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Afrotropical species of the ancient genus *Meria* ILLIGER 1807 (Hymenoptera, Tiphidae)

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A b s t r a c t : A key of all known species of the genus *Meria* ILLIGER 1807 of the Afrotropical region is given. The new species *Meria anomala*, *Meria dasymetopa*, *Meria deiandra*, *Meria dissimilis*, *Meria erythraea*, *Meria lasiotera*, *Meria leucospila*, *Meria masaica*, *Meria namachorites*, *Meria phainoprocta*, *Meria diapyrogastra*, *Meria stenogastra*, *Meria oinodes*, *Meria trachelopsila* are described. Neotype of *Myzine servillei* (GUÉRIN 1837) and lectotypes of *Myzine quadrata* TURNER 1913, *Myzine multipicta* TURNER 1913, *Myzine inconspicua* TURNER 1913, *Myzine cruenta* TURNER 1916 and *Myzine pallidipes* TURNER 1916 are designed and their new combinations under *Meria*, together with *Myzine sublevis* TURNER 1908, *Myzine (Pseudomeria) neavei* TURNER 1911, *Myzine umbratica* TURNER 1912, *Myzine basutorum* TURNER 1913, *Myzine pallidipes* TURNER 1916 and *Myzine bonaespei* TURNER 1926 have been established. Synonymy of *Plesia transvaalensis* CAMERON 1904 with *Meria limata* SMITH 1855 has been established. Data and distributions of other taxa are given.

K e y w o r d s : *Meria*, new species, Afrotropical Region.

Introduction

The genus *Meria* is widely spread over warmer arid and semiarid countries of the Old World. About Afrotropical Region most of the taxa hitherto known come from Austral Africa and this study support the present state of the art, which only secondarily appears determined by the fact that South Africa has been by far the most investigated area. The most striking feature about distribution areas of the taxa here dealt with is the complete segregation between areas north of wet equatorial belt and areas south of it; none of the Austral taxa lodges in the former and vice versa for the fewer northern taxa; the sole opposing record of *M. cingulata* from Erythraea (BONI BARTALUCCI 2004) appears highly dubitative and needs confirmation. Taxa from areas North of Equator along the Sahel belt till Erythraea and Somalia are obviously considered belonging to Afrotropical fauna, even though Afrotropical taxa cohabit there with taxa of the Palaearctic genus *Poecilotiphia* CAMERON 1902 and with *Meria diplochora* BONI BARTALUCCI 2008, present on the Southern Arabian Peninsula too, the latter considered pertaining to Palaearctic Region, even though it could effectively be included also into the Afrotropical fauna. Moreover the relative paucity of taxa from this area appears a bit anomalous and probably owing to a deficit of investigations. The more consistent hypothesis inferred from actually available data is that Austral Africa could be the dispersal centre of the genus,

for the Afrotropical Region at least. Here the presence of largest number of species and the broadest degree of variability occur and indicate that the group has existed for longer time than in other areas. This hypothesis could be strengthened by the unique presence in this area of the other subtribe, Braunsomerina. Compared with palaearctic members of the genus the Afrotropical taxa show an higher degree of variability about some of the main distinctive character states for the genus: namely the relative length of the mouthparts in both sexes, which concerns more than one taxon and forces to partially modify the items **5a** and **5b** about the generic key of the subtribe Meriina (BONI BARTALUCCI 2007), the presence of an additional lamellar keel on the hind coxa, the particular aedeagus in some males. The lamellar extension of the keel along the fore border of the **N₁** disk, present at least partially in all the palaearctic taxa, is lacking instead in the vast majority of the males of the afrotropical taxa; it is well developed only in *M. sublevis*, *M. limata*, *M. bonaespei* and poorly present in *M. servillei*, *M. erythraea*, *M. leucospila*. Unfortunately most of taxa are known only by one sex since their association actually can not be accomplished because of wanting data. Some of the few known couplings have been performed by JACOT-GUILLARMOD in paper (1961) and in labels too. Further field investigations and deeper searching into areas hitherto poorly known (Angola, Zimbabwe, Sahel) will produce probably both new sex associations and discovery of many new species.

Material and methods

The terminology used in the descriptions follows BONI BARTALUCCI (2004).

A b b r e v i a t i o n s . Those referred to the wing structures are in italics (veins excluded).

A = height (Altitude)

a = anterior

Ca = head (Caput)

CB = basal cell (Cella Basalis)

CC = costal cell (Cella Costalis)

CD = discoidal cell (Cella Discoidalis)

cHy = hypostomal keel (carina Hypostomae)

CM = marginal cell (Cella Marginalis)

cOc = carina Occipitis (-alis).

CPM = submarginal cell (Cella Para Marginalis)

CSM = sub marginal cell (Cella Sub Marginalis)

Em = Epimeron

Es = Episternum

F = female (Foemina).

FoO = oral cavity (Fossa Oris)

G = Gena

Hy = Hypostoma

I = distance (Intervallum)

L = length (Longitudo)

l = lateralis (lateral)

LA = width (LATitudo)

LaSt₂ = mesosternal lobes (Lamellae mesoSterni)

m = median (medianus)

mR = microreticulation (micro Reticulum)

M = Male (Mas)

N₁ = proNotum.

N₃ = metaNotum.

O = eye (Oculus)

p = puncture (-s), punctured

P = Propodeum

Pal = labial palpus (Palpus labialis)

Pam = maxillary palpus (Palpus maxillaris)

PoG = genal bridge (Pons Genarum).

Sc₁ = Scutum.

Sc₂ = Scutellum.

Secu = Sensilla curvata

Ssa = Subantennal sclerite (Scleritis sub antenna)

St₃ = metaSternum

sul = lateral furrow (sulcus lateralis)

Tsa = supra antennal lobes (Tuberculi supra antenna)

X = coXa

! = Types examined; () = digits between round brackets in the chorological items mean number of specimens; / / = delimit the single label. Within the descriptions of labels, italic characters mean handwriting.

The frontal aspect of the head is performed perpendicularly to the virtual plane A indicated by the relative line on the Fig. 3; dorsal and lateral aspects, perpendicular to each other, are performed along the virtual plane of the occipital carina.

The outermost pair of appendages of male genitalia will be termed "gonostylus" (with its portions basi- and disti-stylus). The drawings of the volsella and gonostylus show respectively their inner and outer aspect, unless otherwise indicated. Genitalia are settled in a solidified drop of 5,5-dimethyl hidantoin formaldehyd (5,5-DMHF) on a transparent support. Hair, punctuation and light markings have been overlooked in most of the drawings.

A c r o n y m s . BMNH = Natural History Museum, London. MHNG = Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève. MNHU = Zoologisches Museum an der Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. MSNG = Museo civico di Storia Naturale, Genova. MSNV = Museo civico di Storia Naturale, Venezia. MRSNT = Museo Regionale Scienze Naturali, Torino. NMNW = National Museum of Namibia, Windhoek. SAM = South African Museum, Capetown. TMP = Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.

Identification key

Females	1
Males	24

1

a	Paramandibular process wider than aggregate length of two apical palpomeri of Pam and as long as 0.45 times maximum width of FoO	
b	Genal bridge 0.6 times height of FoO in ventral aspect (Fig 4)	
c	Glossa sub-triangular in ventral aspect, without any apical notch (Fig. 5)	
d	The complex glossa-paraglossa strongly shorter than prementum (Fig. 5)	
e	Posterior lingual plate neither elongated, neither elliptic	
f	Labrum with a slightly concave ventral edge in frontal aspect (Fig. 6)	<i>oinodes</i> nov.sp.
aa	maximum length of FoO at best	
bb	Paramandibular process narrower than length of apical palpomerus of Pam and only 1/6 Genal bridge never more than 0.3 times height of FoO in ventral aspect	
cc	Glossa distinctly notched apically (well detectable in ventral aspect; less stressed in <i>rufinodis</i> and <i>luteipes</i>)	
dd	The complex glossa-paraglossa normally well longer than either in few cases just a bit shorter than prementum	
ee	Posterior lingual plate elongated and elliptic, with the main axis more than twice the minor axis	
ff	Labrum with a clearly convex and prominent ventral edge in frontal aspect (Fig. 40)	2

2

a	Clypeus with a stripe of multiple rows of densely packed small p bearing short bristles along most of its ventral border and the base of the ventral lamella (Fig. 23, 38); more often p extends medially up to the broad keel on the upper clypeus and	
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laterally till to cover most of its surface. Median area of clypeus convex more often than not with a well expressed low and blunt vertical prominence

- b** **mpm** strongly turning towards clypeus before meeting **Hyc** (Fig. 21, 39)
- c** Inner lobe of mandible weakly prominent, its upper sub tooth either very feeble either not expressed (Figs 38)
- d** Ventral **Es₂** completely and regularly **p** without large smooth areas just before **LaSt₂**. **LaSt₂**. More often with a cluster near their apex and a stripe of **p** along their mutual inner edge (but in *limata*) 3
- aa** Most of clypeus smooth and shining, with only a single row of **p**, along its ventral border and base of the lamella (Fig. 46), only in *rufinodis* and *luteipes* it resemble to state **a**. Median area of clypeus more often completely flat
- bb** **mpm** almost straight, only scarcely turning towards to meet **Hyc**. (Fig. 47)
- cc** Inner lobe of mandible prominent, its upper sub tooth well expressed (Figs 46). *luteipes* shows state **χ**
- dd** Ventral **Es₂** with large smooth areas near **LaSt₂** which is almost completely smooth, with only very few **p** at its apex at the most 10

3

- a** Median area of clypeus flat, without well detectable vertical prominence
- b** Base of hypostomal carina evenly rounded in ventral aspect (Fig. 21, 66)
- c** Upper sub tooth of the lobe on the inner edge of the mandible not expressed (very feeble in *inconspicua*) (Figs 18 & 20)
- d** Propodeal disk with a well produced median furrow and lateral puncturation
- e** Forewing with 2nd **SMC** present. Pterostigma with a well differentiated inner area
- f** Coastal vein (**c**) of hindwing without bristles along its edge basally to hamuli; only secondary hamuli eventually present
- g** Hindtibial spurs with straight subparallel edges along most of their length (tapered at their base and apex)
- h** 6th tergum smooth and shining without any microsculpturation (*inconspicua* shows state **γγ**)
- i** Metasoma without any light patches (*inconspicua* shows state **u**)

4

- aa** Median area of clypeus convex with a well expressed low and blunt vertical prominence
 - bb** Base of hypostomal carina with a median small protuberance in ventral aspect (Fig. 24, 39)
 - cc** Upper sub tooth of the lobe on the inner edge of the mandible feebly but clearly expressed (Figs 38)
 - dd** Propodeal disk without any furrows or with a very short one and mostly smooth surface
 - ee** Forewing without 2nd **SMC**. No differentiated area within pterostigma
 - ff** Hindwing with a series of bristles as long as, or longer than, height of the **CC** along the edge of the **c** basally to hamuli
 - gg** Hindtibial spurs more or less enlarged on their apical third
 - hh** 6th tergum with a microreticulation well detectable at ×40 magnification on the surface apically to the preapical row of pits
 - ii** White lateral patches on 2nd and 3rd terga about all the taxa
- Group of *limata* 6

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4

- a Upper sub tooth of the lobe on the inner edge of the mandible feebly expressed
- b 6th tergum with a microreticulation well detectable also at less than $\times 40$ magnification.
- c White lateral patches on 2nd and 3rd terga *inconspicua* (TURNER 1913)
- aa Upper sub tooth of the lobe on the inner edge of the mandible not expressed
- bb 6th tergum smooth and shining
- cc Metasoma without any light patches

5

- a Median height of clypeus (including lamella) about 1/7 its width in frontal aspect (Fig. 18).
- b Ratio LA/A of the N_1 disk about 2 in dorsal aspect.
- c The whole of the postero ventral corner of lateral N_1 with large irregular wrinkles.
- d Propodeal disk wrinkled on its lateral fourths
- e Pterostigma with a well differentiated inner area
- f Legs and apical metameri ferruginous-brown *phainoprocta* nov.sp.
- aa Median height of clypeus (including lamella) about 2/7 its width in frontal aspect (Fig. 20)
- bb Ratio LA/A of the N_1 disk about 2,4 in dorsal aspect.
- cc Lateral N_1 without large irregular wrinkles.
- dd Propodeal disk densely **p** on its half anterolateral surface
- ee Pterostigma without a well differentiated inner area
- ff Body and legs black, the whole of metasoma ferruginous *dissimilis* nov.sp.

6

- a Clypeal disk densely **p**. and haired throughout but small lateral areas
- b N_1 and propodeal disk largely punctured
- c Forewing: dense series of bristles as long as thickness of **CC** along the edge of the *c* vein basally to pterostigma
- d Forewing: apical veins of **CDM** and **CD II** tubular even though less thick than all the other veins
- e Hind tibial spurs spatula-like with strongly enlarged apical third (Fig. 28A)
- f Long bristles on the hindtarsomerus arranged in a well distinct row (as it happens in *Macromeria*)
- g Microreticulation on 6th tergum larger and more impressed, evident at $\times 10$ magnifications too *lasiotera* nov.sp.
- aa Clypeal disk with large smooth and hairless areas
- bb N_1 and propodeal disk largely smooth
- cc Forewing without bristles along the edge of the *c* vein
- dd Apical veins of the forewings (**CDM** and **CD II**) nebulous
- ee Hind tibial spur with only slightly enlarged apical third (Fig. 44)
- ff Scattered long bristles on the hindtarsomerus, not arranged in a well distinct rows
- gg Microreticulation on 6th tergum fine and well detectable only at about $\times 30$ magnifications 7

7

- a Ventral **Es₂** with large smooth area near **LaSt₂**.
- b **LaSt₂** completely puncture-less *limata* (SMITH 1855)

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- aa** Ventral **Es**₂ with regularly packed **p**. near **Last**₂, without any smooth area.
bb **Last**₂ with aeident clusters and stripes of **p**. on **LaSt**₂.....8

8

- a** Declivitous surface of **N**₁ between disk and collar smooth and shining
b Metasoma completely bright ferruginous, petiole included, nowhere brown shades
..... *bonaespei* (TURNER 1926)
aa Declivitous surface of **N**₁ between disk and collar completely covered by shallow **p**
bb Metasoma ferruginous to ferruginous-brown; the petiole and more or less extended
shades at least on the first metamerus are brown9

9

- a** Vertex of head rounded and temples very narrow in frontal surface
b Palpi straw-coloured
c **Pam**: basal five elements almost isometric
d **N**₁ completely ferruginous. Metasoma ferruginous either with brown shades on the
first two-three metameri either with the basal three metameri completely brown
..... *sublevis* (TURNER 1908)
aa Vertex of head subrectilinear and large temples in frontal surface
bb Palpi brownish
cc **Pam**: basal element just a bit less than twice longer than 4th and 5th elements
dd **N**₁ black/dark brown. Metasoma either completely ferruginous-brown with brown
shades either mostly light brown *deiandra* nov.sp.

