THREE NEW SPECIES OF *DRYXO* ROBINEAU-DESOVIDY, 1830 FROM AFRICA, WITH A KEY TO THE SPECIES OF THE AFROTROPICAL REGION (INSECTA, DIPTERA, EPHYDRIDAE)

**Introduction**

While examining some material of *Dryxo* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830, deposited in the collection of the Venice Natural History Museum (MSNVE), I found some specimens belonging to three new species, which are here described.

The genus *Dryxo* currently includes nine species; seven of them (including the new species described herein) occur in the Afrotropical Region and can be identified using the following key.

**Taxonomy according to Mathis & Zatwarnicki (2002).**

**Key to the Afrotropical Species of *Dryxo* Robineau-Desvoidy (1830)**

1. Abdomen with some brown to black spots on tergites: tergite 1 with a median patch of short, dorsally erect setulae; katepisternal seta well developed, its length subequal to that of the notopleural seta .................................................................3

   - Abdomen uniformly brown to black, unspotted, at most with a thin dark area along the posterior margin; tergite 1 with sparse, inconspicuous, dorsally erect setulae; katepister-
type preserved in a separate plastic microtube, pinned below the specimen.

Description of the male

Body length: 8.1-8.2 mm.

Head densely microtomentose; frons mostly grey to pale brown, with some blackish to brown maculation (1 posterior and 1 anterior spot); inner vertical seta subequal or slightly longer than the outer vertical seta; antenna brown, with grey to pale brown microtomentum dorsally; arista white, bearing 14 dorsal rays; face, parafacial, gena and microtomentum portion of the Clypeus concolorous, whitish grey; face bare except for a few series of setae parallel to frontal suture; parafacial with a transverse, golden brown stripe at the level of the antennal base; eye slightly higher than wide; gena concolorous with the face and parafacial; gena:eye ratio 0.64-0.66.

Thorax: Scutum mottled, partially to mostly brown, with a blackish brown longitudinal stripe, along acrostichal and dorsocentral tracks; scutellum blackish brown, with a median dark brown stripe; pleura blackish brown, with a median dark brown stripe; hind tibia and hind basitarsus of male lacking long posterodorsal setae, only with sparse hair-like setulae.

Abdomen: Tergite 1 with medial patch of short, dorsally erect setulae; tergite 3 with an apical spot; tergite 4 with two lateral spots; tergite 5 with two basal and one apical spots. Terminalia: epandrium, in posterior view, narrowly ovoid; hypandrium, in ventral view, narrow furcate, with phallopodeme short and rounded.

Female. Similar to male.

Comparative remarks. Dryxo pseudornata n. sp. is externally similar to Dryxo ornata (Macquart, 1844), in having tergites with dark spots, postsutural supra-alar and katepisternal setae well developed. It differs from the latter species mainly by the following characters: anepisternum with 3 developed postero-marginal setae; hind basitarsus of the male lacking posterodorsal setae; Wing infuscate; vein R1 setulose; halter yellowish. Legs with femora black, tibiae and tarsi yellowish; fore basitarsus normally developed, similar to basisternomes of mid- and hindlegs; hindhipidia and hindbasitarsus of male lacking long posteroanal setae, only with sparse hair-like setulae.

Abdomen: tergite 1 with medial patch of short, dorsally erect setulae; tergite 3 with an apical spot; tergite 4 with two lateral spots; tergite 5 with two basal and one apical setae. Terminalia: epandrium, in posterior view, similar to a narrow pointed arch, dorsally narrow and rounded; epandrial arms broad, apically rounded; cercus subtriangular, wider subventrally; presubturdius in posterior view, narrowly ovoidal; hypandrium, in ventral view, narrow furcate, with phallopodeme short and rounded.

Dryxo pseudornata n. sp.

