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Some Records of Tabanidae (Dipt.) from Iran

by

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A small collection of Tabanidae taken by F. SCHMID in Iran has been studied through courtesy of Dr G. BOUVIER, Director of the Institut Galli-Valerio, Lausanne, Switzerland, and a well-known student of Tabanidae. The one included new species is cordially dedicated to him and the holotype is in his collection.

Tabanus bouvieri n. sp.

A large species obviously related to *T. semiargenteus* OLS. of Armenia but the latter has a single eye stripe and spur-veins, and the abdomen is more sharply bicolored with the fifth and following segments black.

Holotype ♂, 19.5 mm. Head large, hemispherical, wider than thorax. Enlarged facets pale brown, microscopically hairy, occupying nearly the upper three-fourths of the total eye area, sharply demarcated with a wide occipital margin of small facets to the vertex, no occipital fringe of tall hairs. Tubercle in occipital notch at eye level, elongate, ovoid, gray pollinose with short black hairs on the caudal half. Frontal triangle finely wrinkled, ash-gray in the apex, whitish pollinose below, sunken across the disc in profile. Face and cheeks whitish pollinose and pilose, a few black hairs on the upper cheeks, the fronto-clypeus deeply sunken. Antennae predominantly black, the extreme base of the plate dark reddish, the scape gray pollinose with black hairs above, some white ones below. Basal segment of palp ash-gray, whitish pilose; apical segment thick and bulbous, about a third longer than

thick with a pronounced, downward-pointed, apical nipple, mostly white-haired with a few, scattering black ones. Labella black, large and fleshy.

Thorax and scutellum dull blackish, unlined, with dense, fine smoky and yellow pile, antealar tubercles dull reddish; pleura gray pollinose, white pilose with a few fine black hairs above. Coxae and two hind pairs of femora, pale-gray pollinose with mostly white pile; fore legs dull blackish with black hairs, the fore tibiae dirty whitish at the extreme base with a few white hairs; mid tibiae dull reddish with white hairs on basal half, hind tibiae dull-gray pollinose becoming sooty apically with mostly black hairs, a few white ones basally; tarsi black. Wing clear including costal cell, cell R_5 open but narrowed at the margin, cell R_4 unusually narrowed basally in the fork, spurveins over twice as long as the short stems; veins yellow-brown. Subepaulets hairy. Halteres brown, pale yellow at tops of knobs.

Abdomen strikingly pale-gray pollinose with white hairs on the first three tergites, the first sternite and sides of sternites 2 and 3; no evidence of triangles but a pair of obscure, black-haired patches behind the scutellum on tergite 1. Remainder of the abdomen sharply black above and below with black hairs, no lateral pale margins, the black on the venter extended forward as a wide black-haired band to the middle of sternite 2. Sternite 1 has a peculiar smoky median spot divided into thirds by two narrow white, submedian lines.

"Demavend, Iran, 18 July 1956," ♂.

This was at first thought to be the previously unknown male of *T. semiargenteus* OLS., females of which the describer stated to differ from all other large flies of the *bovinus* group by the whitish-haired abdominal tergites 1 to 4. The pattern varies moderately in females of that species with some brownish black, and with pale lateral margins on tergites 4 and 5, plus median triangles on several tergites, none of which is evident here. *T. semiargenteus* also has unbanded eyes and wings without "Anhang" which indicates that *T. bouvieri* is unlikely to be differentiated only on sexual characters though both species must have derived from recent, common ancestral stock.

Other Species

Total numbers for a given collection are listed, though in several instances I saw only part of the series.

Silvius (Nemorius) vitripennis (MEIGEN)

Bar, 30.VI.1956, 7 ♀♀. Though MACKERRAS (1955) continued the assignment of subgenus *Nemorius* to *Chrysops*, I believe OLSOUFIEV (1937) was more nearly correct in transferring this species to *Silvius*.

As noted by MACKERRAS, there is considerable similarity to the Nearctic *quadrivittatus* group. Proportions of antennae and abdominal pattern are similar, but eye patterns are quite different. In *Silvius* s. str. spp., these are peculiarly freckled, whereas in *S. vitripennis*, there is a circle of purple around the margin and a short median, transverse band when revived, including two of the Iranian series. If this eye pattern is also found on other species of *Nemorius*, MOUCHA and CHVÁLA (1959) may be correct in returning to full generic status in describing a new species from East Afghanistan.

The Iranian specimens are much smaller (5.5-6 mm) than European specimens and might be considered as *S. horvathi* (SZILADY), but they have the characteristic bare calli on either side of the insertions of the antennae, and pedicels nearly twice as long as thick. They agree with a larger specimen from Lyonnaise, France, in having the para-antennal calli laterally notched and two isolated bars on each side of the frontal callosity which represent the "Nebencalli" of MOUCHA and CHVÁLA, and this raises some doubt of reliability of differential characters in more adequate series.

Tabanus (Therioplectes) carabaghensis PORTSCHINSKY

Khajlok, 6.VI.1956, ♀, 2 ♂. This species is listed by KRÖBER (1939) for the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Tabanus (Therioplectes) tricolor var. *pallidecaudus* OLSOUFIEV

Khajlok, 6.VI.1956, ♂, 2 ♀. The caudal hairs are snow-white, not orange as in the preceding. Described from the Krim.

Tabanus autumnalis var. *brunnescens* SZILADY

Rusepolis, 2.V.1956, ♀. H. OLDROYD has confirmed the correctness of this assignment. BOUVIER (1940) includes Asia Minor as distribution after Surcouf.

Tabanus dorsomaculatus MACQUART (?)

Astra, 9.IX.1956, 2 ♂, 2 ♀. "Espèce assez fréquente." These specimens are more brownish-red than the bright reddish-yellow of the description, but this could be a matter of preservation. An assured type from Algeria was not seen among MACQUART's types either in Paris or at the British Museum. There appears to be a confusion of labels on a specimen now so-labelled at the latter institution (see PHILIP, 1959, under *T. dorsonotatus* MACQUART).

Tabanus bromius LINNÉ.

Marus, 28.VI.1956, 2 ♂, 3 ♀. "Espèce fréquente." BOUVIER (1940) has discussed the considerable variation in this widespread species.

Tabanus leleani AUSTEN.

Sandarabad, 2.V.1956, 4 ♀. "Espèce fréquente." This species was originally described from Palestine and is widely known in North Africa and Asia Minor.

Tabanus unifasciatus LOEW.

Mesbed, 17.VI.1956, ♀. This specimen has more pinkish on the sides and the eye stripe more attenuated than the preceding.

Hybomitra erberi (BRAUER).

Paigambar, 27.V.1956, 3 ♀. These specimens were mentioned in description of a related new species from Sardinia, *H. pseuderberi* PHILIP and AITKEN (1958). A variety of *H. erberi* has also been described from China.

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