10

- a** Clypeal disk: either the whole or most part of ventral lamella well receding backwards
from the plane of the disk in ventral aspect (Fig. 47)
b Upper sub-tooth of the inner lobe of the mandible strongly bulging in frontal aspect
(Fig. 46)
c Labrum ventral surface: the waved row of **p** bearing long bristles strongly bent, its
distance from posterior edge medially more than twice than laterally (Fig. 49)
d More often than not medium to large species (the largest ones within the genus) from
11 to 21 mm. Only one taxon less than 10 mm11
aa Clypeal disk: either the whole either most part of of lamella complanar to the
remainder of disk in ventral aspect (Fig. 66)
bb Upper sub-tooth of the inner lobe of the mandible weakly bulging
cc Labrum ventral surface: the waved row of **p** with long bristles holds throughout about
the same distance from the posterior edge (Fig. 66A)
dd Small to medium sized up till 12 mm17

11

- a** Very large lamella on the ventral clypeal border, as wide as ¾ its total width
b Propodeal disk strongly wrinkled and sculptured throughout, without any smooth area
..... *cruenta* (TURNER 1916)
aa Central lamella of the clypeus no longer than 3/5 its total width
bb Propodeal disk with more or less extended smooth polished areas12

12

- a** Dorsal area of propodeal disk almost completely smooth, without **p** and with weak
lateral wristles; median furrow either absent either vestigial *namachorites* nov.sp.
aa Dorsal area of propodeal disk broadly **p** and more impressed wrinkles; median furrow
long and well impressed13

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13

- a** In frontal aspect, clypeal lamella large and narrow, not protruding under the line connecting the ventral edges of lateral areas. Propodeal disk with smooth shining subtriangular areas along the deep median furrow, strongly wrinkled laterally and posteriorly *pallidipes* (TURNER 1916)
- aa** In frontal aspect, clypeal lamella higher, well protruding under the line connecting the ventral edges of lateral areas. Propodeal disk with larger, irregular smooth areas and less impressed median furrow and wrinkles. Patches and size variable **14**

14

- a** Body brown to dark brown without any ferruginous colour *umbratica* (TURNER 1912)
- aa** Head and/or metasoma with more or less extensively bright ferruginous areas and shadings **15**

15

- a** Head always almost completely bright ferruginous and metasoma black or dark brown. Great size, up to 21 mm *rufifrons* (FABRICIUS 1793)
- aa** Head brown/dark brown, with ferruginous shadings at the most. Metasoma brown to ferruginous **16**

16

- a** Head and mesosoma dark brown, metasoma mostly ferruginous with brown shades; small size (≈ 8 mm) *basutorum* (TURNER 1913)
- b** Body brown to dark brown with ferruginous two apical metameri and shadings on the sterna. Medium sized: 11/13 mm *erythraea* nov.sp.
Head dark brown, sometimes with ferruginous shadings; metasoma either completely ferruginous either with basal brown metameri. Great size, 13-18 mm *fusiformis* (DEGEER 1778)

17

- a** Stigma situated before one/fifth from the base of the forewing. Wings very short; forewing deeply bilobed and a just a bit longer than mesosoma, like in *Meria geniculata*
- b** 2nd dorsal tergum with a broad, white, transverse band *neavei* (TURNER 1911)
- aa** Stigma situated well beyond 1/5th the forewing. Wings as long as or longer than head and mesosoma jointly
- bb** 2nd tergum without transversal band, with only two lateral spot at most **18**

18

- a** Wings as long as or just a bit longer than aggregate length of both head and mesosoma in dorsal aspect **19**
- aa** Wings as long as head, mesosoma and 1st tergum at least **20**

19

- a** Apical stripe of **Tsa** thickened, with a gradulus dividing it from the remainder of surface
- b** Two lateral crests parallel to **PoG**, originating from the hypostomal carina and getting the **cOc**
- c** 2nd **CSM** absent *perornata* (TURNER 1908)
- aa** Even surface of **Tsa**
- bb** No crests along **PoG**
- cc** 2nd **CSM** present *quadrata* (TURNER 1913)

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20

- a The **p** bearing strong bristles on the dorsal surface of the scape stop just near the apex of the element; the distance of their end from the apex is less than half the length of 1st flagellomeres21
- aa The **p** bearing strong bristles on the dorsal surface of the scape stop far off from the apex of the element with a distance from it as long as either just a bit less than length of 1st flagellomeres.....23

21

- a Metasoma with white patches on two terga at least
- b Lateral ocelli very near vertex in frontal aspect, their distance from vertex far less than distance from each other
- c Brown black body with only last two metameres ferruginous-brown
Madagascar*luteipes* BONI BARTALUCCI 2005
- aa Metasoma without any white patches
- bb Distance of lateral ocelli from vertex as long as their distance
- cc Black to dark brown body with extended ferruginous patterns
South Africa22

22

- a Mesosoma a bit less or as wide as 2nd metameris in dorsal aspect
- b Metasoma glazed and bright ferruginous, with petiole and 1st sternum almost completely black-brown*rufinodis* (TURNER 1910)
- aa Mesosoma clearly wider than 2nd metameris in dorsal aspect: their relative ratio about 1.15
- bb Metasoma light brown to ferruginous brown with darker basal two metameres.....*stenogastra* nov.sp.

23

- a Head strongly transversal in frontal aspect: ratio $LA/A \sim 1.25$.
- b Metasoma, petiole included, completely bright ferruginous without any white patches
- c 2nd tergum with gradulus greatly arched. Ratio LA/A_m of postgradular surface in dorsal aspect about 4*diapyrogastra* nov.sp.
- aa Head less transversal in frontal aspect: ratio $LA/A \sim 1.15$
- bb Metasoma with brown shadows on 1st sternum at least. Large white patches on 1st to 5th terga with two small ones on 3rd sternum too. Large size: 14 mm
- cc 2nd tergum with gradulus less arched, the ratio LA/A_m of its postgradular surface in dorsal surface less than 3*multipicta* (TURNER 1913)

24

- a Glossa without a detectable notch apically (Fig. 11)
- b Posterior lingual plate elliptic, with main axis less than twice the minor one
- c Foretibial spur with velum narrower than trunk, with a waving edge and a short apical tooth; velum without defined combed edge (Fig. 14)
- d 7th tergum without basal gradulus*oinodes* nov.sp.
- aa Glossa notched apically (well detectable in ventral aspect), less stressed in *rufinodis* and *luteipes*
- bb Posterior lingual plate elongated with main axis more than twice the minor one
- cc Foretibial spur with velum larger than trunk, with a straight edge and longer prominent apical tooth; velum with a large combed edge (Fig. 88A)
- dd 7th tergum with basal gradulus (*rufinodis*, *micruroides*, *pulchella*, *masaica*, *vonizongo*, *luteipes* and *gradilis* lack it too; *rufonigra* lacks gradulus on 6th tergum too)25

25

- a N_1 in dorsal aspect with an elongated habitus. Its LA_a just a bit greater than A_1 (~ 1,03 to 1.15)
- b Ventral metasternum (St_3) stout, without prominent sharp apophysis (only *bonaespei* has state $\beta\beta$)
- c Gonostylus stout, strongly chitinised and pigmented
- d Aedeagus long with a tapering tip and prominent lateral keel. In lateral aspect its tip gets the tip of gonostylus
- e Digitus stout, its basal third mostly covered by the large extension of the volsellar cuspis in lateral inner aspect
- Group of *limata*26
- aa N_1 in dorsal aspect clearly transversal. Its LA_a greater than A_1 (more often ~ 1,35 or more)
- bb Ventral metasternum normally with a couple of divergent sharp apophysis
- cc Gonostylus more slender, normally weakly chitinised and pigmented
- dd Aedeagus short with a semiglobular tip and without prominent lateral keel. In lateral aspect its tip stands well underneath the tip of gonostylus
- ee Digitus slender, almost completely exposed in lateral inner aspect.....31

26

- a High sharp lamella along the fore border of N_1 Its anteroventral corner prolonged in a sharp spine-like tooth27
- aa Foreborder of N_1 without both sharp lamella and tooth.....29

27

- a Ratio LA/A_m of 2nd tergum in dorsal aspect about 2.9
- b Ventral border of dististylus without semicircular hollow
- c Digitus with a rounded tip*limata* SMITH 1855
- aa Ratio LA/A_m of 2nd tergum in dorsal aspect no more than 2
- bb Ventral border of dististylus with a large semicircular hollow
- cc Digitus with a tapering tip28

28

- a Stripe of sensilla trichoidea extending on half the thickness of the flagellomeri
- b N_1 with an abrupt strangling foreward in dorsal aspect
- c Gonostylus with a protuberance just above the hollow *bonaespei* (TURNER 1926)
- aa Stripe of sensilla trichoidea extending on 4/5 the thickness of the flagellomeri
- bb N_1 evenly narrowing foreward in dorsal aspect
- cc Gonostylus without any protuberance just above the hollow*sublevis* (TURNER 1908)

29

- a Stripe of sensilla trichoidea extending only on half the thickness of the flagellomeri
- b 3rd to 6th sterna with a large transversal furrow extended laterally where it forms a sort of hollow delimited by a strong rib parallel to laterotergal border.
- c Dististylus with subparallel border in lateral aspect, not regularly tapering to the tip. (Fig. 35)..... *lasiotera* nov.sp.
- aa Stripe of sensilla trichoidea extending on more than half the thickness of the flagellomeri
- bb Sterna with only a shallow transversal furrow and without lateral ribs
- cc Dististylus regularly tapering to the tip30

1826

30

- a Stripe of sensilla trichoidea extending on 4/5 the thickness of the flagellomeri
- b N_1 with strongly arched posterior border. Ratio $A_1 / A_m \sim 1.75$
- c Ratio L_a / A_m of 2nd tergum less than 2 in dorsal aspect
- d Digitus subtriangular with tapering tip *trachelopsila* nov.sp.
- aa Stripe of sensilla trichoidea extending on the whole of the thickness of the flagellomeri
- bb N_1 with slightly arched posterior border in dorsal aspect. Ratio $A_1 / A_m \sim 1.25$
- cc Ratio L_a / A_m of 2nd tergum more than 2 in dorsal aspect
- dd Digitus with rounded tip *cingulata* (GERSTAECKER 1857)

31

- a Scape surface roughly rounded without either any longitudinal costula (with only a very blunt angle at most) either a distinct flattened fore surface
- b Hind coxa with simply rounded inner ventral edge, without any supplementary longitudinal lamellar keel
- c 7th Tergum without gradulus along its subbasal border
- d Metasoma more or less extensively reddened, but in *luteipes* 32
- aa Scape with three longitudinal "costulae" (keels) (in *discontinua* almost laminated keel) and well distinct flattened fore surface.
- bb Hind coxa with a supplementary longitudinal lamellar keel along its inner ventral edge
- cc 7th Tergum with well expressed gradulus at its base
- dd Metasoma without any reddening areas 38

32

- a Volsella with evident prominent processes at the base of the bristles on its inner surface
Madagascar & Kenya 33
- aa Volsella without evident processes at the base of the bristles on its inner surface 35

33

- a Mesonotum (Sc_1) with a steep escarpment along its exposed anterior border and just behind the apical border of N_1 *gradilis* BONI BARTALUCCI 2005
- aa Mesonotum (Sc_1) without any sort of escarpment 34

34

- aa Basic colour of metasoma completely darkened without any ferruginous shades; many strong processes on the volsella. Madagascar *luteipes* BONI BARTALUCCI 2005
- bb Metasoma more or less flushed with ferruginous; 1st tergum entirely ferruginous, 7th tergum dark brown with yellow lateral spots. Weak and sparse processes on the volsella. Head subtriangular in frontal aspect. N_1 with a well expressed anteroventral tooth. Anterior surface of Es_2 mostly smooth and shining, without any p. Fore surface of the mid femurs completely and regularly p.. Kenya *masaica* nov.sp.
- cc 7th tergum completely ferruginous without yellow lateral spots; 1st tergum dark brown. Head rounded in frontal aspect, a little larger than high. N_1 without anteroventral tooth. Anterior surface of Es_2 completely covered by shallow p., with I among them a little more than their diameter. Fore surface of the mid femurs p. only near its base. Madagascar *vonizongo* KROMBEIN 1949

35

- a Ssa smooth and shining without any sort of hair.
- b Fore surface of mid femurs almost completely hairless without any p. 36

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- aa** Ssa roughly sculptured with scattered hair.
bb Fore surface of mid femurs almost entirely covered by weak **p** and hair37

36

- a** Base of hypostoma large, prominent and transparent. **PoG** very feebly expressed. **Pam** shorter (8/10) than stipe. Yellow preapical stripes on the metameri as high as half the height of the element, with subrectilinear fore profile. Height of digitus 1/3 the height of volsella; cuspis strongly produced, as high as digitus. Somaliland
micruroides BONI BARTALUCCI 2001
b Base of hypostoma very narrow, darkened and flat. **PoG** well expressed. Pam 1.2 times longer than stipe. Yellow preapical stripes on the metameri narrow with irregular fore profile. Height of digitus 1/4 the height of volsella; cuspis weakly prominent, much lower than digitus. Sahel
pulchella BONI BARTALUCCI 2001

37

- a** Head subtriangular in frontal aspect. Base of hypostoma darkened, large and prominent. **PoG** and genal suture very feebly expressed. Last flagellomeri clearly thicker than basal ones. Light spots on 1st tergum. 7th tergum with a notch larger than high with subacute tips in dorsal aspect. South Western Africa
rufinodis (TURNER 1910)
b Head rounded in frontal aspect. Base of hypostoma darkened, narrow and flat. **PoG** and genal suture well expressed. Last flagellomeri as thick as basal ones. No light spots on 1st tergum. 7th tergum with a notch higher than large with rounded tips in dorsal aspect. Zimbabwe
rufonigra (BINGHAM 1911)

38

- a** Fore border of **N₁** without laminated keel, the surfaces of disk and pronotal plate form only a blunt rounded angle. Most of the surface of the basal hind tarsomerus without short approached hair, but only with scattered thin bristles longer than its diameter. Disk of 1st tergum strongly transversal: ratio **LA/A_m** a bit less than 4
anomala nov.sp.
b Fore border of **N₁** always with a more or less extended laminated keeled. Basal hind tarsomerus entirely covered by all around its surface by approached hair shorter than its diameter. Disk of 1st tergum less transversal: ratio **LA/A_m** about 239

39

- a** Ventral lamella of the clypeal disk entire without any notch.
b Temples straight, thicker or as thick as eyes in dorsal aspect.....
discontinua (SCHULZ 1906)
aa Ventral lamella of the clypeal disk with a central notch, faible too
bb Temples rounded, thinner than eyes in dorsal aspect.....40

40

- a** Keel along the fore border of **N₁** disk with a short but evident lamellar extension on this upper portion at least41
aa Keel along the fore border of **N₁** disk without any lamellar extension43

41

- a** 7th tergum with a straight dorsal profile in lateral aspect. Apical areas of sterna flushed with reddish brown.....
servillei (GUÉRIN 1837)
aa 7th tergum with an arched dorsal profile in lateral aspect. Sterna without any reddish brown shades on sterna.....42

42

- a** **Secu** stripe extending only on half the thickness of the flagellomeri. Ratio **L/LA** of the 6th flagellomerus greater than 1.9. Integument of the lower frons and clypeal disk not hidden by silvery hair. No micro **p** on terga.....
erythraea nov.sp.

