

Institut royal des Sciences  
naturelles de Belgique

BULLETIN

Tome XXX, n° 44  
Bruxelles, décembre 1954.

Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut  
voor Natuurwetenschappen

MEDEDELINGEN

Deel XXX, n° 44  
Brussel, December 1954.

---

ON SOME SYRPHIDÆ (DIPTERA)  
FROM BELGIAN CONGO

by Pieter Hendrik VAN DOESBURG (Baarn).

---

I. *Megaspis natalensis* MACQUART and its varieties.

In 1849 MACQUART described *Eristalis natalensis* from Port Natal. According to the description, in this species the facial tubercle is black, the mesonotum is black with an anterior yellow fascia and a little yellow along the posterior margin; the posterior tibiæ have black ciliæ on their inner and outer side.

LOEW (1858 and 1860) described *Eristalis (Megaspis) curta*, also coming from South Africa. According to LOEW himself this species is nearly related to *natalensis* MACQUART, differing chiefly by the black velvety pollinose markings on the third and the fourth abdominal segments. In *natalensis* MACQUART the oval, shining spot of the third segment is entirely surrounded by a broad velvety fascia; on the fourth segment is a broad, black, velvety band on either side of the shining spot. In *curta* LOEW the spot of the third segment is on either side connected with a small, oblong, velvety triangle while the fourth segment is practically wholly shining.

By previous writers *curta* LOEW has generally been considered as merely a variety of *natalensis* MACQUART. BEZZI (1915) was

convinced « that LOEW was right in distinguishing it as a species ». BEZZI examined a series of more than fifty specimens in the Hungarian Museum, coming probably from East Equatorial Africa.

In the collection of the Transvaal Museum I have seen three females *natalensis* MACQUART, and five males, six females of *curta* LOEW, all coming from South Africa. I found the above given differences are constant. I have also seen typical specimens of *curta* LOEW from Angola, so I am inclined to agree BEZZI's opinion.

Among the Syrphids sent for identification by the Authorities of the « Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique » at Brussels, I found 62 specimens belonging to the *natalensis* — *curta* group, that is to say, having a broad yellowish band on the mesonotum anteriorly, and on the abdomen basally. All these specimens have the broad velvety markings on the 3rd. and 4th. abdominal segment as explained above, thus they all should be *natalensis* MACQUART. However, they are mutually different and these differences seem to be constant, without intermediates.

In a large part of the specimens (44 specimens : 25 ♂♂ — 19 ♀♀) the median black vitta on the face is missing, consequently the facial tubercle is yellowish, not black. In the remaining specimens the black facial vitta is present, however, in 14 of them (11 ♂♂ — 3 ♀♀) the ciliation of the hind tibiæ is wholly yellow. Finally 4 specimens (2 ♂♂ — 2 ♀♀) are typical *natalensis* MACQUART.

Besides the above recorded differences I could not find any other morphologic difference between the typical specimens and the others. The specimens with yellow facial tubercle are generally somewhat larger than the others; in the specimens having yellow ciliated tibiæ the bands on mesonotum and abdomen are somewhat more greyish, but I think these differences are not important enough to be of specific value. However, in my opinion it is advisable to give these forms varietal names.

For the variety with yellow facial tubercle I propose the name *rufifacies*, the variety with yellow ciliæ on the hind tibia may be known as *varipes*.

The following key may be of use to recognize the specimens belonging to the *natalensis* — *curta* group of *Megaspis*.

1. Third abdominal segment with the oval, shining spot surrounded by a broad, velvety black band, fourth segment with a similar band on either side of the shining spot : *natalensis* MACQUART ... .. 2.
- The band on the third segment strongly reduced, fourth segment practically wholly shining... .. *curta* LOEW.
2. Facial tubercle yellow ... .. *natalensis* var. *rufifacies* n.v.
- Facial tubercle black ... .. 3.
3. Apical two thirds of hind tibiae black ciliate *natalensis* ... .. s. str.
- Hind tibiae wholly yellow ciliate ... .. *natalensis* var. *varipes* n.v.

### *Megaspis natalensis* MACQUART s. str.

Two males and one female : Congo belge, Eala, J. GHESQUIÈRE, 1935/36 ; one female : Kenya-Nairobi, Ngang Forest, 1900 m.

### *Megaspis natalensis* var. *rufifacies* DOESBURG.

Holotype : Male, and allotype : Female : Congo belge, Eala, 1935. J. GHESQUIÈRE ; paratypes : 22 Males and 14 Females with the same data ; one Male and three Females : Congo belge, Bolingo (rives Busira), 1936, J. GHESQUIÈRE ; one Male and one Female : Congo belge, Bombutu (S. Salonga), 1936, J. GHESQUIÈRE.

### *Megaspis natalensis* var. *varipes* DOESBURG.

Holotype : Male, and allotype : Female : Congo belge, Eala, 1936, J. GHESQUIÈRE ; paratypes : 10 Males and 2 Females, with the same data.

All the above recorded types are in the collection of the Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique at Brussels ; some paratypes have been placed in the writer's collection.

