

**First records of two ichneumon wasp species in Kenya
(Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae)***

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Abstract – Two ichneumon wasp species were found to be new for the Kenyan fauna in a material recently donated to the Hungarian Natural History Museum: *Cyanopelorus magnificus* (Morley, 1916) (Cryptinae: Cryptini: Ischnina), and *Gabunia ruficoxis* Kriechbaumer, 1895 (Cryptinae: Cryptini: Gabuniina). With 2 figures.

Key words – Cryptinae, *Cyanopelorus*, *Gabunia*, faunistics, Afrotropical region

INTRODUCTION

Ichneumon wasps (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) represent one of the most diverse families of the animal kingdom. The number of described species exceeds 30,000, and the real species richness is estimated about 60,000 (TOWNES 1969, WAHL 1993). The ichneumon wasp fauna of Kenya is largely undiscovered; only 219 species of the family have been reported yet from that country (YU *et al.* 2012). As a rough comparison, the ichneumon wasp fauna of Hungary is still relatively undiscovered, however, 2141 species have been recorded so far (YU *et al.* 2012); hence, it is reasonable to argue that thousands of ichneumon wasp species records (and most probably several new species) shall be revealed by future faunistic surveys in Kenya.

Recently a small amount of tropical Hymenoptera was collected and donated to the Hymenoptera Collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum (HNHM) by the amateur lepidopterist István Lukács. Among these specimens there were two ichneumon wasps collected in Kenya. The identification process revealed that both species represent their first records in the Kenyan fauna according to YU *et al.* (2012).

* The paper is dedicated to Dr László Móczár, doyen of the Hungarian hymenopterists, celebrating his 100th birthday.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Ichneumonidae taxonomy and nomenclature follow YU & HORSTMANN (1997) and YU *et al.* (2012). The identification was based on the keys provided by KRIEGER (1911), MORLEY (1916), BENOIT (1951), TOWNES & TOWNES (1973) and WAHL (1993). The specimens were identified by the author in the HNHM using a Nikon SMZ645 stereoscopic microscope. Earlier records of the presence of the identified ichneumon wasp species in the Kenyan fauna were checked in YU *et al.* (2012).

RESULTS

Cyanopelorus magnificus (Morley, 1916) (Cryptinae: Cryptini: Ischnina)
(Fig. 1)

Material – Kenya, Kakamega County, Kakamega Forest [on the label: Kakamega, Kenya], 27.VI.2006, leg. I. Lukács. – A single female specimen has been collected.

Remarks – *Cyanopelorus magnificus* is one of the largest ichneumon wasps (body 25–29 mm long, excluding the ovipositor), and has a very characteristic metallic blue colouration. It was described from Mozambique by MORLEY (1916), and besides that country this species has been reported only from Uganda yet (YU *et al.* 2012). The genus is keyed in TOWNES & TOWNES (1973). *Cyanopelorus magnificus* is the only known species of the genus *Cyanopelorus* Townes, 1973 (YU & HORSTMANN 1997). I compared the Kenyan specimen with the holotype and specimens from Uganda (borrowed from the Natural History Museum (NHM), London) and concluded that they represent a single species with a widespread distribution in the Afrotropical region. Most probably, the apparent sporadic distribution is due to the lack of research effort in that region. *Cyanopelorus magnificus* may be an idiobiont ectoparasitoid, without any known host (YU *et al.* 2012).

Gabunia ruficoxis Kriechbaumer, 1895 (Cryptinae: Cryptini: Gabuniina)
(Fig. 2)

Material – Kenya, Kakamega County, Kakamega Forest [on the label: Kakamega, Kenya], 27.VI.2006, leg. I. Lukács. – A single female specimen has been collected.

Remarks – *Gabunia ruficoxis* is a relatively large (body 14–22 mm long, excluding the ovipositor) and characteristically coloured species with conspicuous dark patches on the wings. The species of the genus are keyed by KRIEGER (1911)



Fig. 1. *Cyanopelorus magnificus* (Morley, 1916), female



Fig. 2. *Gabunia ruficoxis* Kriechbaumer, 1895, female

and BENOIT (1951). This species seems to be widely distributed in Central and Western Africa, and has been reported from the following countries: Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda. *Gabunia ruficoxis* may be an idiobiont ectoparasitoid, without any known host (YU *et al.* 2012).

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