

New species of genus *Daspletis* Loew 1858 from Gabon (Diptera : Asilidae : Stenopogoninae)

Guy Tomasovic

Scientific associate, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (ULg), Unité d'Entomologie fonctionnelle et évolutive (Prof. Frédéric Francis), Passage des Déportés 2, B-5030 Gembloux, Belgium. E-mail: guytomasovic@yahoo.fr

Reçu le 23 octobre 2015, accepté le 3 février 2016.

One new species of genus *Daspletis* Loew 1858 from Gabon is described and the male genitalia are illustrated.

Keywords: Diptera, Asilidae, Stenopogoninae, *Daspletis*, new species, Afrotropical, Gabon.

Une nouvelle espèce du genre *Daspletis* Loew 1858 du Gabon est décrite et les genitalia mâle sont illustrés.

Mots clés: Diptère, Asilidae, Stenopogoninae, *Daspletis*, espèce nouvelle, Afrotropical, Gabon.

1 INTRODUCTION

The southern African genus *Daspletis* Loew 1858 is a small genus related to *Microstylum* Macquar 1838; it has been presented and illustrated by Hull (1962), Londt (1974, 1983), Oldroyd (1970, 1974) and Tomasovic & Constant (2013).

2 TAXONOMY

Eigth species of genus *Daspletis* are known : *D. hermanni* Ricardo 1925 ; *D. hirtus* Ricardo 1925 ; *D. placodes* Londt 1983 ; *D. setithoracicus* (Ricardo 1925) ; *D. stenoura* Londt 1983 ; *D. vulpes* Loew 1858 ; *D. lykos* Londt 1985 and *D. spatula* Tomasovic & Constant 2013. The

species are rather large and readily recognized by the facial protuberance that occupies at least three-quarter of the face and by the face bristles and very long hairs that extend over the entire length of the face. Their wings have veins with a close relationship to *Microstylum* but the first posterior cell is always closed.

3 MATERIEL EXAMINED

Daspletis poligui spec. nov. (Figure 1)

Holotype : male Gabon, Oloua, 578 m, S 00°50'35'' E 14°45'', 8.XI.2009. Leg R.N. Poligui. Found at the entomological Conservatory of Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (Prof. Frédéric Francis).



Figure 1: Photo of *Daspletis poligui*.

4 DIAGNOSIS

Species of medium size, orange antenna, greyish thorax, brown wings, yellowish tibiae and tarsi, abdomen essentially orange. Setae and hairs are whitish.

Description : Based on unique male holotype
Male. Length : body 23 mm, wings 14 mm.

Head : Orange antenna, scape and pedicel with white setae, postpedicel wider on the upper third and clearly longer than the scape and pedicel combined. Yellow brown face, mystax with long yellowish bristles and shorter hairs, numerous long and yellowish orbital hairs. Black vertex, ocellarium scarcely visible with fine, long and white hairs. Occiput with silver tomentum, white postocular bristles, occipital and lower occipital white hair. Black proboscis, reddish on the ventral part. Pale brown palpi with yellowish setae.

Thorax : Pronotum with long white hairs. Pronotal lobe with numerous white setae and hair. Scutum greyish with sparse very short yellow hairs. Setae ; 2 post humeral, 2 notopleurales, 2 supraalar, 3 postalar, 3 dorsocentral before the transversal suture. Scutellum with 4 scutellar setae and fine relatively long white hairs on the disc. Pale brown pleurae, white katatergale setae mixed with hairs, anatergal with a brush of numerous

yellowish hairs. Pale brown halteres. Brown-orange, legs, fore and mid femora and dark brown hind femora. Yellowish tibia with white setae and very short hairs. Yellowish with black tarsi and white setae. Dark claws with orange base. Brown wings with black stain except in anterior cubital and anal cell, 5th radial cell closed, costa around the wing.

Abdomen : Majority orange with short whitish hairs, the first tergite 1 black with yellowish setae and hairs. Terga and sterna with a fine lateral black strip. Postmetacoxal membrane with just three small, fine yellowish hairs.

Genitalia male (Figure 2). Brown with numerous and long yellowish setae.
 Female unknown.

Etymology. Named in honour of the collector René Noël Poligui who has a PhD from ULg - Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech

Remarks. *Daspletis poligui* is very similar to *D. hermanni* but for the dorsocentral setae behind the transverse suture, the postmetacoxal membrane nearly glabrous and the combined characters of the genitalia male that readily separate this species from the other species in this genus.

