

Taxonomic notes on the genus *Elaphromyia* Bigot (Diptera: Tephritidae: Tephritinae: Pliomelaenini) in India, with description of a new species

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Abstract

A new species of *Elaphromyia*, *E. juncta* David, Hancock & Sachin, **sp. n.** is described from India. It can be differentiated from the morphologically similar *E. siva* Frey and *E. pterocallaeformis* (Bezzi) by the wing pattern, epandrial characters, morphology of spicules on the eversible membrane and spermathecal shape. *Elaphromyia siva* Frey and *E. yunnanensis* Wang are recorded for the first time from India. Records of *E. pterocallaeformis* (Bezzi) from southern India are regarded as misidentifications. A key to the 7 known non-African species is included.

Key words: Tephritinae, Acanthaceae, Karnataka, Arunachal Pradesh

Introduction

Elaphromyia Bigot is a small genus of tephritid flies in the tribe Pliomelaenini of the subfamily Tephritinae, with 10 previously described species from the Oriental, Afrotropical, Palearctic and Australasian Regions (Norrbom *et al.*, 1999), one of which, the Indonesian *E. magna* Hardy, was transferred to *Afreutreta* Bezzi in tribe Eutretini by Hancock (2004, 2007). Species of this genus are characterized by elongate, parallel-sided, predominantly dark brown wings with a series of subhyaline spots and the dorsal setulae on vein R₁ without a gap posterior to the end of vein Sc. Hancock (2004) provided taxonomic notes on *Elaphromyia* species then known from the Indo-Australian Region but, apart from illustrations of *E. pterocallaeformis* (Bezzi) and *E. transversa* Hardy provided by Hardy (1973, 1974, 1988), postabdominal structures of most species had not been studied previously. Wang (1998) studied *Elaphromyia* species from East and South-East Asia and provided wing illustrations of *E. hardyi* Wang, *E. yunnanensis* Wang and *E. pterocallaeformis*. The genus was previously thought to be represented in India by a single species, *E. pterocallaeformis*, but detailed examination of male and female genitalia of a series of specimens collected from northern and southern India revealed the presence of three distinct species, newly described or redescribed below. Earlier records of *E. pterocallaeformis* from northern India (Agarwal & Suyoshi, 2005) appear to be valid, but those from southern India by Hancock & McGuire (2001) and David & Ramani (2011) are regarded as misidentifications of either the new species described here or of the poorly known Sri Lankan species *E. siva* Frey. A single specimen of a fourth species, newly recorded from northern India, is provisionally identified as *E. yunnanensis* Wang. Host plants of Indian species are not yet known but they are presumed to breed in flower heads of Acanthaceae, as African species have been recorded from *Dicliptera* and *Justicia* (Munro, 1947); both of these plant genera also occur in India.