- b** **Secu** stripe extending on the whole of the thickness of the flagellomeri. Ratio **L/LA** of the 6th flagellomerus about 1.6. Integument of the lower frons and clypeal disk hidden by dense long silvery hair. 1st and 2nd terga with sparse microp among larger primary **p** *leucospila* nov.sp.
- 43**
- a** Ratio **L/LA** of the 6th flagellomerus as big as or less than 1.40 **44**
- aa** Ratio **L/LA** of the 6th flagellomerus more than 1.50 up to 1.80 **46**
- 44**
- a** Head wider than mesosoma in dorsal aspect. Smooth shining area on the temples along the **Coc** shorter than 1st flagellomerus. 7th tergum with a straight dorsal profile in lateral aspect. Size about 12 mm *basutorum* (TURNER 1913)
- aa** Head narrower than mesosoma in dorsal aspect. Smooth shining area on the temples along the **Coc** as long as 2nd flagellomerus. 7th tergum with a well arched dorsal profile in lateral aspect. Bigger size up to 21mm **45**
- 45**
- a** Sterna with the median transversal furrow extending laterally under the sul to form a hollow under it. Apical stripes on terga withish, with fore profile strongly and largely indented till to become tripartite *fusiformis* (DE GEER 1778)
- b** Sterna with the median transversal furrow woring out laterally. Apical stripes on terga bright yellow, with entire fore profile *rufifrons* (FABRICIUS 1804)
- 46**
- a** **Coc** complete, not broken ventrally by the base of hypostoma. Stripe of sensilla trichoidea extending only on 2/3 the thickness of flagellomeri. Lower frons and clypeal disk covered by dense long silvery hair which covers completely the underlying integument. 1st sternum completeley and densely punctured *dasytmetopa* nov.sp.
- aa** **Coc** incomplete, broken by the base of hypostoma. Lower frons and clypeal surfaces not hidden by dense long silvery hair. 1st sternum with more or less wide smooth areas **47**
- 47**
- a** Temples rounded as thick as eyes in dorsal aspect. Stripe of sensilla trichoidea extending only on 1/3 the thickness of the flagellomeri. 7th tergum with a well arched dorsal profile in lateral aspect. Ratio **L/LA** of the 6th flagellomerus more than than 1.80 *perornata* (TURNER 1904)
- b** Temples rounded less deeper than eye. Stripe of sensilla trichoidea extending on the whole of the thickness of the flagellomeri. 7th tergum with a straight dorsal profile in lateral aspect. Ratio **L/LA** of the 6th flagellomerus about 1.60 *namachorites* nov.sp.

New species

Meria oinodes nov.sp.

Holotype ♀ - Namibia = /WINDHOEK SE 2217 Ca 9.12 Nov 1973/ /H15022/ /NNIC/, NNMW
 Paratype ♀ - Namibia = (2) /WINDHOEK SE 2217 Ca 9.12 Nov 1973/ /H15022/ /NNIC/, NNMW
 Paratype ♂ - Namibia = (7) /WINDHOEK SE 2217 Ca 9.12 Nov 1973/ /H15022/ /NNIC/, NMW

Female. Holotype. Figs 1-7. Measurements: body length = 9 mm; forewing length = 5mm.

The basic body colour is reddish brown, darker in **Sc**₁, **Sc**₂, 1st sternum and areas behind preapical rows of points on terga, while most of mandibles, tibiae and tarsi, veins of the wings are light brown. Wings darkened. Patterns of **p** like in *M. tripunctata*, but on disk of the **P** which is mostly smooth with few **p** only along its lateral edges and no wrinkles. Pale yellow hair on the scape, where it strikingly contrasts with the integument of the head, mandible and clypeus, whitish hair elsewhere. Subhorizontal rough wrinkles on the posteroventral corner of lateral **N**₁. Well expressed median furrow on the dorsal **P**. 3rd **CSM** present. Gradulus well expressed on 2nd and very weak on 3rd tergum. **Sul** very short on 3rd and 4th terga. Preapical rows of **p** on metameri strongly bent like in *Poecilotiphia*.

Male. Figs 8-17. Measurements: body length = 12 mm.

Black, brown and pale yellow. Wings hyaline.

Pale yellow: most of clypeus and mandible, tip of **Tsa**, small spot on apex of the scape, two lateral long spots along foreborder and subapical stripe on **N**₁, half tegula, spot on **Es**₂, apex of **X**₁ and **X**₂, apical femurs, most of tibiae, tarsi, narrow subapical stripe with irregular foreprofile on 1st to 6th terga and 2nd to 5th sterna. Brown: border of **Tsa**, base of hypostoma, tip of mandible, flagellum, veins of the wings, shadows on metasoma. The whole of ventral border of clypeus is semitransparent.

Base of hypostoma scarcely swollen and with well expressed **PoG**, its length ¼ length of **FoO**. **Secu** stripe about 1/3 flagellar surface. No laminted keel along the foreborder of the **N**₁ disk, which ends with a strong anteroventral tooth. **Su**₃ like a stitch; **Em**₃ mostly smooth; lateral **P** smooth but a small posterior area. Signum very long (as long as 2nd hindtarsomeres). Foresurface of the mid femur is almost completely hairless. Velum of the fore tibial spur not combed. Very fine polygonal **mR** (visible only at ×80 magnification with single cell hardly detectable) on 1st tergal disk and apical half of 2nd to 6th sterna. Transversal microreticulation visible at ×50 magnification on basal half of 2nd to 6th sterna. **p** are densely packed on clypeus, **Tsa**, lateral frons, lateral **N**₁, lateral **Sc**₂, postscutellar area, lower and on lateral disk of **P**; more scattered with large smooth areas on vertex, mid **N**₁ and **Sc**₂, **Sc**₁. Nowhere hair concealing underlying integument.

Variability: only little differences about size can be detected about specimens of both sexes.

Ecology: unknown.

Derivatio nominis: from the Greek σινώδης = coloured like wine, because of the vinous colour of the female.

Discussion. About females, the character states of the key and the disposition of bristles on the scape are the same as in *Poecilotiphia*; the states **1γ**, **1δ**, **1ε** and **1φ** have also the function to discriminate the genus *Meriodes* from *Meria*. The mandible, wings, and foretibial spur are the same as in *Meria*. About males, the characters given in the key are not as settled as in females. Two other taxa at least (*M. rufinodis* and *M. luteipes*) have character state very close to **24α** and other eight (*M. rufinodis*, *M. micruroides*, *M. pulchella*, *M. masaica*, *M. vonizongo*, *M. luteipes*, *M. gradilis*, *M. rufonigra*) show the character **24δ**. The absence of the combed edge on the fore tibial spur is a peculiarity which occurs elsewhere within the tribe only in *Iswara* WESTWOOD 1851 males; its outline is as the same as in *Poecilotiphia* CAMERON 1902 males. Flagellum, hair and genitalia are like in *Meria*. There could be sufficient grounds to group them under a new

subgeneric name, nevertheless we lack definitive and incontestable proof about their coupling; moreover its unicity together with the weakness about the distinctive character states of the males both advise to exclude a similar drastic action for the present. Therefore in default of more data the choice to maintain them within the ancient genus *Meria* has been made.

***Meria phainoprocta* nov.sp.**

Holotype ♀ - Namibia = /Richtofen 126 WINDHOEK 22°14'S 17°45'E Nov 1978 preservative traps S.Low, M-L.Penrith/ /H44753/ /NNIC/, NNMW

Paratype ♀ - Namibia = (1) / Richtofen 126 WINDHOEK 22°14'S 17°45'E 1-28 Feb 1979 preservative traps S.Low, M-L.Penrith/ /H52152/ /NNIC/, NNMW

Female. Holotype. Figs 18-19. Measurements: body length = 9 mm; forewing length = 5 mm.

Black, brown and light ferruginous-brown. Forewing very poorly darkened. Brown: mid and hind coxae; basal four metameri with lighter shadows. Light ferruginous brown: ventral border of clypeus; most of mandibles (but dark brown tips); mandible condyles and base of hypostoma; antennae; semitransparent apical border of the **N₁** disk and tegulae; apex of coxae and the remainder of legs, spines included; **LaSt₂**; veins and pterostigma; apical two metameri and 1st laterotergum; bristles on clypeal disk and scape. Hair of the remainder of the body and spurs are whitish. **PoG** semitransparent, poorly developed and swollen; **cOc** ventrally entire, unbroken. Multiple rows of densely packed small **p** along the fore border of **N₁** disk; lateral **N₁** with well produced rugulae on its postero-ventral corner. **P** disk with short median weak furrow and lateral wrinkles.

Variability. Paratype is 6.5 mm long.

Male. Unknown.

Ecology. Unknown.

Derivatio nominis. From the combination of the Greek nouns φαεινός (shining) and προκτός (back).

***Meria dissimilis* nov.sp.**

Holotype ♀ - Namibia = /Blinkoog Warmbad SE 2719 Ca 14-17 oct 1971/ /NNIC/, NNMW

Female. Holotype. Figs 20-22. Measurements: body length = 8.5 mm; forewing length = 5 mm.

Black, Brown and ferruginous. Wings darkened. Brown. most of clypeus, **Tsa**, antennae and mandibles, **LaSt₂**, most of legs which are lightening progressively from femurs to tarsi, petiole. Apical border of **N₁** disk, tegulae, pterostigma and vein are semitransparent brown. Ferruginous is the whole of metasoma but petiole. Hypostoma strongly prominent upon the genal area, its base very swollen and breaking **cOc** which is not entire ventrally. **PoG** not expressed. Lateral **N₁** without wrinkles. Horizontal **P** disk largely **p** packed in transversal rows with roughly defined median furrow. **LaSt₂** mostly **p** lateral **P** smooth, wrinkled only along its upper third. The **p** of remainder of the body as in other *Meria*. Brown hair on head and mesosoma, lighter on metasoma. **mR** detectable at ×40 only on the frons and anterior **N₁** disk.

Note. It lacks 7 left and 2 right flagellomeres, left hind tibia and tarsus, 4 right hindtarsomeres.

Ecology. Unknown.

Male. Unknown.

Derivatio nominis: the latin dissimilis means different (from the other taxa).

***Meria lasiotera* nov.sp.**

Holotype ♂ - Namibia = /NAMIBIA Bogenfels Oct 93/ /NNIC/, NNMW

Paratype ♀ - Namibia = /Bogenfels DIAMOND AREA 27°27'S 15°23'E 14-25.XI.1993 E. Marais Pres. Pitf. traps/ /NNIC/, NMW

Female. Paratype. Figs 23-28. Measurements: body length = 9 mm; forewing length = 6.5 mm.

Black, brown, light reddish-brown, whitish. Wings hyaline. Brown: mandibles; antennae; forefemurs; mid and hindcoxae (forecoxae are black). Light reddish-brown: ventral lamella of clypeus; remainder of legs; **LaSt₂**; metasoma. Whitish: roughly defined lateral spots on 1st to 4th terga. Base of hypostoma swollen, semitransparent, breaking ventrally **cOc**. No median furrow on **P** disk. Ventral surface of the lobes of **St₃** neither flattened neither contiguous medially but severed by a distinct groove and with a distinct lateral blunt apex. Pterostigma without inner differentiated area. Apical veins of **CPM** and **CD_{II}** vein tubular, not nebulous like in the other taxa. Numerous bristles along basal half of coastal vein of both fore and hind wings. Hindtibial spurs strongly enlarged apically, almost spoon like. Disposition of pits and bristles on the basal hindtarsomeres is as the same as in *Macromeria*. **mR** well detectable at ×50 on the head, mesosoma (but posterior mesopleurae, **LaSt₂**, vertical and lateral **P**, legs), terga (but apical areas), 2nd and 3rd sterna. Apical area of 6th tergum with a reticulated sculpture well detectable at ×10 magnification too. Clypeus densely **p** throughout (but a small lateral area) with dense hispidous hair. Dense **p** (distance among them less than their diameter), bearing long white hair, also on vertical (pronotal plate) and lateral areas of **N₁** disk, postscutellar area, **Es₁** and **Es₂** horizontal disk of **P**, ventral edge of hind tibia, apical fore surface of hind femur, 1st to 4th lateroterga. Weaker and a bit more sparse **p**, bearing shorter white hair, on **LaSt₂**, 1st tergal disk and lateral areas before preapical row of **p** on 2nd to 5th terga and apical half of 2nd and 3rd sterna (mostly smooth areas in other *Meria*).

Male. Holotype. Figs 29-36. Measurements: body length = 15 mm.

Black, brown and yellow. Wings hyaline. Brown: tip of mandibles; mouthparts; dark portions of the legs but black **X₁**. Yellow: most of mandibles; almost the whole of clypeus but a mid spot; two lateral spots along foreborder and one subapical stripe on **N₁** disk; tegulae; apical femurs, most of tibiae and the whole of tarsi; narrow apical stripe on 1st and three spots along apical borders of 2nd to 6th terga and 2nd to 5th sterna; two lateral spots on 7th tergum. Hypostoma semitransparent reddish and swollen; **PoG** short but distinct. **Secu** stripe ½ flagellar thickness. Ventral apophysis of metasternum blunt and only slightly protruding. 3rd to 6th sterna with a strong basal gradulus also extending laterally parallel to the laterotergal border. 7th sternum with only lateral graduli. Very densely packed **p** without any space among them and bearing long white hair covering the underlying integument on clypeus, frons, **Tsa**, temples, fore half and posteroventral corner of **N₁** disk, **Es₁**, **Es₂**, back and lateral areas of **P**.

Discussion. The male well belong to the group of limata because of genitalia. Well known from the other taxa of the group because of the dense long hair on the body, the graduli on the sterna and the gradulus on 7th tergum extended laterally to get the spiracular groove.

The female is distinct because of almost completely **p** clypeus, dense **p** bearing long bristles on hind legs and metameri, disposition of **p** on basal hind tarsomeres, tubular apical veins on the forewing, bristles on the coastal vein of the hind wing.

Ecology: unknown.

Derivatio nominis: from the Greek *λασιώτερος* = more woolly than.

Meria deiandra nov.sp.

Holotype ♀ - Namibia = /Chulon, Narib Ost 602 24°10'S 17°42'E MARIENTHAL DISTRICT 30 May-5July 1982 M-L.Penrith Preser traps, dune/ /H58296/ /NNIC/, NNMW

Paratype ♀ - Namibia = (9) /Chulon, naribost 602 24°10'S 17°42'E MARIENTHAL DISTRICT 30 May-5June 1982 M-L.Penrith Preser traps, dune/ /NNIC/, NNMW

Female. Holotype. Figs 37-44. Measurements: body length = 7.5 mm; forewing length = 4.5 mm.

Blackish, brown and light brown, whitish. Wings poorly darkened. Head and mesosoma are mostly blackish. Brown: most of the scape; tip of mandible; upper side of flagellum; most of legs; **LaSt**₂; pterostigma; petiole and most of 1st tergum; shadows on other metameri. Clypeal lamella, mandible, tegula, veins, tarsi and the remainder of metasoma are light brown. Whitish: lateral spots on 2nd and 3rd terga; hair; spur; spines. Very short median furrow on the propodeal disk which show wrinkled lateral edges. Base of hypostoma semitransparent and slightly swollen; **cOc** unbroken ventrally even though weakened at the base of hypostoma. Densely packed **p** on ventral **es**₂ without pitless areas near **LaSt**₂ which show a stripe of **p** along inner border. **St**₃ largely **p**. Polygonal **mR** detectable at ×50 throughout but areas on **Es**₂, **Em**₃, lateral **P** and legs. Transversal very fine **mR** on 1st to 5th metameri, longitudinal and greater on 6th tergum.

Variability. Paratypes vary in size from 6 to 9 mm and in tonality of the dark colour of head and mesosoma.

Ecology: unknown.

Male: unknown.

Derivatio nominis. From the Greek *δει* (it lacks) and *ανδρ*- (root of *ανήρ*, *ανδρός* = male).

Meria namachorites nov.sp.

Holotype ♀ - Namibia = /Chulon, Narib Ost 602 24°10'S 17°42'E MARIENTHAL DISTRICT 30 May-5July 1982 M-L.Penrith Preser traps, dune/ /NNIC/, NNMW

Paratype ♀ - Namibia = /WINDHOEK SE 2217 Ca 22-24 Nov 1973/ /H75255/ /NNIC/, NNMW

Paratype ♂ - Namibia = /Noachabeb 97 KEETMANSHOP SE 2718 Ad/Bc 22-28 Apr 1972/

Female. Holotype. Figs 45-49. Measurements: body length = 12 mm; forewing length = 7 mm.

