

A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *STACTOBIA*
MCLACHLAN FROM ETHIOPIA
(TRICHOPTERA: HYDROPTILIDAE)

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Stactobia gozmanyi sp. nov. is described as high-altitude inhabitant of the Afroalpine Biome in Ethiopia. The wing venation and the genitalia of the male are illustrated. The new species belongs to the *vaillanti* group and is closely related to *S. aurea* MOSELY.

Key words: Insecta, Trichoptera, taxonomy, *Stactobia gozmanyi* sp. n., Ethiopia, Afromontane

Stactobia MCLACHLAN, 1880 is one of the larger genera of the family Hydroptilidae (MCLACHLAN 1874–1890). To date about 120 species have been described (MORSE 2001). They are arranged systematically in 7 species groups including a group of isolated and unplaced species (SCHMID 1983). The genus is an Old World taxon with a range comprising the Palearctic, Oriental and Afrotropical Biogeographical Regions. The larvae live in running waters, especially in mountain ranges, where they occur in rivers from low to high elevations. A concentration of species was registered along the southern slopes of the Himalaya Mountain Chain (SCHMID 1959, 1983). In the Afrotropical Region the genus appears to be a rare element. Only four species are known: *S. aurea* MOSELY, 1939 described from the Ruwenzori Mts, *S. fahjia* MOSELY, 1948 from Yemen, *S. vaillanti* SCHMID, 1959 from Guinea and *S. kaputensis* WELLS et ANDERSEN, 1995 from Tanzania. The genus is unrecorded from the Eastern Highlands, Central and South Africa (DE MOOR 1993, JOHANSON 1992). However, the occurrence of *S. vaillanti* in the lowlands of West Africa suggests a much wider distribution of the genus in Africa. Most of the mountain ranges in Africa are poorly explored. They might provide further, so far undetected species.

Depositories: BMNH = The Natural History Museum, London (formerly British Museum of Natural History), MNHU = Museum für Naturkunde, Humboldt-Universität, Berlin,

***Stactobia gozmanyi* sp. n.**

Type material – Holotype ♂ (genitalia slide MEY 05/04) and 9 ♂♂, 8 ♀♀ paratypes, Ethiopia, Simien Mts., Jinbar River, ca. 3400 m, (38°05' E 13°15' N), 15.1.1996, (male genitalia slide MEY 56/06), leg. W. MEY (deposited in alcohol, 1 male pinned, MNHU).

Description – Length of anterior wing 2.9–3.0 mm. Head and thorax dark brown. Frons between antennal sockets with a tuft of yellow hairs. Ocelli white. Antenna yellow, with 16 flagellomeres. Legs brown, spurs 1.2.4. (males), 0.2.4. (females). Abdominal sternum II with three venulae (Fig. 3), sternum VII with a short mesial process.

Male genitalia (Figs 1–2): Tergum IX without anterior apodemes, sternum IX largely membranous with slightly sclerotised distal margin. Inferior appendages divided into a small dorsal and a

