

A New Species of *Diamesa* (Diptera, Chironomidae) from Africa South of the Sahara

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(Mit 1 Textabbildung)

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All of the members of the Chironomid genus *Diamesa* are more or less cold stenothermic species (BRUNDIN, 1956: 62) and are particularly associated with cool waters in northern latitudes. The discovery of a species on Ruwenzori (FREEMAN, 1955: 62) at heights of 10—13,000 ft., bore out EDWARDS' statement (1939: 2) that there is a "Palaeartic" element in the Dipterous fauna of Ruwenzori in the zones above 10,000 ft. I have now found a second species of *Diamesa* amongst material collected by Dr. HEINZ LÖFFLER (Vienna University) on Mt. Kenya at a height of more than 14,000 ft. in water in contact with glaciers. The new species resembles *D. ruwenzoriensis* FREEMAN, but is clearly separate from it.

D. ruwenzoriensis is known only from Ruwenzori, and has been rediscovered there in 1961 by an expedition from the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. It is a species with reduced antennal segmentation in the male, and without antennal plumes in that sex. The new species similarly lacks antennal plumes, but the antennae of the male possess 9 segments as compared with 7 in *ruwenzoriensis* and those of the female 8 segments, that is one more than in *ruwenzoriensis*. A further difference lies in the long anal point and curved styles of the male genitalia of *kenyae*.

In general external appearance the two species are remarkably similar but the specific differences are quite definite. It will be interesting to see whether further collecting on the other high mountains in Africa will show the existence of other species, possibly related to these two.

I should like to express my thanks to Dr. LÖFFLER for sending this material to me, and for allowing the British Museum to retain the holotype.

Diamesa kenyae sp. n.

Extremely similar in appearance to *D. ruwenzoriensis* FREEMAN, but readily distinguishable in the male by the 9-segmented antennae, the long anal point and curved styles; in the female by the 8-segmented antennae.

¹⁾ Anschrift des Verfassers: Department of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History), London S. W. 7.

Wing length 2,5–4,0 mm.

♂ ♀. — Head brown, eyes densely pubescent and without dorsal narrow portion; antennae of male without plumes and with 8-segmented flagellum, of female with 7-segmented flagellum. Some flagellar segments may appear to become secondarily divided during mounting on slides, giving an apparently higher number; apical segment as long as preceding three together. Thorax fairly uniformly dark brown in spirit specimens; dorso-central bristles uniserial, acrostichals absent. Legs brown, L. R. 0,6, anterior tarsi not bearded; fourth tarsal segment on all legs shorter than the fifth and slightly cordiform; pulvilli absent. Wings with brownish tinge in female, venation similar to *ruwenzoriensis* (see FREEMAN, 1955, Pl. I fig. *m*). Halteres pale. Abdomen dark and without obvious paler areas. Hypopygium as in figure; anal point

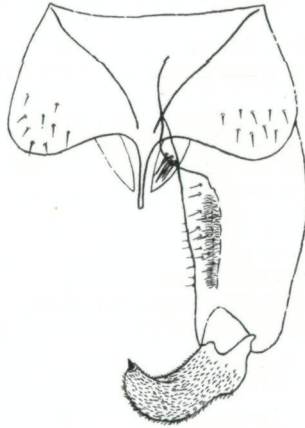


Figure. *Diamesa kenyae*. — Male genitalia from above.

long and narrow, arising from the somewhat emarginate IXth tergite, tergite with setae laterally; coxite lobe placed basally and not very large, style curved, narrower apically and with apical spine present. VIIIth sternite of female strongly emarginate centrally.

Holotype male and 2 ♂, 5 ♀ paratypes, also some larvae, Mt. Kenya: Lewis Tarn, 4590 metres, 15. 11. 1960 (H. LÖFFLER); other paratypes: 2 ♂ Mt. Kenya: Tyndall Tarn, 4450 metres, 3. 11. 1960 (H. LÖFFLER). Holotype, two male and two female paratypes retained in the British Museum; remainder of series returned to the Zoological Institute of the University of Vienna and presented by Dr. LÖFFLER to the Naturhistorische Museum in Vienna.

References

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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