Dark brown, brown and light brown, ferruginous, white. Forewing darkened, hindwing lighter. Most of the head and mesosoma are dark brown. Brown: part of mandible and

scape; all the legs but tarsi; **LaSt2**; pterostigma; petiole; 1st sternum; most of 1st tergum; large areas before white spots on 2nd tergum; irregular shadows on the remainder of metameri. Light brown: flagellum; ventral area of clypeal disk; most of mandible; palpi; tarsi; veins. Ferruginous: small areas on frons and vertex, most of metasoma.

White: lateral spots on 2nd and 3rd terga.

Base of hypostoma swollen and transparent, **cOc** broadly interrupted. Disk of **N**₁ as mostly smooth as its lateral areas which have not wrinkled areas. Sub horizontal propodeal disk without median furrow, with fine wrinkles along its lateral edges; subvertical disk and upper fourth of lateral areas also wrinkled. Hindtibial spurs just a bit larger than in other congeneric taxa. Hair whitish throughout. **p** like in *M. tripunctata*. in most of the body.

Male. Figs 50-55. Measurements: body length = 14.5 mm.

Black, brown, yellow. Brown: ventral edge of clypeus; palpi; mandible tip; scape partially; hypostomal base; apex of coxae and dark portions of legs; apex of 7th metamerus and 8th sternum (anal hook). Yellow: almost all the clypeal disk; most of mandible; two large lateral spots along the fore border and a large subapical stripe on **N**₁; small spot on **Es**₂; apex of **LaSt**₂; humeral plate and tegula; base of coastal vein; spot on all the coxae; ventral and apical femurs; almost completely tibiae; tarsi; large apical stripe with waving fore edge on 1st and 6th terga, 2nd, 5th and 6th sterna; large apical stripe with entire fore edge enlarging sideward on 2nd to 5th terga, 3rd and 4th sterna; three spots on 7th tergum.

Large **Secu** stripe, covering all the visible thickness of the flagellar elements; blunt keel, broken medially, along the fore border of **N**₁disk; fore surface of mid femur smooth and hairless; strong laminated longitudinal keel along inner ventral edge of **X**₃; Sul weel expressed only on 1st to 5th terga, vestigial on 6th one; sterna with a broad submedian transversal impression. Hair and **p** as in *M. tripunctata*.

Note. The female is clearly known from closer taxa by the absence of any trace of median furrow on the propodeal disk. The male has no very distinctive character states and can be identified through a combinations of characters given in the key. Their coupling here proposed is purely unwarranted.

Variability: the female paratype is smaller (11mm), has more extended brown areas on 1st and 2nd terga and lack ferruginous shadings on the head.

Ecology: unknown.

Derivatio nominis: from the name of the region, Nama, and the greek *χωρίτης* = dweller.

***Meria erythraea* nov.sp.**

Holotype ♂ - *Erythraea* = /Eritrea (Asmara) 30.VI.1950 leg. S.Mochi/, MZUF

Paratype ♀ - *Erythraea* = (2) /Eritrea (Asmara) 30.VI.1950 leg. S.Mochi /, MZUF

Paratype ♂ - *Erythraea* = (2) /Asmara ETHIOPIA 7600' 18-20.I.62 S.M.Clark/, MZUF; (2)/Eritrea (Asmara) 30.VI.1950 leg. S.Mochi/, MZUF; (1) /Eritrea Asmara Bet Gerghis 29.IV.1950/, MZUF

Male. Holotype. Figs 56-61. Measurements: body length = 15 mm; forewing length = 10 mm.

Black, brown, yellow. Wings hyaline. Brown: tip of mandible; veins; legs but light areas. Yellow: irregular spots on clypeal disk; base of mandible; two lateral spots along the fore

border and one preapical stripe on **N**₁disk; subtriangular spot on **Es**₂; humeral plate, basal coastal vein, most of tegula; small spots on **X**₂ and **X**₃, ventral and apical femurs, upper tibiae, tarsi; apical stripe with irregular fore edge enclosing laterally a small dark brown area on 1st to 4th terga and with simply indented fore edge on 5th, 6th terga, 3rd to 6th sterna; two lateral and one central spots on 7th tergum; three apical spots on 2nd sternum. **cOc** not broken by hypostomal basis. **PoG** short but clearly expressed. Hypostomal basis and **PoG** area swollen. **Secu** stripe covering half the thickness of flagellomeres. **X**₃ with a longitudinal laminated keel along inner edge. 3rd to 6th sterna with a median transversal deep groove, severing an almost flat anterior and a swollen less impunctate posterior surfaces. 7th tergum with lobes not complanar, strongly bent both in lateral and back aspect. Quite dense white hair on lower frons, clypeus, genae, lateral **N**₁, **Sc**₂, **Es**₂; **P**, lateral 1st sternum, 1st tergum. Sparse hair elsewhere. Digitus without any bristles.

Female. Figs 62-64. Measurements: body length = 11 mm; forewing length = 5 mm.

Dark brown, brown and light brown, ivory white. Wings darkened, hindwing lighter.

Head and mesosoma more or less dark brown. Ventral mesosoma, legs and partially metasoma brown. Light brown are antennae, mandibles, **Tsa**, apical 4th, all 5th and 6th terga. Ivory white: two large lateral spots on 2nd and 3rd terga. **cOc** broken by the swollen semi transparent base of hypostoma. Lamella of clypeus strongly arched in ventral aspect with forwarding sides. Propodeal disk with median furrow and only few **p** along its lateral edges, without any wrinkle. 2nd petiolated **CSM** present.

Note. The specimens have been kindly given by W. Borsato (Venezia).

Ecology: unknown.

Derivatio nominis. From the area of provenance.

***Meria stenogastra* nov.sp.**

Holotype ♀ - Namibia = /Cochenagas 218 WINDHOEK 17°12'E 22°49'S 19 Nov-22 Dec 1981 M-L.Penrith Preser traps / /NNIC/, NNMW

Paratype ♀ - Namibia = (3) /Cochenagas 218 WINDHOEK 17°12'E 22°49'S 19 Nov-22 Dec 1981 M-L.Penrith Preser traps / /NNIC/, (2)NNMW, (1)MZUF; (1) /Cochenagas 218 WINDHOEK 17°12'E 22°49'S 20 Oct-19 Nov 1981 M-L.Penrith Preser traps / /NNIC/, NMW; (1) /Cochenagas 218 WINDHOEK 17°12'E 22°49'S 27 Dec 1981-20 Jan 1982 M-L.Penrith Preser traps / /NNIC/, NMW

Female. Holotype. Figs 65-67. Measurements: body length = 8 mm; forewing length = 4.5 mm.

Black, brown, ferruginous brown. Wings slightly darkened. Brown: mandible; flagellum; legs but **X**₁; **LaSt**₂; pterostigma; 1st tergum but petiole which is almost black; most of 2nd tergum; 1st sternum. Veins and tarsi are light brown. Ferruginous brown: scape and the remainder of metasoma. Punctuated area with long bristles on the scape getting its apex. Hypostomal basis semitransparent and only slightly swollen; it does not break the **cOc** which is complete. Lateral **N**₁disk with strong short wrinkles on its posteroventral corner. Fine wrinkles on the sides of propodeal disk. Hair of the scape, clypeus and mandibles is light brown. Hair of the remainder of the body whitish like spurs and spines. **p** like the standard of the genus.

Note. Well identified by the colour patterns and the narrowness of metameri.

Male. Unknown.

Ecology. Unknown.

Derivatio nominis. From the Greek στενός = narrow and γαστήρ = abdomen.

Meria diapyrogastra nov.sp.

Holotype ♀ - Namibia = /Berseba 170 at: 25°16'S 18°03'E MARIENTHAL DISTR 07-29.XI.1992 S.Marais pres. Pitf. traps/ /NNIC/, NNMW.

Female. Holotype. Figs 68-69. Measurements: body length = 9 mm; forewing length = 4.5 mm.

Black, brown, bright ferruginous. Wings light yellow. Brown: clypeus, **Tsa**, antennae, mandibles. Bright ferruginous are veins and pterostigma, **LaSt₂**, legs but coxae, the whole of metasoma. Light brownish spurs, spines and hair throughout. Head strongly transversal in frontal aspect: ratio **LA/A** ~ 1.25. **PoG** not expressed, base of hypostoma semitransparent and swollen, breaking **cOc** which is not complete. Large semitransparent apical border of **N₁** disk. Fine wrinkles along sides of the horizontal area and strong waving wrinkles on the declivitous area of **P**. Gradulus of 2nd tergum well arched. **p** like the standard of the genus.

Male. Unknown.

Ecology. Unknown.

Derivatio nominis. From the Greek διαπυρος = bright red and γαστήρ.

Meria trachelopsila nov.sp.

Holotype ♂ - Namibia = /Namibia WEST CAPRIVI PK. Kwanda river Susuwe 17°45'37S 23°20'55E 28.IX-02.X.1996 HH Kirk Spries Malaise traps dry woodland/ /NNIC/, NNMW

Paratype ♂ - Namibia = (5) /Namibia WEST CAPRIVI PK. Kwanda river Susuwe 17°45'37S 23°20'55E 28.IX-02.X.1996 HH Kirk Spries Malaise traps dry woodland/ /NNIC/, NNMW

Paratype ♀ - Namibia = (1) /S of Mushare ETOSHA NP, SWA 18°37'S 16°53'S 27.III-28.IV.1988 E.griffin Pres, Pitf. Traps/, NNMW; (1) /Sangwali EASTERN CAPRIVI 18°14'S 23°36'E 25.XI-05.XII.1991 E.Marais Pres pitf traps/, NNMW

Male. Holotype. Figs 77-84. Measurements: body length = 12 mm; forewing length = 6 mm.

Black, brown, yellow. Wings hyaline. Brown: tip of mandible; flagellum; palpi; veins and pterostigma. Yellow: tip of **Tsa**; most of clypeal disk; external mandible; two lateral spots along foreborder and one subapical stripe on **N₁** disk; apex of **LaSt₂**; tegulae; about half femurs, all tibiae and tarsi; apical stripe with entire for edge on 1st to 6th terga, apical stripe with anterior lateral indentations on 2nd to 6th sterna; median spot on 7th tergum. Base of hypostoma semitransparent and a bit swollen; **cOc** unbroken; ventral border of clypeus semitransparent; fore surface of mid femur mostly smooth and hairless; **Em₃** finely wrinkled; gradulus on 2nd to 7th terga; **sul** on 1st to 6th terga; narrow transversal median furrow on 2nd to 6th sterna, making a sort of gradulus before it; median longitudinal broad keel on the last third of 7th sternum. White hair denser on frons, **N₁** disk, **Es₂**, never concealing the underlying integument.

Variability. There are only little variations about size and colour patterns in the paratypes.

Female. Paratype from Etosha NP. Measurements: body length = 7 mm.

It is very close to the female of *M. sublevis* from which it strongly differs because of the brown to light brown basic colour of the body. The coupling is purely indicative.

Note. The shape of genitalia reveals its membership to the *M. limata* group.

Female: unknown.

Ecology: unknown.

Derivatio nominis: from the Greek τράχηλος (= neck) and ψιλός (unarmed, bare) because of the absence of any keel on the pronotum.

***Meria leucospila* nov.sp.**

Holotype ♂ - Namibia = /Namibia LÜDERITZ DISTRICT Obib waters 19-21.IX.1997 28°00'S 16°38'EE.Marais & Kirk-Spriggs malaise trap sample/, NNMW

Paratype ♂ - Namibia = (2) /Namibia LÜDERITZ DISTRICT Obib waters 19-21.IX.1997 28°00'S 16°38'EE.Marais & Kirk-Spriggs malaise trap sample/, NNMW; (1) /Namibia: LÜDERITZ Rooiberg 27°38'S 16°28'E 22-24.IX.1997 Kirk Spriggs & Marais malaise trap sample/ /NNIC/, NNMW

Male. Holotype. Figs 85-91A. Measurements: body length = 12.5 mm; forewing length = 6.5 mm.

Black, brown, white. Wings hyaline. Brown: Semitransparent basis of hypostoma; most of mandibles; most of the legs with lighter tarsi, tibiae and tip of femurs; lateroterga from 2nd to 7th terga; sterna; veins and pterostigma. White: two irregular spots on clypeal disk; two small stripes on each **Tsa**; base of mandibles; two very narrow stripes along fore border of **N₁** disk; apex of **LaSt₂**; spot on fore and mid coxae; three small spots very close to each other on 1st tergum; three small spots along apical border on 2nd to 6th terga and sterna, their distance bigger than their size; two lateral spots on 7th tergum. Swollen hypostomal basis; **cOc** almost complete, worn out just near the middle of it; **Secu** stripe at least as wide as thickness of flagellomeres; lamellar keel along the fore border of **N₁** disk interrupted medially in two subrounded (in frontal aspect) portions wearing out toward anteroventral corner; **Em₃** and lateral **P** almost smooth and shining; upper third of fore surface of mid femur with dense very weak **p** and hair, lower two thirds smooth; strong longitudinal lamellar keel along the inner ventral edge of **X₃**; well expressed graduli on 2nd to 7th terga; **sul** present on 1st to 6th terga; quite deep transversal median furrow on 2nd to 6th sterna extending laterally like it happens in *lasiotera* (Fig. 33); surface before it more densely **p** than surface behind it (a general pattern in the genus). **p** is denser on clypeus, lower frons, lateral **N₁**, **Es₂**, **N₃**, posterior and lateral **P**, bearing long white hair which conceals the underlying integument. Tergal disks are bipunctate with microp becoming more scattered from 1st to 7th tergum.

Variability. Little variations in shape of colour patterns. Size varies from 12 to 14 mm.

Note. Very distinct by the dense hair, the shape of sterna, the bipunctate surface of terga and shape of genitalia.

Female: unknown.

Ecology: unknown.

Derivatio nominis: from the Greek words λευκός = white and σπῖλον = spot.

***Meria anomala* nov.sp.**

Holotype ♂ - Namibia = /15 km NE Sylvia hill Se2514 Bb LÜDERITZ 16.16 Sept 1971/, NNMW

Male. Holotype. Figs 92-102. Measurements: body length = 14.5 mm; forewing length = 7 mm.

Black, brown, yellow. Wings hyaline. Brown: tip of mandible; veins and pterostigma; legs but yellow parts; narrow area along fore edge of the yellow bands on terga and sterna; apex of 8th sternum. Yellow: apex of **Tsa**; two large lateral spots along fore border and a large subapical stripe on **N₁** disk; a small spot on **Es₂**; apex of **LaSt₂**; inner tegula (with transparent remainder); ventral and apical femurs, dorsal tibiae, mid and hind tarsi; apical stripe with waving edge on 1st tergum, apical stripe encircling laterally brown spots on 2nd to 4th terga; apical stripe laterally indented on 5th and 6th terga, irregular spot on 7th tergum, three spots becoming smaller from 2nd to 6th sterna. **cOc** incomplete broadly broken by the swollen semitransparent hypostomal basis. **Secu** stripe broader than thickness of flagellomeres. Sensilla basiconica larger than in other taxa of the genus, their size about 2×10^{-2} mm like in *Macromeria*. No laminated keel along the fore border of **N₁** disk. **Em₃** as smooth as anteroventral lateral **P**. Disk of **P** distinctly flattened posteriorly, subhorizontal and subvertical areas forming a 45° angle. **St₃** with sub conical ventral processes. Fore surface of mid femur completely smooth. Strong laminated keel along anterior (inner) ventral edge of **X₃**. Basal hind tarsomeres without appressed hair on its postero-dorsal surface. Hollowed declivitous 1st tergum, well distinct from the strongly transversal upper disk. Graduli on 2nd to 7th terga. **sul** present from 1st to 6th terga.