Type material. Holotype ♂, 7 paratypes ♂♂ and 1 paratype ♀ from Sierra Leone, Northern Province, F. Seli, 16.II.1994; 1 paratype ♂ from Sierra Leone, Western Area, Sussex, 27.X.1991; 1 paratype ♀ from Sierra Leone, Western Area, 27.X.1991; 2 paratypes ♂♂ from Sierra Leone, Western Province, near Bumbana, 12/13.V.1991; 1 paratype ♂ from Sierra Leone, Western Province, 12.III.1993, all of them collected by Walter Rossi. All specimens are deposited in the collection of the Venice Natural History Museum.

Holotype and paratypes are micropinned dorsally; abdomen and terminalia of the holo-
Dryxo obscura n. sp.

**Type material.** Holotype ♂, 2 paratypes ♂♂ and 1 paratype ♀ from Sierra Leone, Northern Province, F. Seli near Bumbuna, 18.II.1994; 1 paratype ♂ from Sierra Leone, Northern Province, near Bumbuna, 12.III.1993, all of them collected by Walter Rossi. All specimens are deposited in the collection of Venice Natural History Museum.

Holotype and paratypes are micropinned dorsally; abdomen and terminalia of a paratype preserved in a separate plastic microtube, pinned below the specimen.

**Description of the male**

Body length: 7.1-7.2 mm.

Head densely microtomentose; frons mostly to almost entirely grey to pale brown, with some blackish brown maculation (1 posterior, at the level of ocellar triangle, and 1 anterior-median spot); inner vertical seta subequal or slightly longer than outer vertical seta; antenna black, dorsally covered with grey to pale brown microtomentum; arista brown, bearing 14 dorsal rays; face, parafacial, gena and microtomentum portion of the clypeus concolorous, whitish grey, face bare except for a few series of setulae parallel to the frontal suture; parafacial with golden brown spot reaching genal area; eye slightly higher than wide; genu grey microtomentum; gena/eye ratio 0.65-0.66.

Thorax: scutum mottled, partially to mostly brown, with a blackish brown longitudinal stripe along the acrostichal track; scutellum blackish brown, with a median brownish stripe; pleura grey; anepisternum partially infuscate; chaetotaxy of thorax: 1 well developed postpronotal seta; acrostichal setulae poorly developed, inconspicuous, in 2 rows; anterior dorsocentral setae absent; 2 posterior dorsocentral; 1 notopleural seta; 1 well developed supra-alar; posterior margin of the scutellum truncate; with 1 apical and 1 pair of setae; katepisternum with 1 well developed seta, its length subequal to that of the notopleural seta and 7 long postero-marginal setae; anepisternum with 2 developed postero-marginal setae and 3 setulae poorly developed.

Wing infuscate; vein R1 setulose; halar yellow. Legs with femora grey, tibiae and tarsi yellowish; fore basitarsus normally developed, similar to basitarsomerones of mid- and hindlegs; hindtibia and hindbasitarsus of male lacking long posterodorsal setae, with a row of ventral setulae.

Abdomen: entirely dark-brown, with dark spots; tergite 1 with medial patch of short, dorsally erect setulae; tergite 2 with a lateral spot; tergite 3 with 1 lateral and 1 apical spot; tergite 4 with a basal spot; tergite 5 with a basal spot. Terminalia: epandrium, in posterior view, similar to a narrow pointed arch, very narrow and rounded dorsally; epandrial arms wider dorsocentrally, ventrally becoming sinuous, apically rounded; cercus narrow and elongated, presutural subtriangular in posterior view; hypandrium, in ventral view, narrow, fuscate, with phalloapodeme short and rounded.

**Female.** Similar to male.

**Comparative remarks.** Dryxo obscura n. sp. is similar to Dryxo ornata, in having tergites with dark spots, postnatal supra-alar and katepisternal setae well developed. It differs from the latter species mainly in the following characters: parafacial with golden brown spot reaching genal area (uniformly grey in D. ornata), two posterior dorsocentral setae (absent in D. ornata), different pattern of maculation of the abdomen, epandrium dorsally very narrow, phalloapodeme short and rounded (figs. 3-4, 7-8).

