

# Systematic notes on Dolichopodidae (Diptera) of Tristan da Cunha

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*Hydrophorus carmichaeli* (Walker), *H. christopherseni* Frey and *H. tristanensis* (Macquart) are transferred to *Hydatostega*. New records are given for *H. carmichaeli* and *H. tristanensis*.

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## Introduction

Only three species of long-legged flies are known from the South Atlantic Tristan da Cunha Islands (Frey, 1954). Two of them were originally described in the genus *Medetera* Fischer von Waldheim, 1819 (Dyte, 1967). All the species have been included in the Afrotropical catalogue within the genus *Hydrophorus* Fallén, 1823 (Dyte & Smith, 1980). Later, Grichanov (1997) has not mentioned them in his review of Afrotropical Hydrophorinae because of their uncertain position.

I have examined recently the material of all three species listed by Frey (1954) and deposited in the Helsinki Zoological Museum (ZMH). The examination has revealed that they should be transferred to the hydrophorine genus *Hydatostega* Philippi, 1865. The cluster of long pale hairs on the mesanepimeron just anterior to the spiracle distinguishes this genus from all others in the subfamily (Hurley, 1995).

*Hydatostega* has been recently restored and separated from *Hydrophorus* by Hurley (1995). Three species of the genus are known from the Nearctic and restricted mainly to montane regions (Pollet et al., 2004). At least five species have been found in the Neotropics; they are confined to high altitudes or high latitudes (Hurley, 1995). Two of these species are known from the Juan Fernández Islands in the Pacific Ocean, and one species, from the environs of the Strait of Magellan (Robinson, 1970). Also *Hydrophorus antarcticus* Schiner, 1868 known from the female collected on Saint-Paul Island (south of the Indian Ocean) possibly belongs to *Hydatostega*. I have not seen the latter species. The genus *Hydatostega* is apparently absent in the Afrotropics, Europe and Asia.

Additional material on Dolichopodidae from Tristan da Cunha has been found in the collection of the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa (NMP). Three species of *Hydatostega* have been identified. *H. carmichaeli* (Walker) is for the first time recorded from Inaccessible Island and *H. tristanensis* (Macquart), from Nightingale Island. Thus, all *Hydatostega* species inhabit three major Tristan da Cunha islands.

Below, the material examined by the author in ZMH and previously listed by Frey (1954) is not cited, except for the type specimens.

## *Hydatostega carmichaeli* (Walker), **comb. n.**

= *Medeterus* [sic] *carmichaeli* Walker, 1849: 654.

*Material examined.* **Tristan da Cunha:** 11 ♂♀, *Inaccessible I.*, Malaise trap, on slight cliff face, on water surface, and net sweeping along water edge; 6, 10 and 19.X.1989 (A.J. Gardiner & H. Barber) [NMP].

## *Hydatostega christopherseni* (Frey), **comb. n.**

= *Hydrophorus christopherseni* Frey, 1954: 14.

*Type material.* 1 ♀, "Nr 86 – 100 m, Tristan, 16.01.1938" / "120-42" / "Spec. Typ. No" [red label]; 1 ♀, "Inaccessible" / "Tristan da Cunha" / "Spec. Typ. No" [red label] (ZMH).

*Additional material examined.* **Tristan da Cunha:** 1 ♂, *Nightingale I.*, main r[oa]d, plateaux – loast, 20.X.1989 (A.J. Gardiner); 1 ♂, *Inaccessible I.*, Phyticas above squa bog, Malaise trap, 10.X.1989 (A.J. Gardiner & H. Barber) [NMP].

## *Hydatostega tristanensis* (Macquart), **comb. n.**

= *Medeterus* [sic] *tristanensis* Macquart, 1847a: 72 (in separate, 1847b: 56).

= *Medeterus* [sic] *tristramensis* Walker, 1849: 654.

*Material examined.* **Tristan da Cunha:** 1 ♀, *Nightingale I.*, main r[oa]ld, plateaux – loast, 20.X.1989 (A.J. Gardiner) [NMP].

#### Key to *Hydatostega* species of Tristan da Cunha

1. Two pairs of strong scutellar setae; lateral scutellars half as long as median ones. Acrostichal setae distinctly biseriate, numerous. Body length 5.0-5.5 mm  
 — ..... **christopherseni** (Frey)
- One pair of strong scutellar setae and 1-2 short lateral hairs. Acrostichal setae absent, or only 2-3 pairs of acrostichals present ..... 2
2. Fore femur with at least 5 long setae, as long as femur diameter. Palpus and fore coxa (anteriorly) densely covered with long yellow hairs. Larger species: body length 6-7 mm ..... **tristanensis** (Macquart)
- Fore femur with setae that are not longer than half of femur diameter. Hairs on palpus and fore coxa sparser and shorter. Smaller species: body length 4-5 mm  
 ..... **carmichaeli** (Walker)

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