Note. Well distinct taxon from the remainder of genus. Good autapomorphies are the great Sensilla basiconica, sub conical ventral processes of **St₃**, the lacking of appressed hair on basal hind tarsomeres, hollowed 1st tergum, short petiole.

Female. Unknown.

Ecology. Unknown.

Derivatio nominis. Because of its anomalies compared to the other taxa.

***Meria dasymetopa* nov.sp.**

Holotype ♂ - South Africa = /CAP/ /capensis n.sp. Ss/ (blue) /C.ne Saussure/ /Tye/ (red), MHNG

Paratype ♂ - South Africa = /Hex river jan 9.84/ /C.ne Saussure/, MHNG

Male. Holotype. Figs 103-110. Measurements: body length = 15 mm; forewing length = 8 mm.

Black, brown, pale yellow. Wings hyaline. Brown: tip of mandible; legs but fore and mid coxae and yellow areas; lateroterga partially. Yellow: tip of **Tsa**; most of mandible and clypeus; two lateral spots along the fore border and a subapical stripe on **N₁** disk; most of tegula; tarsi, most of tibiae, ventral and apical femurs, large spot on coxae; Apical stripe with largely indented fore edge on 1st to 6th terga and 2nd to 6th sterna; two lateral spots on 7th tergum. Transparent ventral edge of clypeus. Hypostoma semitransparent brown, swollen but not breaking **cOc** which is complete. **Secu** stripe a bit larger than 2/3 thickness of flagellomeres. **Em₃** smooth. Mid femur fore surface smooth and hairless. Hind coxa with a strong supplementary longitudinal laminated keel on its inner (postero) ventral edge; its inner dorsal keel irregular and less raised. Densely set fine **p** on the lower

frons, **Tsa**, clypeus, most of **N₁** disk and **P**, bearing long white hair which almost conceals underlying integument. More scattered fine **p** elsewhere with long hair not concealing integument. Declivitous subtriangular surface of 1st sternum with densely packed **p** throughout.

The paratype does not show significant differences.

Female: unknown.

Ecology: unknown.

Derivatio nominis: from the Greek words δασύς = hairy and μέτωπον = frons, because of the hairy frontal head.

***Meria masaica* nov.sp.**

Holotype ♂ - Kenya = /KENYA Kilifi VI.87 Werner leg/, MZUF

Male. Holotype. Figs 111-118. Measurements: body length = 15 mm; forewing length = 8 mm.

Black, brown, yellow, ferruginous. Wings hyaline. Brown: most of vein; dark portions of legs; some shadings on 2nd tergum; basal palpmere (the remainder are straw coloured). Pterostigma and apical veins are lighter. Yellow: most of clypeus and mandible; apical spot on **Tsa**; two lateral stripe along fore border and one large subapical stripe on **N₁** disk; most of tegula; large spot on **es₂**; most of **LaSt₂**; oblong spot on coxae, ventral femurs, dorsal tibiae, tarsi; Narrow stripe on 1st tergum; larger stripe with roughly indented fore edge on 2nd to 6th terga; lateral rounded spots on 7th tergum and 2nd to 6th sterna. Ferruginous: 1st metamerus but apex of petiole; basal third of 2nd sternum and shadows on lateroterga. Hypostoma transparent and slightly swollen not breaking **cOc** which is complete. Semitransparent ventral border of clypeal disk. **Ssa** with vertical wrinkles. **N₁** disk with laminated keel just near the anterodorsal corner and with an anteroventral tooth. Gonostylus is as the same as in the group of *rufinodis* and volsella shows subtriangular microprotuberances above the base of the bristles on its inner surface (like in the madagascan taxa).

Female: unknown.

Ecology: unknown.

Derivatio nominis: from the name of the most famous kenian people.

New combinations

***Meria servillei* (GUÉRIN 1837) comb.nov.**

Myzine servillei GUÉRIN 1837: 576 - Neotype here designated to ensure name's proper and consistent use: SouthAfrica = /S.B *Myzine servillei* Cap B.Sp./ /Spin/ /Peringuey Cap ?/ (blue) /Type/ (red), MHNG.

M a t e r i a l : ♂ - South Africa = (1) /CAP/ /Servillei Guer Broch, Myz. p10/, MHNG.

Male. Neotype. Figs 70-76. Measurements: body length = 15 mm.

Here the very brief Guérin's description: "Tête et antennes noires sans taches. Thorax noir avec deux petites stries jaunes interrompues sur le prothorax. Ailes transparentes,

incolores; pattes fauves avec les cuisses noires; abdomen noir avec le bord fauve; le premier segment ayant une bande et les autres trois taches postérieurs jaunes. Dessous sans taches, avec le bord postérieur des segment brunâtre. Longueur, 16 millimètres. Du Cap". The specimen here named neotype shows the following small differences from his description: mostly yellow clypeal disk, a small spot on **Es**₂ and **LaSt**₂, fore coxa, a spot on mid and hind coxae, lateral spots on 7th tergum, yellowish narrow apical, laterally indented, stripes on 2nd to 6th sterna too. The most significative difference is the presence of the yellowish stripes on the sterna, since the other ones concern morphological particulars that Guérin regularly overlooked in the descriptions. The basic body colour of the head and mesosoma is black, of metasoma brown. The distal half of 2nd to 6th sterna is ferruginous brown, but the narrow area between indentation which is as brown as basal half of the metameri. **PoG** short but clearly expressed and quite swollen together with hypostomal basis. **cOc** complete. **Secu** stripe covering all the thickness of flagellomeri. Fore border of **N**₁ with a lamellar keel just on the mid and worn out laterally where it becomes blunt. Back half of **Em**₃ finely wrinkled. Anteroventral corner of **P** roughly wrinkled. Fore (inner) surface of mid femur almost completely set with very weak **p** and hair. Longitudinal strong lamellar keel along inner ventral edge of **X**₃. Gradulus on 2nd to 6th tergum. Gradulus on 7th tergum irregular and worn out laterally. It lacks last three right and ten left flagellomeri.

The other specimen shows a continuous subapical stripe on **N**₁ disk and lacks seven right and three left flagellomeri.

***Meria sublevis* (TURNER 1908) comb.nov.**

Myzine sublevis TURNER 1908: 500-501

E x a m i n e d s p e c i m e n s :

♀ - Namibia = (1) /Blinkoog Warabad Se 2719 Ca 14-17 Oct 1971/ /H4531/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (2) /Arnhem 222 Windhoek Se2218 Ca 23-27 Oct1972/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (6) [(1) /Richtofen 126 Windhoek 22°34'S 17°45'E Preservative traps 1-30 Sept 1978 S.Louw-M.L.Penrith/, (2) /Richtofen 126 Windhoek 22°34'S 17°45'E Preservative traps 1-31 Oct 1978 S.Louw-M.L.Penrith /, (1) /Richtofen 126 Windhoek 22°34'S 17°45'E Preservative traps 1-30 Nov 1978 S.Louw-M.L.Penrith/, (2) /Richtofen 126 Windhoek 22°34'S 17°45'E Preservative traps 1-31 Dec 1978 S.Louw-M.L.Penrith/,] /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /D.Okavango 21.9.1953/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Cochenagas 218 Windhoek 22°49'S17°12'E 19Nov 22Dec 1981 Preser. traps M.L.Penrith/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (2) /Chulon; Narib ost 602 24°10'S 17°42'E Marienthal District 30May-5July 1982 M.L.Penrith Preser.traps, dune/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /CDM Camp: Tsunkwe Bushmanland SE 1920 Cb V.1993 pittraps S.V.Green/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (6) /S of Mushare Etosha NP, SWA 18°37'S 16°53'E27.II-28.IV 1988 E.Griffin preser. Pitf. Traps/ /NNIC/, NNMW.

♂ - Namibia = (1) /Windhoek SE 2217 Ca 7-12 Oct 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE 2217 Ca 16-18 Nov 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE 2217 Ca 22-24 Nov 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE 2217 Ca 24-27 Dec 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE 2217 Ca 29-31 Dec 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; 1) /Richtofen 126 Windhoek 22°34'S 17°45'E Preservative traps 1-30 Nov 1978 S.Louw-M.L.Penrith/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Richtofen 126 Windhoek 22°34'S 17°45'E Preservative traps 1-31 Dec 1978 S.Louw-M.L.Penrith/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (2) /Gautsche Pan Bushmanland, SWA 19°48'S 20°35'E 9-13 June 1971/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (4) /Totsana 18 km W Bushmanland, SWA 19°04'S 20°37'E 14-19 June 1971/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Alt Sees 133 22°32'S 17°38'E Windhoek 30 Mar 1980 MGM.-L.Penrith CG.Coetzee/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Regenstein 32 Windhoek SE 2217 Ca 12 Dec 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (3) /Blinkoog Warabad Se 2719 Ca 14-17 Oct 1971/ /H4531/ /NNIC/, NNMW;(2) /Noachabeb 97 Keetmanshop SE 2719 Ba 7-12 Jan 1972/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Noachabeb 97 Keetmanshop SE 2718 Ad/Bc 22 Apr 1972/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Samehaling 277 Keetmanshop SE 2719 Ba 22 Apr 1972/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Sprokieswoud 19°05'S 15°37'E Etosha Game Park 16may-12June 1986 pre Pitfall traps

E.Griffin/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (17) /Arnhem 222 Windhoek 23-27 Oct 1972/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (131) /Namibia: West Caprivi Pk Kwando river Susuwe 17°45'37S 23°20'55E 28.IX-02.X 1998 AH Kirk-Spriggs Malaise trap dry woodland/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (3) /Namibia: Tsumkwe Dist. 2 km W Xawasha pan19°09'57S 10°52'55E 26-27.XII.1998 Kirk-Spriggs & Marais malaise trap sample/ /NNIC/, NNMW.

***Meria neavei* (TURNER 1911) comb.nov.**

Myzine (*Pseudomeria*) *neavei* TURNER 1911: 614-615 (Southern Africa)!

***Meria umbratica* (TURNER 1912) comb.nov.**

Myzine umbratica TURNER 1912: 702

E x a m i n e d s p e c i m e n s : ♀ - Botswana = (1) /L.Ngami 2 mls NE Sehitwa 15-16.IV.1972/ /*Meria umbratica* (Turn) ♂Det. CJ Seez 1974/, BMNH. South Africa = (1) /Cape Province Matjesfontein 14-22.XII.1928 / /RE Turner Brit. Mus. 1928-542/, MSNG.

***Meria inconspicua* (TURNER 1913) comb.nov.**

Myzine inconspicua TURNER 1913: [Lectotype ♀, here designated to ensure name's proper and consistent use: South Africa = /Port Elizabeth Capland 3.10 Dr. Brauns/ /*Myzine inconspicua* Turn Type/ (Autographic) /Type/ (red) /*Myzine inconspicua* Turner/ (yellowish) /Type Hym 1940 *Myzine inconspicua* Turner/, TMP!

E x a m i n e d s p e c i m e n s : ♀ - South Africa = (1) /Cape province Worcester January 1929/ /S.Africa RE Turner Brit. Mus. 1929-26/ /*Meria inconspicua* (Turn) J.C.Guillarmod det 1950/, BMNH.

Note. Probably the female of *discontinua*.

***Meria multipicta* (TURNER 1913) comb.nov.**

Myzine multipicta TURNER 1913: [Lectotype ♀, here designated to ensure name's proper and consistent use: South Africa = /Willowmore Capland Dr. Brauns/ /*Myzine multipicta* Turn Type/ (autographic) /Type Turn/ (red) /*Myzine multipicta* Turner Type ♀/ (dark yellow) /Type Hym 1942 *Myzine multipicta* Turner/ (red), TMP!]

***Meria quadrata* (TURNER 1913) comb.nov.**

Myzine quadrata TURNER 1913: [Lectotype ♀, here designated to ensure name's proper and consistent use: South Africa = /Willowmore Capland 5.I.1903 Dr. Brauns/ /Type/ (red) /*Myzine quadrata* Turn Type/ (autographic) /*Myzine quadrata* Turner Type/ (dark yellow) /Type Hym 1941 *Myzine quadrata* Turner ♀/ (red), TMP].

***Meria basutorum* (TURNER 1913) comb.nov.**

Myzine basutorum TURNER 1913: 736

E x a m i n e d s p e c i m e n s :

♀ - South Africa = (1) /Mamathes Basutoland 4.XI.1945 J.C. Guillarmod/ /*Meria basutorum* (Turn) J.C.Guillarmod det 1949/, BMNH.

♂ - South Africa = (1) /Mamathes Basutoland 3.I.1945 J.C. Guillarmod/ /*Meria basutorum*(Turn) J.C.Guillarmod det 1949/, BMNH; (1) /Mamathes Basutoland 17.II.1945 J.C. Guillarmod/ /*Meria basutorum*(Turn) J.C.Guillarmod det 1949/, MSNG.

***Meria cruenta* (TURNER 1916) comb.nov.**

Myzine cruenta TURNER 1916: 455-456 [Lectotype ♀, here designated to ensure name's proper and consistent use: South Africa = /Natal Umhlali Barnard/ /*Myzine cruenta* Turn Type/ (autographic) /R.E.Turner determ./ (pale blue) /TYPE/ (red) /A003092/, SAM !]

***Meria pallidipes* (TURNER 1916) comb.nov.**

Myzine pallidipes TURNER 1916: 456-457 [Lectotype ♀, here designated to ensure name's proper and consistent use: South Africa = /Cap Pr. 4-85/ /203/ /*Myzine pallidipes* Turn Type/ (autographic) /Type/ (red) /A003093/, SAM!]

Examined specimens: ♀ - South Africa = (1) /Ceres Cape province Nov 1920/ /S.Africa RE Turner Brit. Mus. 1920-497/, BMNH

***Meria bonaespei* (TURNER 1926) comb.nov.**

Myzine bonaespei TURNER 1926: 108-109

Examined specimens:

♀ - South Africa = (1) /Little Karoo 38 m E of Ceres 17-25.XI.1924/ /S. Africa RE Turner Brit. Mus. 1924-518/, BMNH

♂ - South Africa = (1) /Little Karoo 38 m E of Ceres 17-25.XI.1924/ /S. Africa RE Turner Brit. Mus. 1924-518/, BMNH

New records

***Meria fusiformis* (DE GEER 1778)**

Apis fusiformis DE GEER 1778: 608

Meria fusiformis: BONI BARTALUCCI (2004: 380-384)

Examined specimens:

♀ - Namibia = (1) /Plateau 38 Luderitz SE2616Cb 4-5 Mar 1972/ /NNIC/, NNMW.

♂ - Namibia = (1) /Riverside 135 Bethanie SE2616Ca 23-26 Oct 1971/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Halali 19°02S 16°58'E Etosha Nat. Park 18/20 Jan 1987 E.Marais, J.Irish/ /NNIC/, NNMW.

***Meria rufifrons* (FABRICIUS 1793)**

Larra rufifrons FABRICIUS 1793

Meria spinolae WESTWOOD:

Meria rufifrons: JACOT GUILLARMOD (1961: 3-4, under *Myzine* (*Meira*) *violaceipennis* CAMERON 1905 as its synonym)

Examined specimens:

♀ - Zimbabwe = (1) /Nyamandhlan S.Rhodesia 26.3.1941 Nat. Mus. Rhodesia/ /SA Museum/ (blue) /A003189/, SAM; (1) /Turk Mine S. Rhodesia 2.1956/ /SA Museum/ (blue) /A003190/, SAM; (1) /Turk Mine S. Rhodesia 1.12.1957 /SA Museum/ (blue) /A003191/, SAM; (1) /Lonely Mine Matabeleland Dr A.Swale 1915-194/, BMNH.

