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Fraser 1959

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A new species of *Chlorocypha*  
and some notes on the synonymy of  
other species of Odonata from the  
Belgian Congo

by Lt. Col. F. C. FRASER, I. M. S., Retd.

Among the material on Odonata accumulated in the Musée Royal du Congo Belge, Tervuren, I have found a small number of a new species of *Chlorocypha* which I have named *ghesquierei* in honour of its collector. Unfortunately nearly all the specimens are either damaged or somewhat teneral, although the combined material suffices to give a full and correct description of the two sexes. The species is rather small and slim; the male with hardly any pale markings on the head and thorax and the abdomen blood-red. I would relate it fairly closely to *C. dispar* (BEAUV.), from which it differs by the design of the markings on the basal segments of the abdomen and also, more widely from the markings of the female, of which those of the abdomen are very restricted and of a rather unique character. Whilst specialisation has gone ahead in the male sex, that of the females has remained practically static, so that if we are to find relationships, it is necessary to confine our researches to the latter.

Recently I have received a copy of the second part of « The Odonata of N. Angola », by C. LONGFIELD, *Publ. Cult. cia. Diamant Angola, Lisboa*, and in it I notice that the author has given *Macromia schoutedeni* FRASER as a synonym for *Macromia overlaeti* SCHOUTEDEN, and has described as a new species an *Oxythemis* which she states is so like *O. phoenicosceles* RIS that she has hesitated to describe it as new. It is evident that these notes have been written without a full knowledge of the species commented on as I have shown below.

*Chlorocypha ghesquierei* sp. nov. (Fig. 1, a-d).

Male. Abdomen 18-20 mm. Hindwing 21-23 mm.

Head : in the full adult the whole of the head is practically black, the only traces of yellow markings being at the base of the labium, the genae, the lower parts of the epistome and two small spots at the base of the labrum, these latter not being always present. In the subadult, these areas are more distinctly present and in addition, there are the following dorsal markings, — minute postocular spots, a comma-shaped spot on each side of the ocellar space and four spots anterior to this space, the anterior pair the largest and quadrate in shape. Prothorax and thorax entirely black on the dorsum in the adult but with more or less poorly defined traces of the conventional fish-hook markings present in the subadult. Laterally two broad yellow stripes on the mesepimeron and metepimeron respectively which, in the adult are almost entirely concealed by an overlay of pruinescence. The abdomen blood-red on the dorsum, black ventrally; segment 1 with a broad semilunar spot on the dorsum, segment 2 with the ground-colour enclosed by black so that a small cross-shaped red spot is isolated together with a small spot of the same colour on each side beneath the arms of the cross. Anal appendages black, of the usual generic shape.

Female. Abdomen 17 mm. Hindwing 23-24 mm.

Differs strongly from the male in that the dark areas are greatly restricted. Head with the sides of the epistome and the spot on the labrum more extensive; the antero-ocellar and lateral spots of vertex broader and tending to become confluent; the occiput bordered with yellow and this, in some specimens, tending to become confluent with larger postocular spots. Prothorax with the posterior lobe and a large spot on each side of the median lobe greenish-yellow. Pterothorax with the middorsal carina finely yellow, well formed conventional fish-hook spots on each side of dorsum, and lastly, the two stripes on each side broader and greenish-yellow without pruinescence. Legs black but marked with yellow on the femora in subadults. Wings in both sexes hyaline, untinted; pterostigma black (in the male) but centered with yellow in the female. Abdomen with the dorsum and lateral parts of ventrum greenish-yellow marked with black, this latter more restricted than is general in the majority of species of the genus. Segment 1 with a large spot of yellow on each side; segment 2 with the base narrowly black, a pair of hookshaped black spots on the apical border and a broad streak of black on each side, these markings enclosing a quadrate yellow space, and which, by a further encroachment would enclose a crossshaped spot similar to the red one found in the male; segments 3

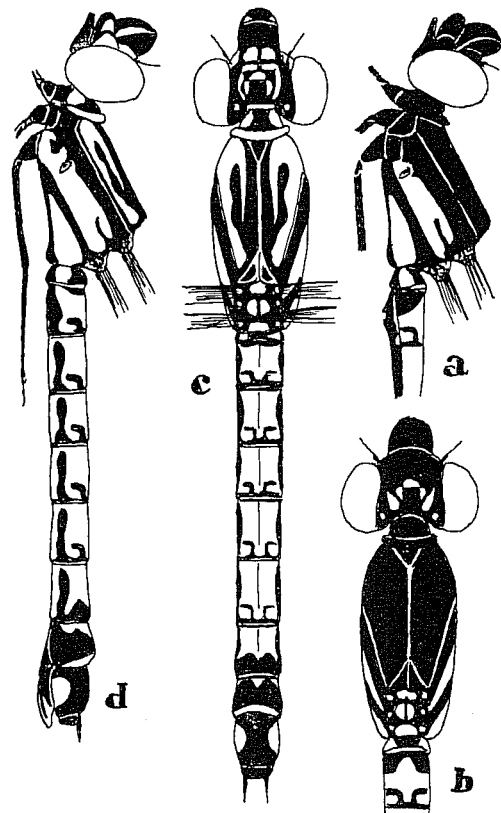


Fig. 1. — *Chlorocypha ghesquierei* n. sp. - a and b, male; c and d, Female dorsal and left lateral aspects.

to 6 with similar but more elongated dorsal markings. Segment 7 with the apical border broadly black; segment 8 with only middorsal and subdorsal yellow spots; segment 9 with a large semi-lunar yellow spot on each side; segment 10 and the acuminate anal appendages black.