**Etymology.** The epithet obscura refers to the dark brown coloration of the abdomen.

Dryxo fusca n. sp.

**Type material.** Holotype ♂, 1 paratype ♂ from Sudan, Liria, 31.I.1982, leg. G. Rallo; 1 paratype ♂ from Sierra Leone, Northern Province, F. Seli near Bumbuna, 16.II.1994, leg. W. Rossi. All deposited in the collection of Venice Natural History Museum.

Holotype and paratypes are micropinned dorsally; abdomen and terminalia of a paratype preserved in a separate microtube, pinned below the specimen.

**Description of the male**

Body length: 7.2-7.3 mm.

Head densely microtomentose; frons mostly to entirely brown to pale brown, with blackish maculation (1 posterior, at the level of ocellar triangle, and 1 anterior-median spot); inner vertical seta subequal or slightly longer than outer vertical seta; antenna black, dorsally covered with grey to pale brown microtomentum; arista white, bearing 12 dorsal rays; face, parafacial, gena and microtomentum portion of the clypeus blackish; face bare except for a few series of setulae parallel to the frontal suture; parafacial with golden brown spot reaching genal area; eye slightly higher than wide; genu grey microtomentum; gena/eye ratio 0.65-0.66.

Thorax: scutum brown in the presutural area, partially to mostly brown, with a blackish brown longitudinal stripe along the acrostichal track; scutellum blackish brown, with a median brownish stripe; pleura grey; anepisternum partially infuscate; chaetotaxy of thorax: 1 well developed postpronotal seta; acrostichal setulae poorly developed, inconspicuous, in 2 rows; anterior dorsocentral setae absent; 2 posterior dorsocentral; 1 notopleural seta; 1 well developed supra-alar; posterior margin of the scutellum truncate, with 1 apical and 1 pair of setae; katepisternum with 1 well developed seta, its length subequal to that of the notopleural seta and 7 long postero-marginal setae; anepisternum with 2 developed postero-marginal setae and 3 setulae poorly developed.

Wing infuscate; vein R1 setulose; halar yellow. Legs with femora grey, tibiae and tarsi yellowish; fore basitarsus normally developed, similar to basitarsomerones of mid- and hindlegs; hindtibia and hindbasitarsus of the male with long posterodorsal setae.

Abdomen: entirely dark-brown, with dark spots; tergite 1 with medial patch of short, dorsally erect setulae; tergite 2 and 3 each with a basal dark spot, tergite 4 with a dark postero-marginal stripe; tergite 5 grey-brown. Terminalia: epandrium, in posterior view, rounded, very narrow dorsally and laterally; presutural, in posterior view, elongate and very large superiorly; epandrial arms very narrow dorsocentrally; cercus large and sinuous laterally; hypandrium, in ventral view, fuscate, with broad arms, phalloapodeme very short and rounded.

**Female.** Similar to male, except for hindbasitarsus, lacking posterodorsal setae and for tergite 5, brown.
Comparative remarks. *Dryxo fusca* n. sp. is similar to *Dryxo ornata*, in having tergites with a dark band, postsutural supra-alar and katepisternal setae well developed. It differs from the latter species mainly in the following characters: parafacial brown with dark spot reaching genal area (grey in *D. ornata*), different pattern of maculation of abdomen, epandrium dorsally and laterally very narrow, hypandrium with broad arms; phalloapodeme very short and rounded (figs. 5-6, 7-8).

Etymology. The species epithet, *fusca*, refers to the brown coloration of parafacial.

**Figs 1-8.** External male terminalia (epandrium in ventral view, above) and internal male terminalia (hypandrium and phalloapodeme, below) of *Dryxo* sp. 1-2: *D. pseudornata* n. sp. (holotype); 3-4: *D. obscura* n. sp. (holotype); 5-6: *D. fusca* n. sp. (holotype); 7-8: *D. ornata* (Macquart, 1844) (Sierra Leone, W. Area, Sussex).

Scale bars: 0.1 mm.

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**References**


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