♂ - Zimbabwe = (1) /Lonely Mine Rhodesia H. Swale 22.IV.14/ // *Meria rufifrons* (Fabr) J.C. Guillardmod det 1949/, BMNH. South Africa = (1) /Nr. Johannesburg Transvaal AJ Cholimley 1906-26/ /see type *Plesia continua* Cam/ / *Meria rufifrons* (Fabr) J.C. Guillardmod det 1949/, BMNH

Note. I could not examine the type of *Plesia continua* CAMERON 1905 since I did not

succeed to obtain any loan from Albany Museum, nevertheless its synonymy with *rufifrons* is highly probable as already stated by TURNER (1910).

***Meria limata* SMITH 1855**

Meria limata SMITH 1855. 81 [Lectotype ♀, here designated to ensure name's proper and consistent use: SouthAfrica = /Int *S. Africa*/ 143 19/ (both rounded) /*limata* Sm. Type/ (autographic) /Type/ (rounded with outer red ring) /B.M.Type Hym. 15.1519/, BMNH !]

Plesia transvaalensis CAMERON 1910: 119 [Lectotype ♂, here designated to ensure name's proper and consistent use: SouthAfrica = /*Kransp*19.12.06/ /*Plesia transvaalensis* Cam. Type/ (autographic) /Type Hym 1936 *Plesia transvaalensis* Cameron/ (red), TMP !]. **Syn.nov.**

Examined specimens:

♀ - South Africa = (2) /Transvaal/ /*Meria limata* ♀ Sm det 1949 J.C.Guillarmod/, TMP; (1) /Font ??? Capland Dr Brauns 15.1.06/ /*Meria limata* ♀ Smith det 1949 J.C.Guillarmod/, BMNH; (1) /South Hills Johannesburg Safr 7.11.64 H.N.Empey/ /*M.limata* Smith 1964 Det. H.N.Empey/, /A003200/, SAM.

♂ - South Africa = (2) /Transvaal/ /*Meria limata* ♀ Sm det 1949 J.C.Guillarmod/, TMP; (1) /South Hills Johannesburg Safr 7.11.64 H.N.Empey/ /*M.limata* Smith 1964 Det. H.N.Empey/, /A003200/, SAM.

Note. Southafrican students are the authority for the aforesaid synonymy, especially J.C.Guillarmod who determined as *M. limata* male specimens identical to the Cameron's type, whose in all probability he took notice. The specimens determined by Empey, who certainly based himself on the Guillarmod's determinations, were probably caught in copula.

***Meria discontinua* (SCHULZ 1906)**

Plesia discontinua SCHULTZ 1906:

Plesia interrupta CAMERON: 1905: 318

Meria discontinua: J.C. GUILLARMOD (1961: 4)

Examined specimens: ♂ - South Africa = (1) /Graafwater C.P Mus Exp Oct 1947/ /*Meria discontinua* (Schulz) J.C. Guillarmod det 1949/ /SA Museum/ (blue) /A003390/, SAM; (1) /Cape province Worcester January 1929/ /S.Africa RE Turner Brit. Mus. 1929-26/ /*Meria discontinua* (Schulz) J.C. Guillarmod det 1950/, BMNH. Namibia = (6) /Namibia WEST CAPRIVI PK. Kwanda river Susuwe 17°45'37S 23°20'55E 28.IX-02.X.1996 HH Kirk Spries Malaise traps dry/ woodland/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (3) /Namibia Tsumkwe Dist. Nama 19°54'34S 20°44'08E 20-22.XII.1998 Kirk Spriggs & Marais Malaise trap sample/ /NNIC/, NNMW. Botswana = (1) /Third Bridge 19° 14'S 23°21'E 10.III.1993 E.Marais/, NNMW

***Meria perornata* (TURNER 1908)**

Myzine (Pseudomeria) perornata TURNER 1908: 499-500

Meria perornata: JACOT GUILLARMOD (1953: 17)

Examined specimens:

♀ - South Africa = (1) /Transvaal/ /*Myzine perornata* Turn/ /RE Turner determ/ /A003097/, SAM; (1) /Mamathes Basutoland 25.XII.1946 C. Jacot Guillarmod/ /*Meria perornata* (Turn) J.C.Guillarmod det 1949/, MSNG.

♂ - South Africa = (1) /Queenstown Cape Province 500 ft 16.I-10.II. 1923/ /S.Africa RE Turner 1923-140/ /*Meria perornata* (Turn) J.C.Guillarmod det 1949/, BMNH; (1) /Natal Van Reenen Drakensberg Dec 1926/ /S.Africa RE Turner 1927-25/ /S.Africa RE Turner 1923-140/ /*Meria perornata* (Turn) J.C.Guillarmod det 1949/, BMNH; (1) /Modder river Brand Fort. Dis. O.F.S./ /*Meria perornata* (Turn) J.C.Guillarmod det 1949/ /SA Museum/ (blue) /A003096/, SAM; (3)

/Mamathes Basutoland 10.II.1946 J.C. Guillardmod/ *Meria perornata* (Turn) J.C.Guillardmod det 1949/ /SA Museum/ (blue) /A003182/, SAM; /Mamathes Basutoland 17.II.1946 J.C. Guillardmod/ *Meria perornata* (Turn) J.C.Guillardmod det 1949/, BMNH; (1) /Mamathes Basutoland 20.XII.1947 J.C. Guillardmod/ *Meria perornata* (Turn) J.C.Guillardmod det 1949/, BMNH

***Meria rufinodis* (TURNER 1910)**

Myzine rufinodis TURNER 1910: 392-393

Meria rufinodis: BONI BARTALUCCI (2004: 391-394)

Examined specimens:

- ♀ - **Namibia** = (1) /Windhoek SE2217Ca 7-12 Oct 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE2217Ca 9-12 Nov 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE2217Ca 13-15 Nov 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (2) /Windhoek SE2217Ca 16-18 Nov 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE2217Ca 5-6 Dec 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE2217Ca 18-23 Dec 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE2217Ca 1-6 Jan 1974/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE2217Ca 18-24 Feb 1974/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /H15328/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Plateau 38 Luderitz SE2616Cb 4-5 Mar 1972/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /?? 5-6.6.??/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Upper Panner Gorge 22°29'S 15°01'E Swakopmund Dist. 20Nov-18Dec 1984 J.Irish, H.Liessner/ /NNIC/, NNMW.
- ♂ - **Namibia** = (1) /Plateau 38 Luderitz SE2616Cb 4-5 Mar 1972/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (6) /Windhoek SE2217Ca 27-28 Oct 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE2217Ca 1-4 Nov 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (2) /Windhoek SE2217 Ca 9-12 Nov 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE2217Ca 13-15 Nov 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE2217 Ca 16-18 Nov 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (3) /Windhoek SE2217Ca 5-6 Dec 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (2) /Windhoek SE2217Ca 18-23 Dec 1973/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE2217Ca 7-13 Jan 1974/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE2217Ca 14-23 Jan 1974/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Cochenagas 218 Windhoek 22°49'S 17°12'E17 Sep-20Oct 1981preser. Traps M.L.Penrith/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Windhoek SE2217 Ca 14-23 Jan 1974/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (4) /Namibia Luderitz District Obib waters 19-21.XI.1997 28°00'S 16°38'E E.Marais & A-H Kirk-Sprigs Malaise trap sample/ /NNIC/, NNMW: (1) /Namibia Naukluft Pk. Tsams Ost. Spring 24°14'45S 16°06'17E 26-27.XI.1997 Kirk Spriggs & Marais Malaise trap/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (6) /Namibia Omaruru District 2 km W Brandberg West 20°58'05S 14°06'36E 22-24.X.1998 Kirk-Spriggs & Marais Malaise trap/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (2) /Namibia: Khorixas Dist. Huab river at Krone 721 20°37'09S 13°54'31E 23-26.X.1998 Kirk-Spriggs and Marais Malaise trap sample/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (2) /Marienfluss 48 km S. Otjunungwa SE1712Ac 21-22 Nov 1970/ /NNIC/, NNMW; (1) /Ghaub 47 Tsumeb Se1917Bc/d 19-28 Nov 1972/ /NNIC/, NNMW.

Conclusion

A total of 37 species follows from this study. They are so distributed:

A n g o l a : 1 = *M. discontinua*

B o t s w a n a : 5 = *M. discontinua*, *M. fusiformis*, *M. rufonigra*, *M. sublevis*, *M. umbratica*

E t h i o p i a -Erythraea: 2 = *M. cingulata*, *M. erythraea*

K e n y a : 1 = *M. masaiica*

M a d a g a s c a r : 3 = *M. gradilis*, *M. luteipes*, *M. vonizongo*

M o z a m b i q u e : 2 = *M. cingulata*, *M. limata*

N a m i b i a : 14 = *M. anomala*, *M. deiandra*, *M. diapyrogastra*, *M. discontinua*, *M. fusiformis*, *M. hormopsila*, *M. lasiotera*, *M. leucospila*, *M. namachorites*, *M. oinodes*, *M. phainoprocta*, *M. rufinodis*, *M. stenogastra*, *M. sublevis*

S a h e l : 1 = *M. pulchella* (*Meria diplochora* has been placed arbitrarily within Palaearctic fauna)

S o m a l i l a n d : 1 = *M. micruroides*

S o u t h A f r i c a 19 = *M. basutorum*, *M. bonaespei*, *M. cingulata*, *M. cruenta*, *M. dasymetopa*, *M. discontinua*, *M. fusiformis*, *M. inconspicua*, *M. limata*, *M. multipicta*, *M. neavei*, *M. pallidipes*, *M. perornata*, *M. quadrata*, *M. rufifrons*, *M. rufinodis*, *M. rufonigra*, *M. servillei*, *M. sublevis*, *M. umbratica*

Z i m b a b w e : 2 = *M. rufifrons*, *M. basutorum*

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Zusammenfassung

Vorliegende Arbeit gibt einen Bestimmungsschlüssel für alle afrotropischen Arten der Tiphiden-gattung *Meria* ILLIGER 1807. Folgende neuen Arten wurden beschrieben: *Meria anomala*, *Meria dasymetopa*, *Meria deiandra*, *Meria dissimilis*, *Meria erythraea*, *Meria lasiotera*, *Meria leucospila*, *Meria masaica*, *Meria namachorites*, *Meria phainoprocta*, *Meria diapyrogastra*, *Meria stenogastra*, *Meria oinodes* und *Meria trachelopsila*. Der Neotypus von *Myzine servillei* (GUÉRIN 1837) sowie die Lectotypen von *Myzine quadrata* TURNER 1913, *Myzine multipicta* TURNER 1913, *Myzine inconspicua* TURNER 1913, *Myzine cruenta* TURNER 1916 und *Myzine pallidipes* TURNER 1916 wurden festgelegt und neu unter *Meria* kombiniert, zusammen mit *Myzine sublevis* TURNER 1908, *Myzine (Pseudomeria) neavei* TURNER 1911, *Myzine umbratica* TURNER 1912, *Myzine basutorum* TURNER 1913, *Myzine pallidipes* TURNER 1916 und *Myzine bonaespei* TURNER 1926 festgelegt. Die Synonymisierung von *Plesia transvaalensis* CAMERON 1904 mit *Meria limata* SMITH 1855 wurde erkannt. Funddaten und Verbreitungsangaben, die die behandelten Arten wurden dargelegt.

