

Additions and corrections to the list of Psocoptera of Unguja Island (Zanzibar, Tanzania)

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Abstract. Three species were added to the list of Psocoptera of Unguja, and one was excluded. A revision of the materials mentioned by Georgiev (2021) revealed two species as new records to the island, and one which was previously misidentified was now corrected. These were *Liposcelis puber*, *L. plesiopuber* and *Stenocaeceilius casarum*. All were new records for Tanzania.

Key-words: Africa, Insecta, diversity.

Introduction

A revision of the materials mentioned by Georgiev (2021) revealed two species as new records to the island of Unguja (Zanzibar, Tanzania), and one which was previously misidentified could be corrected.

Results and Discussion

Three species are here added to the list of Psocoptera of Unguja, and one erroneous record is excluded. Now the list includes a total of 30 species.

Liposcelididae

***Liposcelis puber* Badonnel, 1955**

Material examined: 5.3.2021, Michamwi Peninsula, sandy coastal area with scrubs, from a pile of old palm leaf mats, S06 07 55.5 E39 29 31.2, 6 m a. s. 1., 3 ♀, collected by beating over white plastic container (Fig. 1). The species was known from Angola, Kenya and Senegal. New record for Tanzania.

***Liposcelis plesiopuber* Broadhead & Richards, 1982**

Material examined: 5.3.2021, Michamwi Peninsula, sandy coastal area with scrubs, from a pile of old palm leaf mats, S06 07 55.5 E39 29 31.2, 6 m a. s. 1., 1 ♀, collected by beating over white plastic container. The species was only known from Kenya. New record for Tanzania.

Both *puber* and *plesiopuber* have similar pale-brown to whitish coloration, often with a greyer tinge on abdomen (Fig. 1). According to Broadhead & Richards (1982) the chaetotaxy of the lateral lobes of the prothorax provides an absolutely diagnostic character between these closely related species. The bristles adjacent to the humeral seta are short in *plesiopuber* but stronger and longer in *puber* (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1. Light microscope photograph of a female *L. puber* from Unguja Island (10x).

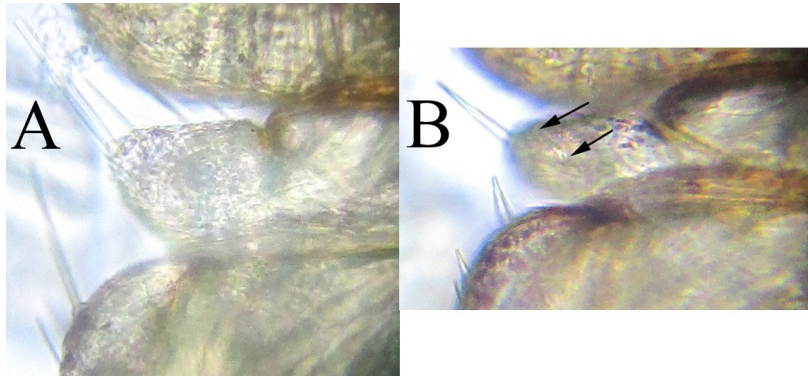


Fig. 2. Light microscope photograph of the chaetotaxy of prothorax of a female *L. puber* (A) and *L. plesiopuber* (B) from Unguja Island (40x). The much shorter bristle of *plesiopuber* is shown by arrows.

Caeciliusidae

The *Stenocaecilius* species in Georgiev (2021) was misidentified. It was wrongly reported as *Stenocaecilius gilvus* (Pearman, 1932).

***Stenocaecilius casarum* (Badonnel, 1931)**

Material examined: 27.2.2021, Michamwi Peninsula, coastal area with bushes and palms, from dry leaves of *Cocos nucifera*, S06 08 44.3 E39 29 21.1, 4 m a. s. l., 1 ♀, collected by beating the vegetation.

Body yellow except for medium brown areas on thoracic notal lobes and medium brown longitudinal stripe through midline of head from anteclypeus through vertex. Wings clear, elongate and slender. Sheath of spermathecal duct relatively long. The species appears to live exclusively on living or dead palm foliage (Mockford 1993) (Fig. 3).

It is known from Mozambique and many other localities as Bermuda Islands, USA, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Chile, Guianas, Venezuela, Indonesia, New Guinea, Easter Island, Hawaii, Melanesia, Micronesia (<http://psocodea.speciesfile.org>). New record for Tanzania.



Fig. 3. The previously misidentified specimen of *Stenocaecilius* (from Georgiev 2021): *S. casarum*.

References

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