Habitat : BELGIAN CONGO : Eala, both sexes collected by M. J. GHESQUIÈRE, from XII.34 to 1937. Type, allotype and paratypes in Musée Royal du Congo Belge, Tervuren. The only species which can be confused with this are *dispar* and *luminosa*, both of which have the head and thorax of the male black, very sparsely marked or not with yellow; the female is however very different, with the black markings of the abdomen very much restricted as compared to these two species.

**Oxythemis gamblesi** LONGFIELD (opus cit. supra, p. 36)

Concerning this species, Mr D. E. KIMMINS informed me that the differences between it and *phoenicosceles* RIS lay in the colouring of the legs. Miss LONGFIELD however states that both have identically coloured legs! and I find this to be the case after comparing the type with specimens of *phoenicosceles*. Miss LONGFIELD gives the differentiation on colour pattern and genitalia but unfortunately has not mentioned what these differences are in regard to the colour-pattern. Concerning the genitalia, it is stated that OH is larger and squarer and IH shorter and stouter and the lobe narrower than in *phoenicosceles*. I am at a loss to understand how she arrived at these as the genitalia of *phoenicosceles* has never been figured and it would be impossible to judge them from the Risian description as no measurements are given. She has not seen the type of *phoenicosceles* as she definitely states that she has compared *gamblesi* with the description of the former. I have been able to compare typical specimens of *phoenicosceles* with the type of *gamblesi* and have been unable to detect the slightest differences between them, thus I have no hesitation in declaring the latter as a synonym of the former.

**Macromia overlaeti** SCHOUTEDEN

In the same publication, page 32, Miss LONGFIELD has expressed the opinion that *Macromia schoutedeni* FRASER is synonymous with *Macromia overlaeti* SCHOUTEDEN, apparently influenced by the fact that both females have the bases of the wings tinted with golden yellow. Her material consists of two males and a single female, the males being undoubtedly *M. schoutedeni* from the unique character of the superior anal appendages. In view of this opinion, I have reexamined the wings

of both females and find that they differ so strongly that they could not possibly belong to the same species; not only does the venation differ but the shape of the hindwings is broadly different as will be seen from a reference to figure 2. The base of the hindwing in *schoutedeni* is evenly rounded, there being no true tornus; the anal-loop is quadrate

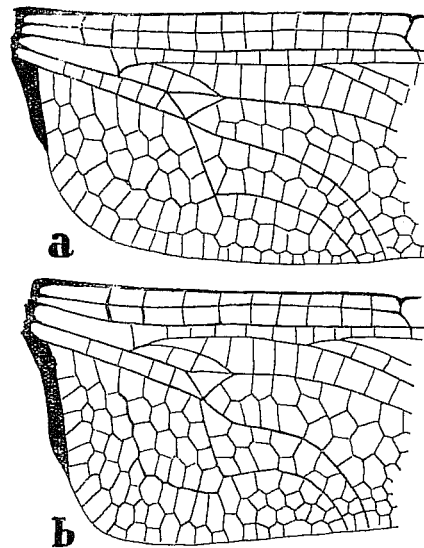


Fig. 2. — Bases of hindwings of females of, a. *Macromia schoutedeni* FRASER. b. *Macromia overlaeti* SCHOUTEDEN.

and made up of 4 rows of 3 cells, whilst the anal-field is only 2 cells deep, these being arranged in orderly rows. In *overlaeti* the base of the hindwing is much broader, with distinct tornus almost quadrate in outline; the anal-loop is made up of 4 rows of 4 to 5 cells, whilst the anal-field is made up of 3 to 4 rows of cells without any order; the discoidal cells are of a different shape and the veins CuP and IA are shorter and more curved. The membrane is proportionately longer in

keeping with the depth of the base of the wing. Venational aberration and variation undoubtedly exist but the shape of the wings could never differ in species. The male of *overlaeti* yet remains to be discovered.

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## Bemerkungen zu einigen Apionen, vorwiegend typischen Exemplaren aus dem Musée Royal du Congo Belge

(Coleoptera Curculionidae) (1).

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In Anschluss an die Bearbeitung einer grösseren Anzahl zentralafrikanischer Apioninen aus dem Congo Museum zu Tervuren (2) sandte mir liebenswürdigerweise M. P. BASILEWSKY einige weitere, vorwiegend typische Vertreter dieser Unterfamilie zu, die mir bislang noch unbekannt blieben. Die in Frage kommenden Arten sollen nachstehend kurz besprochen und ihre Stellung im System umrissen werden.

### APIONINAE

#### APIONINI

Genus APION Hbst.

#### 1. *Apion* (*Pseudoperapion*) *subaequum* n. sp.

*moerens* Voss (nec WAGNER.), *Ann. Mus. Congo, Tervuren*, 8°, *Zool.*, 40, 1955, p. 322, 324 (*Apion* subg. *Trichapion*).

♂ : Kopf etwas breiter als lang, Schläfen sehr kurz, fast parallelseitig, zur glänzenden Artikulationsfläche schwach abgesetzt; Augen wenig gewölbt, die Basis des Kopfes seitlich nicht überragend; Stirn halb so breit wie die Rüsselbasis, fein und dicht punktiert, mit zwei

(1) 161. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Curculioniden.

(2) Voss, *Ann. Mus. Congo Belge, série 8°, zool.* 76, 1959, pp. 1-129.