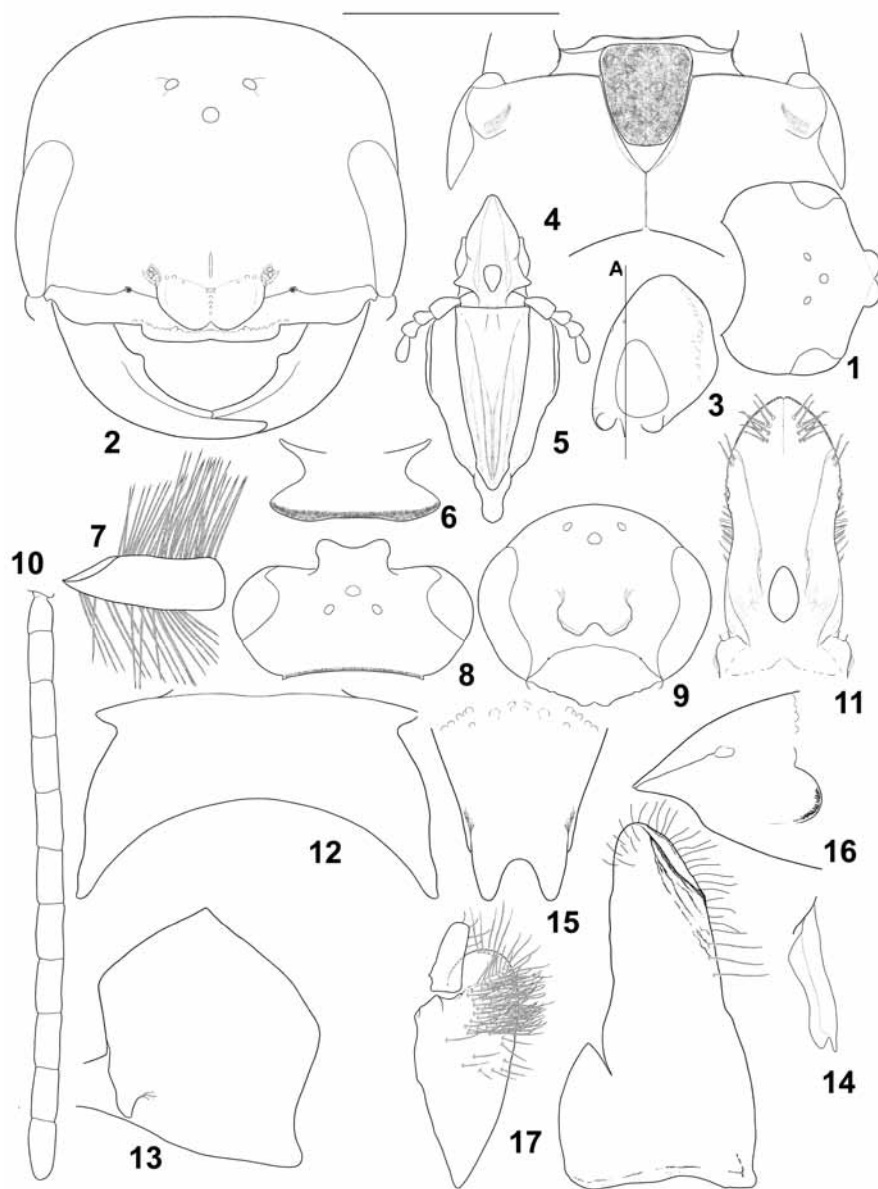
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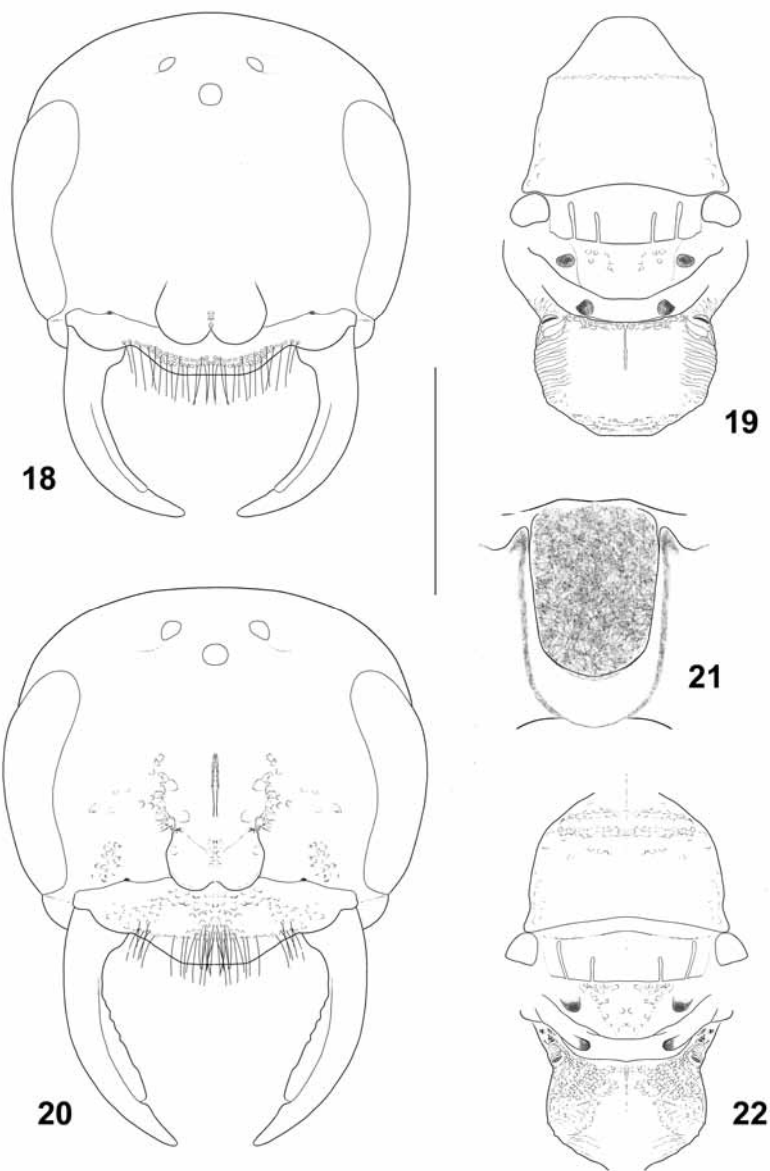
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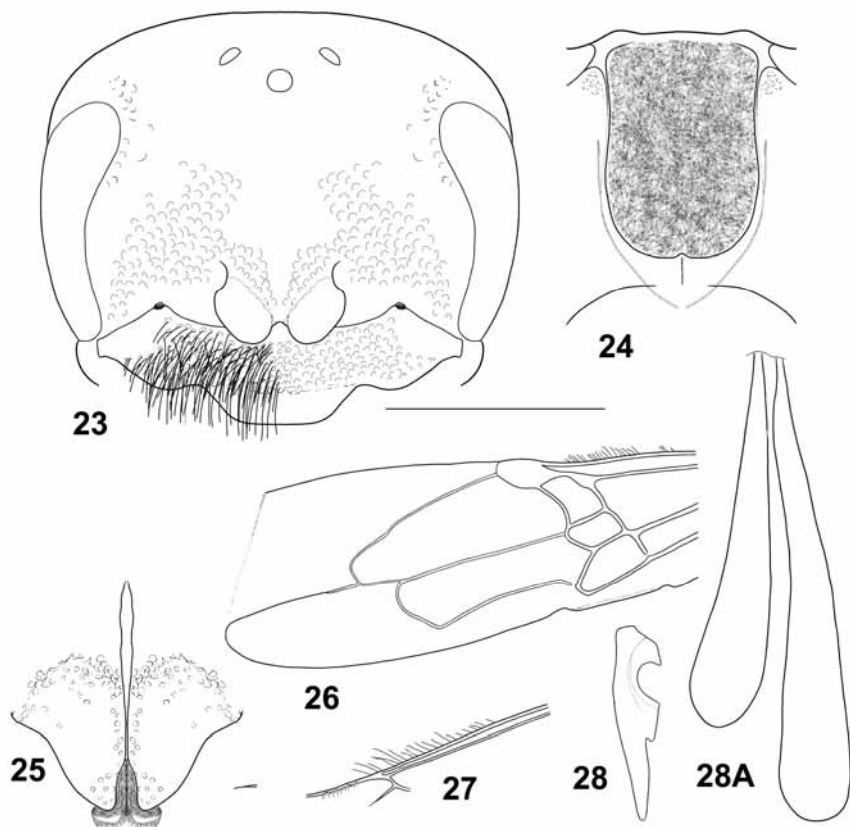
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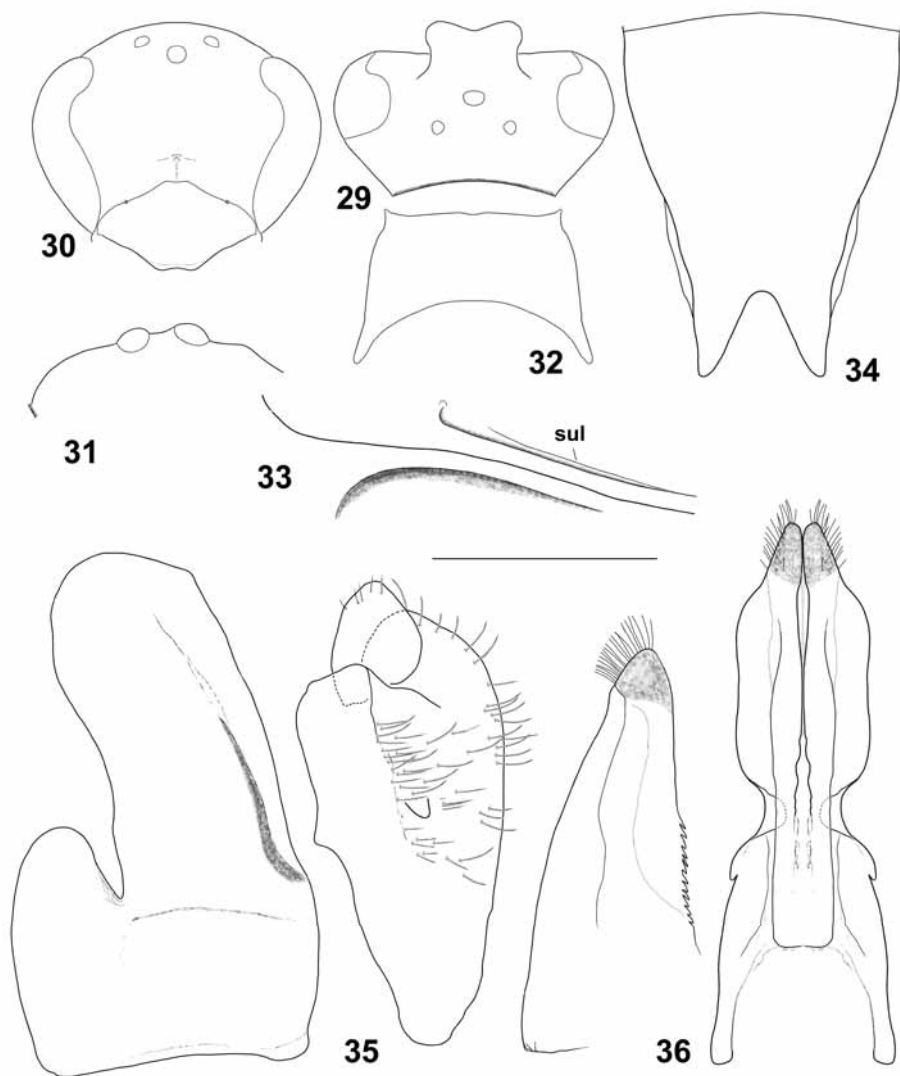
Figs 1-7: *Meria oinodes* ♀. **1:** head, dorsal aspect; **2:** head, frontal aspect; **3:** head, lateral aspect; **4:** head, ventral aspect; **5:** labium and **Pal**, ventral aspect; **6:** labrum, frontal aspect; **7:** scape, frontal aspect. **Fig. 8-17:** *Meria oinodes* ♂. **8:** head, dorsal aspect; **9:** head, frontal aspect; **10:** flagellum; **11:** glossa and paraglossa, ventral aspect; **12:** pronotal disk, dorsal aspect; **13:** pronotal disk, lateral aspect; **14:** fore tibial spur; **15:** 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; **16:** 7th metamerus, lateral aspect; **17:** volsella and gonostylus. (1, 3, 8, 9, 10: scale bar = 2 mm) (2, 4, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16: scale bar = 1 mm) (6, 11, 14, 17: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



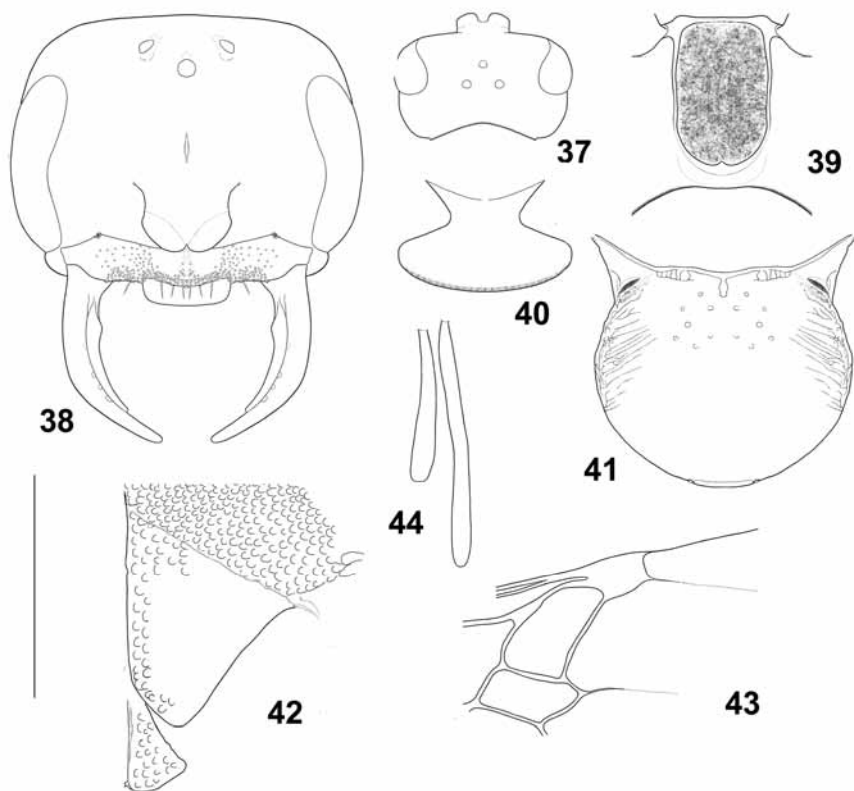
Figs 18-19: *Meria phainoprocta* ♀. **18:** head, frontal aspect; **19:** mesosoma, dorsal aspect. **Figs 20-22:** *Meria dissimilis* ♀. **20:** head, frontal aspect; **21:** FoO ventral aspect; **22:** mesosoma, dorsal aspect (18, 20, 21: scale bar = 1 mm) (19, 22: scale bar = 2 mm).



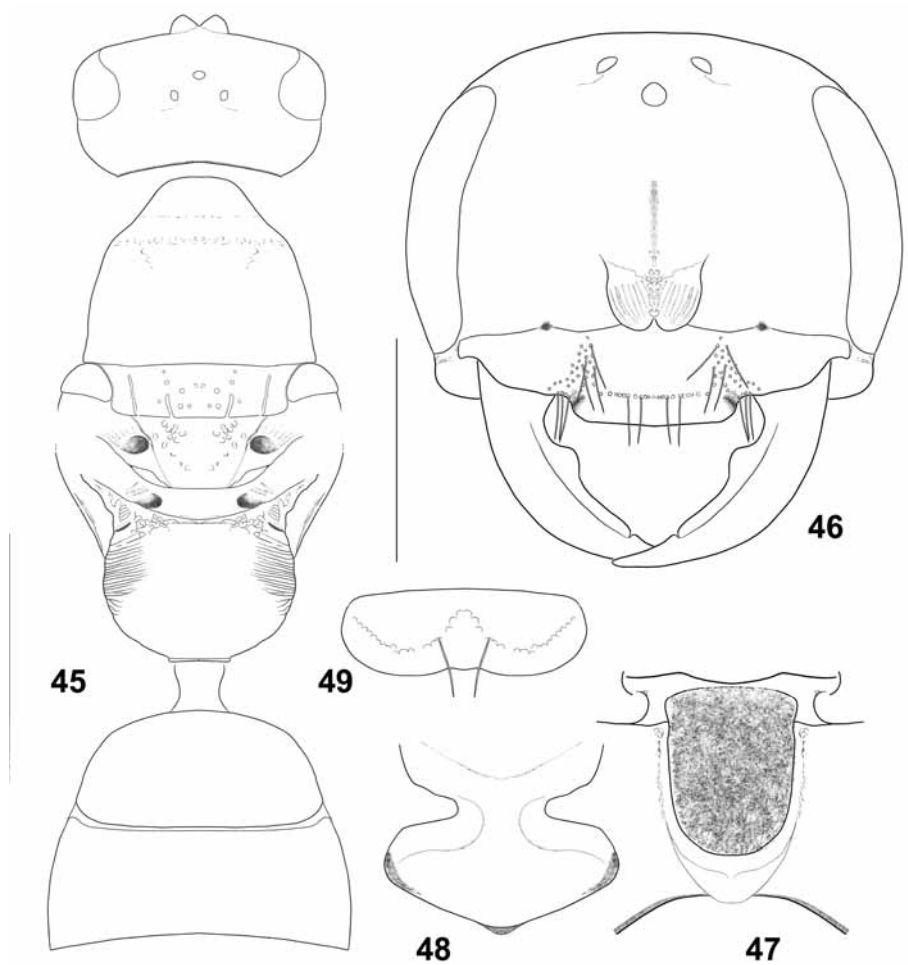
Figs 23-28A: *Meria lasiotera* ♀. **23:** head, frontal aspect; **24:** head, ventral aspect; **25:** LaSt₂, ventral aspect; **26:** fore wing, apical half; **27:** hind wing, coastal vein; **28:** fore tibial spur; **28A:** ind tibial spurs (26: scale bar = 2 mm) (23, 24, 25, 27: scale bar = 1 mm) (28 & 28A: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