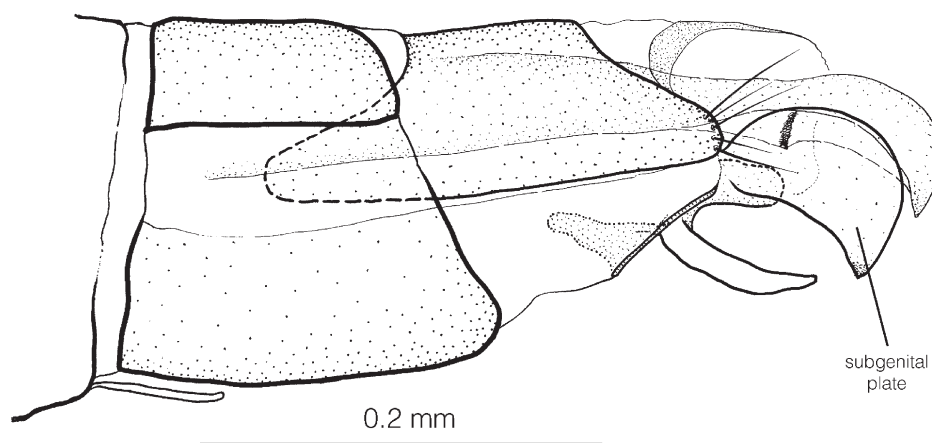
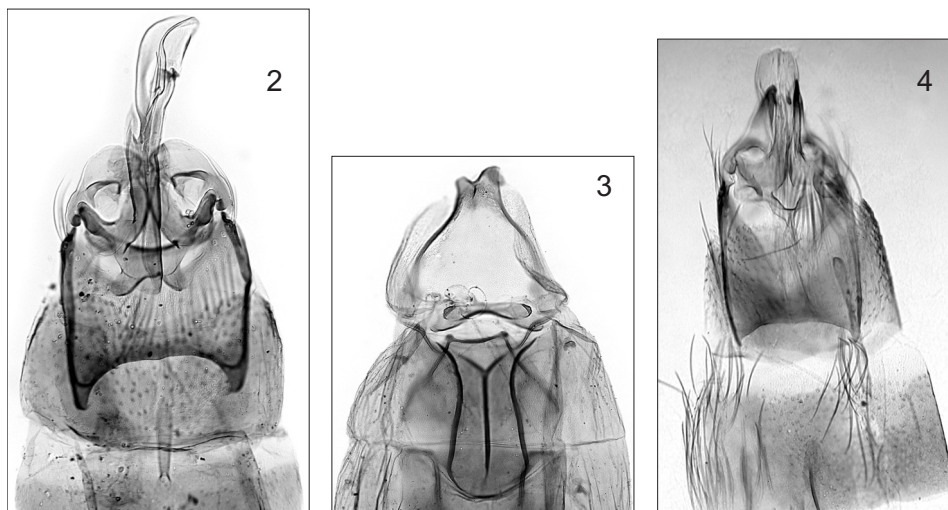


Fig. 1. *Stactobia gozmanyi* sp. n., male genitalia, lateral view



Figs 2–4. 2–3 = *Stactobia gozmanyi* sp. n., male: 2 = genitalia ventral view, 3 = first and second abdominal segment, ventral view. 4 = *Stactobia aurea* MOSELY, holotype, male genitalia, ventral view