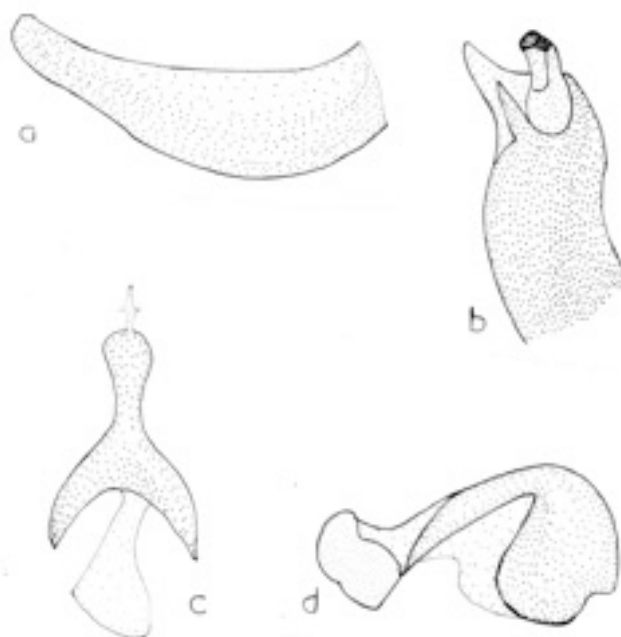
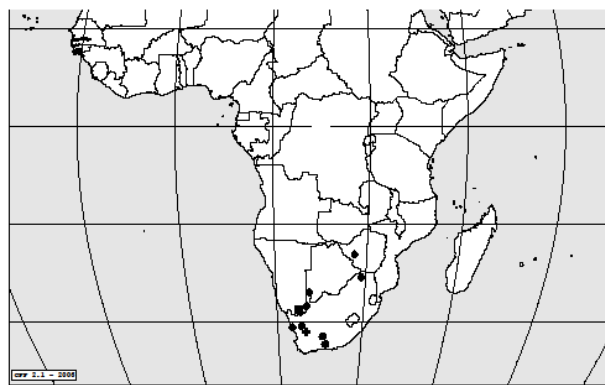
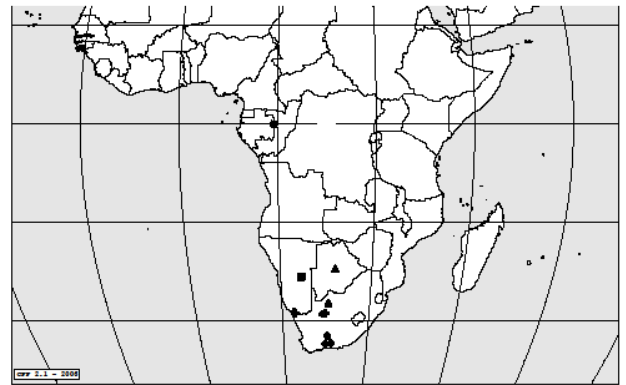


Figure 2: Genitalia male of *Daspletis poligui* without the setae: A = Epandrium; B = gonocoxite and dististylus; C = phallus; D = hypandrium.



● *Daspletis hermanni* 11 specimens
 ◆ *Daspletis hirtus* 28 specimens
 ■ *Daspletis lykos* 2 specimens
 + *Daspletis placodes* 13 specimens



● *Daspletis poligui* 1 specimens
 ◆ *Daspletis setithoracicus* 10 specimens
 ■ *Daspletis spatula* 5 specimens
 + *Daspletis stenoura* 22 specimens
 ▲ *Daspletis vulpes* 16 specimens

Figures 3 & 4: Maps of distribution of genus *Daspletis* Loew 1858.

Before this paper all the eight species were only known under the latitude 15° south of Africa but *D. poligui* has been collected just underneath the equator and now the question is: Is this genus to be found above the equator? (**Figures 3 & 4**)

BIBLIOGRAPHIE

- Londt J.G.H. (1974). An Introduction to the Robber Flies (Diptera : Asilidae) of Southern Africa. *Annals of the Natal Museum* **22**(1), p. 1-171.
- Londt J.G.H. (1983). The genus *Daspletis* Loew, 1858 and the description of two new genera, *Anasilomus* and *Remotomyia* (Diptera: Asilidae : Stenopogoninae). *Journal of the Entomological Society of southern Africa* **46**(2), p. 283-308.
- Londt J.G.H. (1985). New species of *Daspletis*, *Oratostylum*, *Dasophrys* and *Hippomachus* (Diptera : Asilidae). *Cimbebasia (A)* **7**(5), p. 67-76.

Hull F.M. (1962). Robber flies of the world. *Bulletin of the United States National Museum* **224**(1-2), p. 1-907.

Oldroyd H. (1970). Studies on African Asilidae. I. Asilidae of the Congo Basin. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History), Entomology Series* **24**, p. 209-334.

Oldroyd H. (1974). An Introduction to the Robber Flies (Diptera : Asilidae) of Southern Africa. *Annals of the Natal Museum* **22**(1), p. 1-171.

Tomasovic G. & Constant J. (2013). Asilidae of the Kuzikus Wildlife Reserve (Namibia) (Diptera). *Bulletin de la Société royale belge d'Entomologie* **149**(2), p. 163-178.

(7 réf.)