

**Note on Oriental Asilidae: description of
Ancylorhynchus cambodgiensis n. sp.
from Cambodia and taxonomic changes (Diptera)**

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Abstract

Ancylorhynchus cambodgiensis n. sp. is described from Cambodia. *Ancylorhynchus complacitus* (WULP, 1872) is transferred to *Saropogon* LOEW, 1847 and *Heligmonevra impiger* (WULP, 1872) is transferred to *Amphiscolops* HULL, 1962. The new combinations *Saropogon complacitus* (WULP, 1872) and *Amphiscolops impiger* (WULP, 1872) are subsequently proposed.

Keywords: Asilidae, *Ancylorhynchus*, new species; new combinations.

Résumé

Ancylorhynchus cambodgiensis n. sp. est décrit du Cambodge. *Ancylorhynchus complacitus* (WULP, 1872) est transféré dans le genre *Saropogon* LOEW, 1847 et *Heligmonevra impiger* (WULP, 1872) est transféré dans le genre *Amphiscolops* HULL, 1962. Les nouvelles combinaisons *Saropogon complacitus* (WULP, 1872) et *Amphiscolops impiger* (WULP, 1872) sont donc proposées.

Introduction

The genus *Ancylorhynchus* BERTHOLD, 1827 is a member of the subfamily Stenopogoninae of the Asilidae. The species of the genus are nearly deprived of chaetotaxia and tomentum, they have a rather robust and cylindrical abdomen, the wings with all cells open and antennae unusually thin and long. Their most remarkable characteristic remains without doubt their parrot bill-shaped proboscis that is unique in the family Asilidae. OLDROYD (1970) notes "It seems evident that the characteristic proboscis must be related to some peculiarity of diet, but as far as I know no-one has attempted to speculate what it might feed upon". This last question is still appropriate. Again OLDROYD (1974) notes "It looks as if the prey must be pierced by a downward and backward stroke, instead of by the forward stab that is usual in Asilidae. This suggests that the prey must be exceptionally difficult to penetrate"

The genus *Ancylorhynchus* currently contains 46 species and is absent from America. 25

species are distributed in the Afrotropical region (LONDT 2005) but according to LONDT (1999), those species require revision. Among those 25 species, 17 are reported from South Africa where 15 are endemic. The remaining 21 species are distributed as follows: 4 in Australian region, only 1, *A. percheronii* (MACQUART, 1834), in Oriental region (Sumatra) and 16 in Palearctic region, nearly exclusively in the Mediterranean subregion. We also signal that the specimens are very few in the collections and never numerous.

Ancylorhynchus cambodgiensis spec. nov.
(Figs 1-3)

Material

Holotype female with following label: Cambodia, Angkor Thom, VII.2005, leg. D. Jump:

Etymology: The species is named after Cambodia, the region in which it occurs.

Description

Female

Head black with all chaetotaxy white-yellowish. Face not prominent, wider than half of width of eye. Mystax reaching antennal insertion. Palps black and inflated. Proboscis black, parrot bill-shaped. Antennae black, scape about 5 times as long as the pedicel with white bristles on the frons, pedicel very small, postpedicel very long and very flattened, like a ribbon, with an apical microscopic pit.

Thorax black. Anteprenotum with white-yellowish hairs and bristles. Scutum with short hairs predominantly white mixed with black ones. Humeral hairs white. 4 notopleural setae black. Postalar setae yellowish. Pleurae black with yellowish hairs. Antepisternum with a brush of white-yellowish hairs at the dorsum. Postnotal fan fine and yellowish. Scutellum black, with more than 12 fine yellowish scutellar bristles. Wings brownish on the distal 2/3 and whitish at the base. Legs black with yellowish hairs and bristles. Femurs not swollen.

Abdomen. Tergite 1 black with yellowish hairs; tergite 2 black with 2 yellow spots; tergite 3 narrow and yellow; tergite 4 yellow, tergites 5-6-7 reddish; tergite 8 shiny black. Tergites completely covered with yellowish hairs. Acanthophorites reddish. Sternites 1-2 black, sternites 3-4 yellowish, sternites 5-6-7 reddish.

Body length: about 15 mm.

Remark: this new species is described for a single female. Even if male genitalic characters are not available, this species is sufficiently distinct from the other ones of the genus to be undoubtedly considered as new (e.g.: the long and much flattened postpedicel and the narrowing 3rd abdominal tergite), furthermore, it is very isolated from the other known species.

The type of the other Oriental species of *Ancylorhynchus*, *A. percheronii* (MACQUART, 1834) (*Xiphocera*) from Sumatra is unfortunately supposed to be lost: it has not been found in the collections the Museum of Paris and of the Museum of Lille, and MACQUART (1838) stated "quoique nous n'ayons pas l'occasion de revoir le *X. Percheronii*".

Taxonomic changes

We have examined the holotype of *Xiphocerus complacitus* WULP, 1872 and that of *Eccoctopus*



1



2



3

Figs 1-3. *Ancylorhynchus cambodgiensis*. 1: habitus; 2: head, frontal view; 3: head, lateral view.

impiger WULP, 1872 in the collections of the Natural History Museum of Leiden and the following taxonomic changes are proposed.

***Saropogon complacitus* (WULP, 1872) comb. n.**

Xiphocera complacitus WULP, 1872

Ancylorhynchus complacitus (WULP, 1872):
GELLER-GRIMM, 2003

The species of the genus *Xiphocera* MAQUART, 1834 have been transferred to the genus *Ancylorhynchus* BERTHOLD, 1827 (GELLER-GRIMM, 2003) as well as the species *Xiphocera complacitus* WULP, 1872 (GELLER-GRIMM, 2006).

Material examined:

Holotype: female with 3 labels: first label printed: Bernstein, Waigeo; second label handwritten: *Xiphocerus complacitus*; third label orange, printed: Holotype; in National Museum of Natural History, Leiden, Netherlands.

The island of Waigeo is situated in Indonesia, North of New Guinea in the Australian region.

In the original description of the species, WULP (1872) erroneously stated that the specimen is a male and he also gave illustrations of the habitus and of head in side view. The proboscis is not that one of typical *Ancylorhynchus*. The specimen has an apical spine on the anterior tibia characteristic of the tribu Saropogonini and it has the third antennal segment without conspicuous tuft of small bristles and the female has acanthophorites with spine. All these features are peculiar to genus *Saropogon* LOEW, 1847. We add to as the species as shows remarkable palpus; the basal segment long and cylindrical with long hairs; the second one leaflike, bare and sclerified dorsally and with numerous hairs ventrally and on the sides.

***Amphiscolops impiger* (WULP, 1872) comb. n.**

Eccoptopus impiger WULP, 1872

Heligmonevra impiger (WULP, 1872) Oldroyd,
(1975)

Lectotype : male with 3 labels; first label printed: Rosenberg, Celebes, with in the middle, handwritten, Soemalatt; second label: *Eccoptopus impiger*, v.d. WULP; third label printed: Syntype.

In order to avoid ambiguity concerning the taxon *Eccoptopus impiger* WULP, 1872, this male is designated here as lectotype.

When WULP (1872) described the species *Eccoptopus impiger*, for 1 male and 1 female from Sumatra, he also illustrated the fore leg, the wing and the aedeagus of the male. These are

conform with those of the specimen that we have examined.

The specimen bears a pair of sharp spines on each side of the sixth tergite that are characteristic of the Oriental and Australian genus *Amphiscolops* HULL, 1962 (this is also visible on the illustration of WULP, 1872). Nevertheless we must note that the basis of the wing is not milky but white.

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