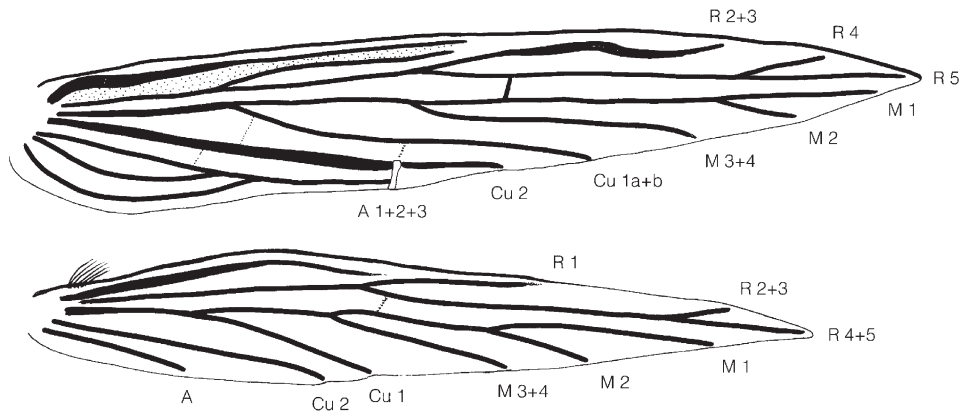


Fig. 5. *Stactobia aurea* MOSELY, holotype, wing venation

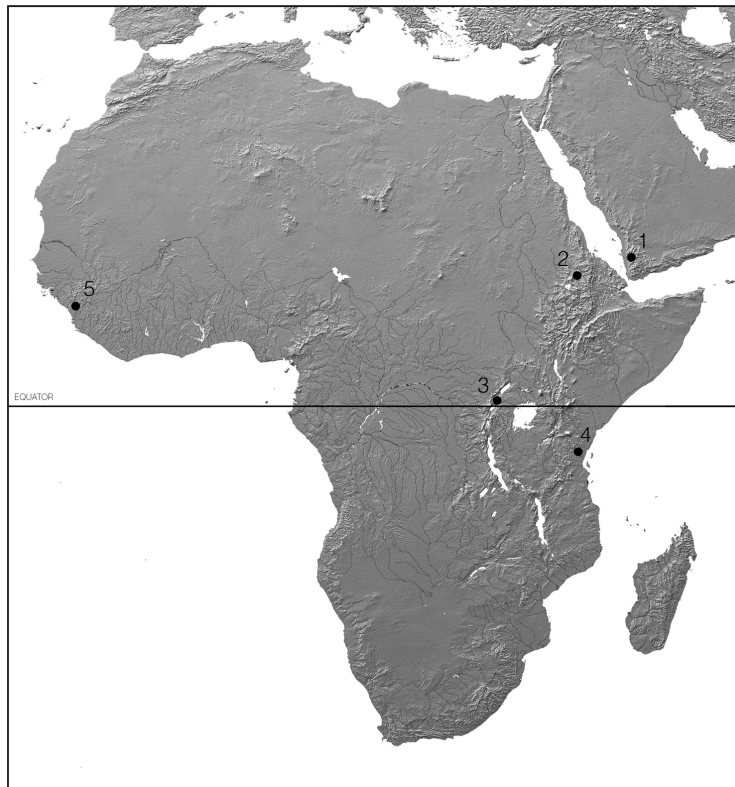


Fig. 6. Known localities of *Stactobia* MCLACHLAN in the Afrotropical Region: 1 = *S. fahjia*, 2 = *S. gozmanyi* sp. n., 3 = *S. aurea*, 4 = *S. kaputensis*, 5 = *S. vaillanti*

long ventral part. Appendages of the subgenital plate very broad and with an inwardly-bent hook on the ventral margin. Segment X small, weakly developed, without sclerotised spines. Phallic apparatus a long tube without paramers, aedeagal tip swollen, umbrella-like and with a pair of black, minute spines on the ventral side near the gonopore.

Derivation nominis – The new species is named after Dr LÁSZLÓ GOZMÁNY on occasion of his 85th birthday and in recognition of his valuable contributions to lepidopterology.

S. gozmanyi sp. n. is characterised by the small mesial process of abdominal sternite VII and the enlarged appendages of the subgenital plate. Based on the male genitalia the new species is closely related to *S. aurea* MOSELY from the Ruwenzori Mts in Uganda. Together with *S. vaillanti* and *S. kaputensis* they form the *vaillanti* group of species, which is confined to Africa. Figure 6 shows the distribution of the group in Africa. All species are known from their type localities only.

In a field study LUBINI (1998) has investigated the actual situation of aquatic insects in the Simien Mts National Park. She also studied the Jinbar River and its tributaries, and registered seven species of caddisflies, most of them in the larval stage. *S. gozmanyi* sp. n. escaped her collecting efforts. The stream is on the Gich Plateau and runs through alpine grassland dotted with Giant Lobelias. At the sampling site the stream bed is rocky, composed of boulders, gravel, sand, and organic matter in lenitic settings. The adult caddisflies were collected in the daytime.

Stactobia aurea (MOSELY, 1939)

Material examined – Holotype ♂ (mounted on separate slides of wings and body and genitalia), “Afrित्रिचिा/aurea Mosely/Uganda:/Namwamba Valley/6500 ft. XII. 1934 – I. 1935/F.W.E. Edwards/ CB Type” [hand-written with black ink] (BMNH).

The examination of the type specimen revealed the great similarity of the species with *S. gozmanyi* sp. n. The abdomen and genitalia are embedded in a dorso-ventral position. The ventral view fits well to the original illustrations in MOSELY (1939) and is shown in Fig. 4. However, the wing venation of the holotype is slightly different from the figure given by MOSELY. The venations of both wings were redrawn and are depicted in Fig. 5.

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