## LITERATURE.

- MACQUART, J., 1849, *Dipt. exot.*, suppl. 4 : 134.  
LOEW, H., 1858, *Öfvers. Kongl. Vet. Akad. Förhandl.* XIV, 1857 : 381.  
—, 1860, *Dipt. - Fauna Südafrika's*. I : 319.  
BEZZI, M., 1915, *Syrph. Ethiop. Region* : 73.

II. *Lathyrrophthalmus caudatus* sp. nov.

Related to *myiatropinus* SPEISER and *velox* HULL, but the marginal cell is not bulbous apically; in the male the hind tibia is incised, the fourth abdominal segment is broadened, forming with the hypopygium an obvious, round knob. Length 12 — 14 mm.

Male. — Face strongly produced, greyish pollinose, facial tubercle large, shining black. Eyes contiguous for a rather long distance, bare, red with numerous black spots. Antennæ brown, third segment short, rounded, broadly darkened above. Arista bare, yellow. Vertical triangle narrow, shining black, with rather long, black pile. Frontal pile black, facial pile long, white.

Mesonotum covered by brown and grey pollen, forming indistinct, broad vittæ, the humeri and two narrow, incomplete vittæ on the disc shining black. On the suture is a transverse, black velvety spot. Pile of mesonotum moderately long, erect, yellow, intermixed with black. Scutellum transparent yellow, the base darker, its pile long, bright yellow with some scattered black hairs basally. Pleuræ greyish pollinose, the pile yellow.

Abdomen broadest at the base, tapering to the apex of the third segment. Fourth segment again widened, the sides rounded, together with the large hypopygium forming a distinct knob. Abdomen reddish yellow, second segment with a narrow black margin basally, third and fourth segment in some specimens with ill-defined darkenings. Hypopygium reddish. Abdominal pile yellow, short, but rather long on the hypopygium. Venter reddish, fourth tergite enlarged, strongly concave and curved up.

Legs reddish, fore and middle femora with a brown spot apically, hind femora blackish, the base more or less broadly yellow. Hind femora and tibia rather strongly thickened, hind tibia anteriorly deeply incised, with a strong tooth above the

incision. Pile of the legs mostly yellow, short, but long on the femora. Hind femora with a tuft of black bristly hairs below, opposite to the incision of the tibia (see Fig. 1).

Wings shorter than the abdomen, yellowish tinged, stigma brown. Marginal cell shortly petiolate, not bulbous.

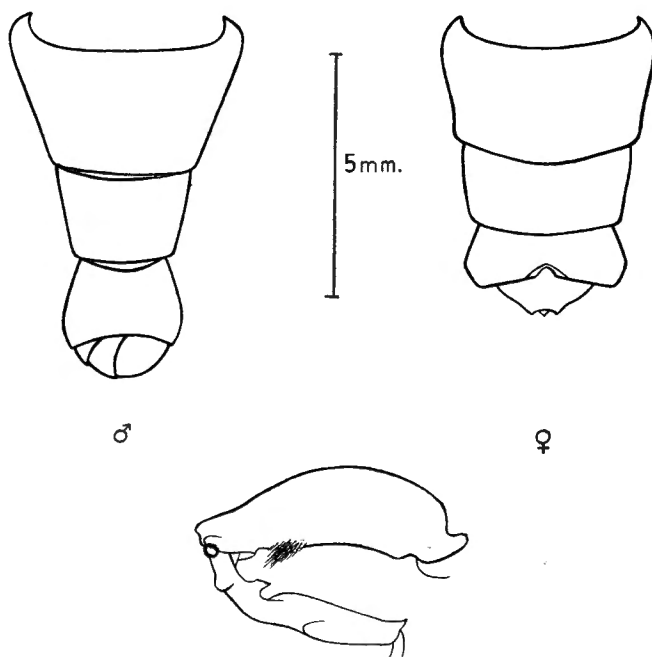


Fig. 1. — *Lathyrophthalmus caudatus* nov. spec.

Above : abdomen of male and female (scutellum and 1st abdominal segment omitted). Below : hind femora and tibia of male.

Drawn by P. H. v. DOESBURG Jr.

**F e m a l e .** — Front rather narrow, widening below, antennal tubercle shining black, the remainder greyish pollinose with a transverse band of black pollen. Occiput shining. Frontal pile blackish. Abdomen shorter and wider than in the male, narrowest at the apex of the third segment, fourth segment short, broad, widening to the apex, its hind margin rather deeply and

triangularly excised. Fifth segment triangular, much narrower than the other segments. Apical half of abdomen more strongly darkened than in the male. Hind tibiæ simple. In all other respects the female is similar to the male.

H o l o t y p e : Male, and allotype : Female : Congo belge, Eala, II - 1936, J. GHESQUIÈRE ; six paratypes (5 males - 1 female), all with the same data. The type - specimens are in the collection of the Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique at Brussels.

I wish to express my thanks to the Director of the Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique, who has been kind enough to send a collection of Syrphid material for examination and identification.



---

AD. GOEMAERE, Imprimeur du Roi, 21, rue de la Limite, Bruxelles