should be confirmed. Selivanova and Negrobov [2006] have redescribed types of *E. caucasicus*, *E. corsicanus* and *E. elegantulus*, and have designated lectotypes and paralectotypes for *E. caucasicus* and *E. corsicanus*. *E. caucasicus* was recorded from all Bulgarian Black Sea coast [Caspers, 1951], but its male is not yet described. Vanschuytbroeck [1976] has recorded *E. corsicanus* from St. Helena; the specimen is found in Belgium, Tervuren. Ulrich [1980] included the genus into the subfamily Systemiinae (with a question mark), Negrobov [1986] into the subfamily Peloropeodinae, and Grichanov [2007] has placed the genus into the subfamily Hydrophorinae. Treating collection of the Department of Zoology of the Tel Aviv University, I have found a new material on the genus *Epithalassius*. Description of one new species from Israel is also given in this paper.

Materials and methods

Material cited in this work is housed at the following institutions:

MNHN – France, Paris, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle;

RMCA – Belgium, Tervuren, Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale;

TAU – Israel, Tel Aviv, Tel Aviv University.

The left lateral view of the hypopygium, or male genital capsule, is illustrated for new species. In describing the hypopygium, 'dorsal' and 'ventral' refer to morphological position prior to genitalic rotation and flexion. Thus, in figures showing a lateral view of the hypopygium, the top of the page is morphologically ventral, while the bottom is dorsal. Morphological terminology follows Grichanov [2007]. The relative lengths of the podomeres should be regarded as representative ratios and not measurements.