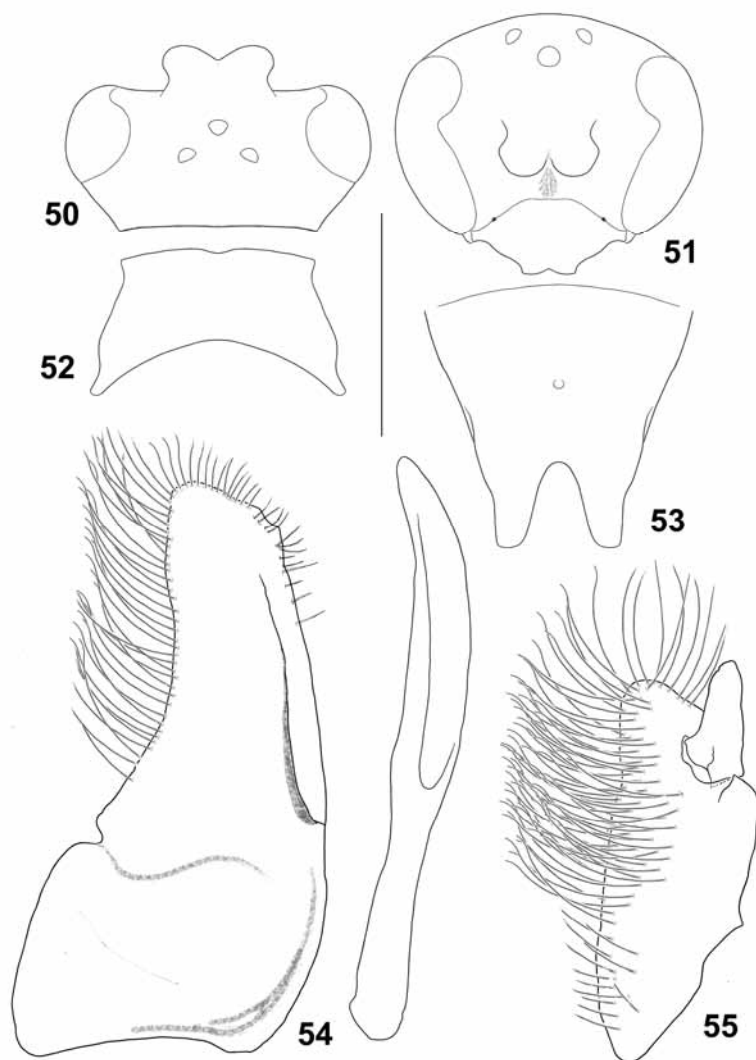
Figs 29-36: *Meria lasiotera* ♂. **29:** head, dorsal aspect; **30:** head, frontal aspect; **31:** vertex, lateral aspect; **32:** pronotal disk, dorsal aspect **33:** side of 4th metamerus (particular), lateral aspect; **34:** 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; **35:** gonostylus and volsella; **36:** aedeagus, lateral and ventral aspect (29, 30, 32: scale bar = 2 mm) (31, 34: scale bar = 1 mm) (33, 35, 36: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



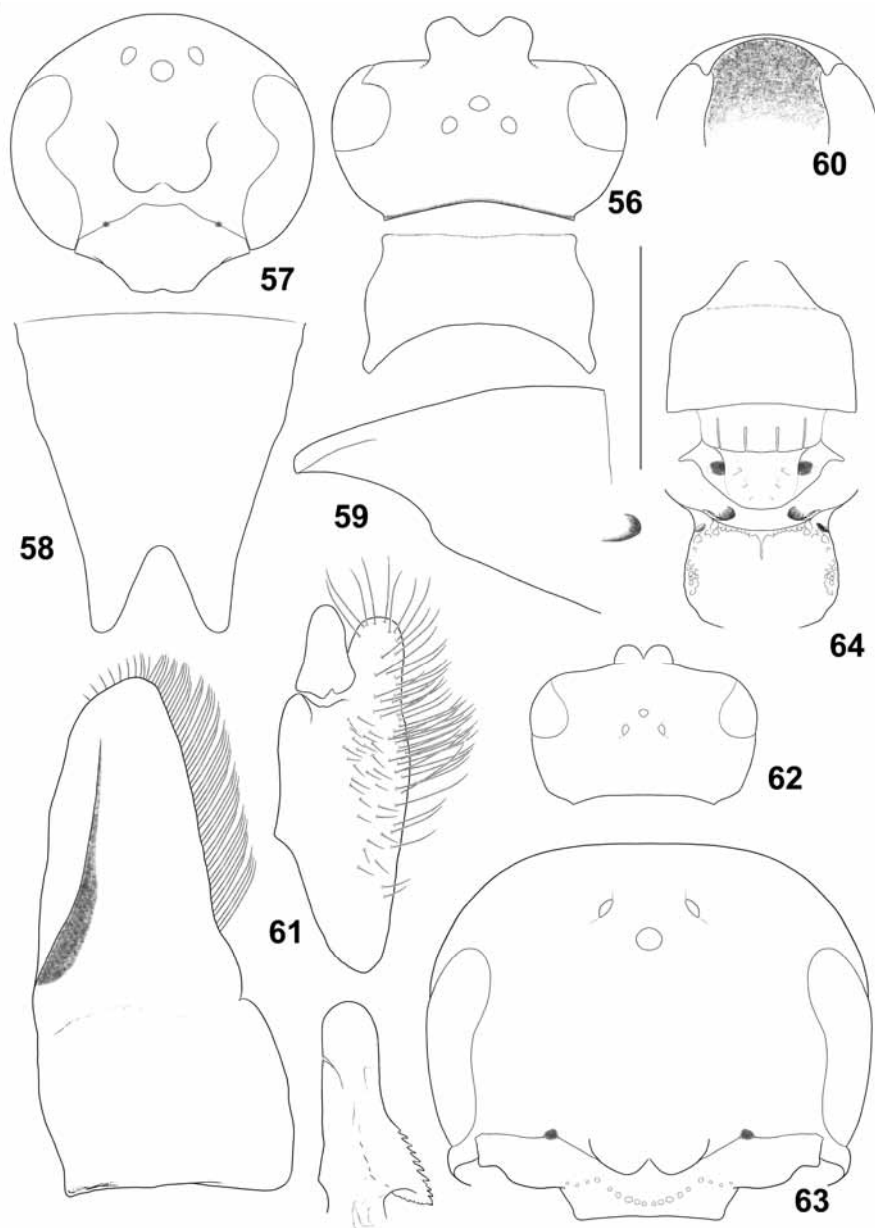
Figs 37-44: *Meria deiandra* ♀. 37: head, dorsal aspect; 38: head, frontal aspect; 39: head, ventral aspect; 40: labrum, frontal aspect; 41: propodeum, dorsal aspect; 42: LaSt₂, ventral aspect; 43: for wing, particular; 44: hin tibial spurs (37: scale bar = 2 mm) (38, 39, 41, 42, 43: scale bar = 1 mm) (40, 44: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



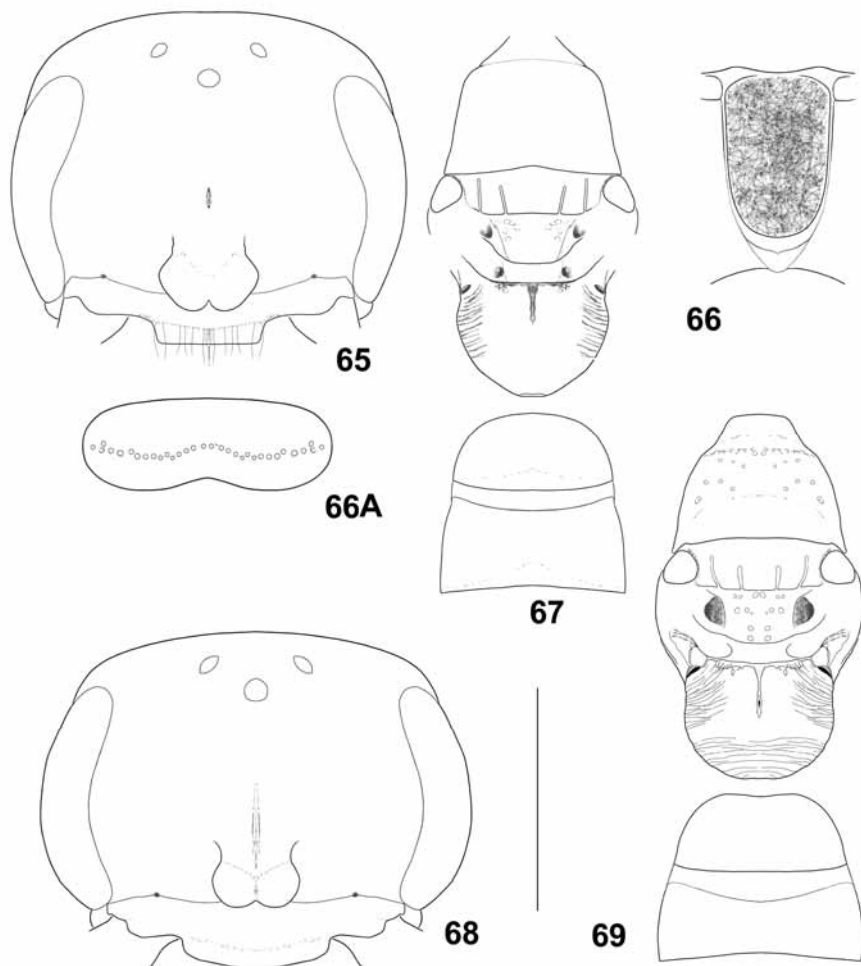
Figs. 45-49: *Meria namachorites* ♂. **45:** head, mesosoma and basal metameri, dorsal aspect; **46:** head, frontal aspect; **47:** head, ventral aspect; **48:** labrum, frontal aspect; **49:** labrum, ventral aspect (45: scale bar = 2 mm) (46, 47: scale bar = 1 mm) (48, 49: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



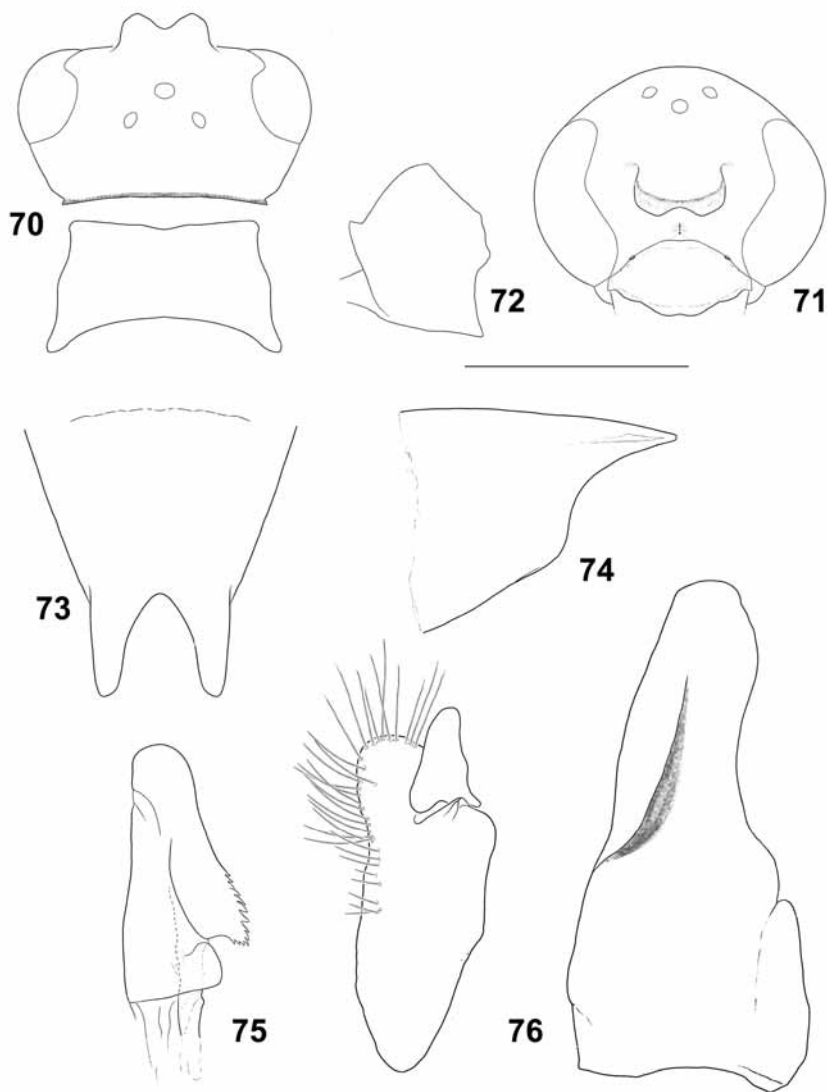
Figs. 50-55: *Meria namachorites* ♂. **50:** head, dorsal aspect; **51:** head, frontal aspect; **52:** pronotal disk, dorsal aspect **53:** 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; **54:** Gonostylus, lateral and ventral aspect; **55:** volsella (50, 51, 52: scale bar = 2 mm) (53: scale bar = 1 mm) (54, 55: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



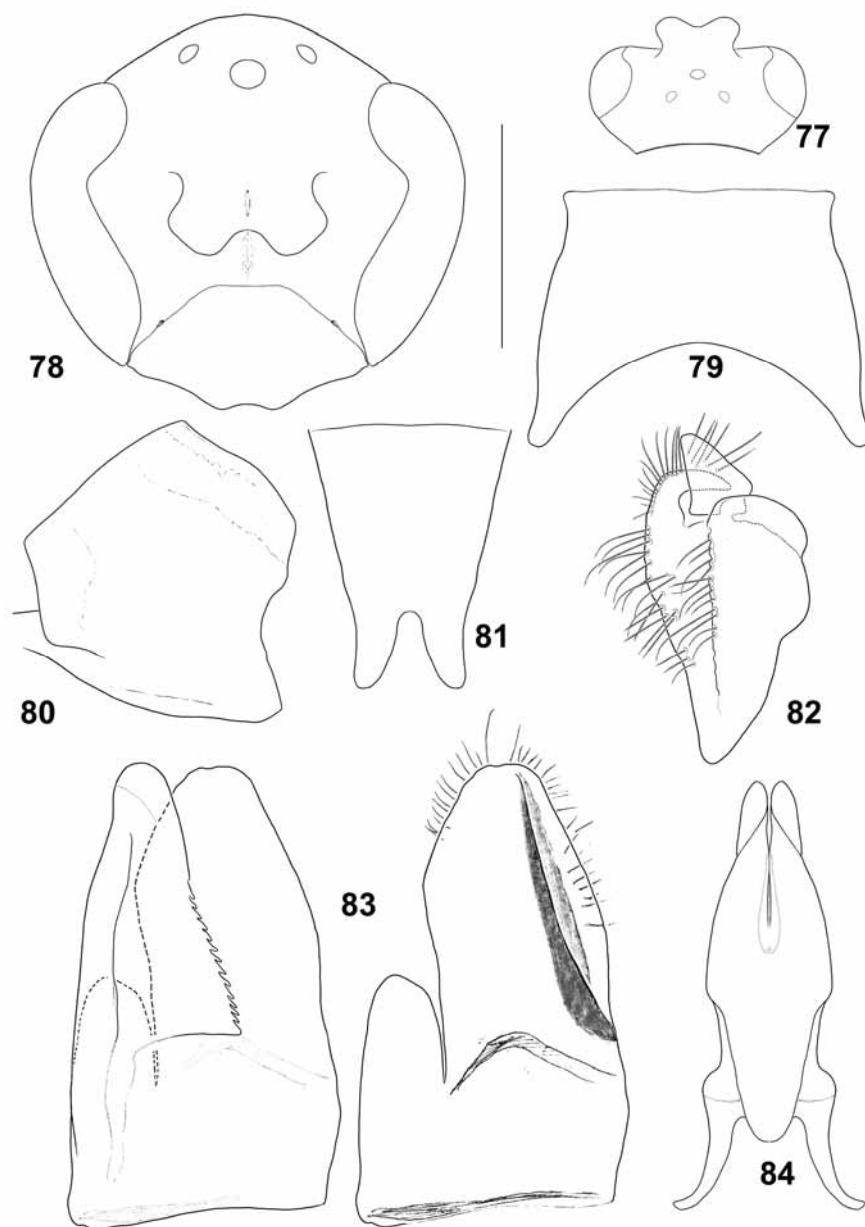
Figs. 56-61: *Meria erythraea* ♂. **56:** head and pronotal disk, dorsal aspect; **57:** head, frontal aspect; **58:** 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; **59:** 7th tergum, lateral aspect; **60:** 7th tergum, back aspect; **61:** gonostylus, volsella and aedeagus. **Figs. 62-64:** *Meria erythraea* ♀. **62:** head, dorsal aspect; **63:** head, frontal aspect; **64:** mesosoma, dorsal aspect (56, 57, 62, 64: scale bar = 2 mm) (58, 59, 60, 63: scale bar = 1 mm) (61: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



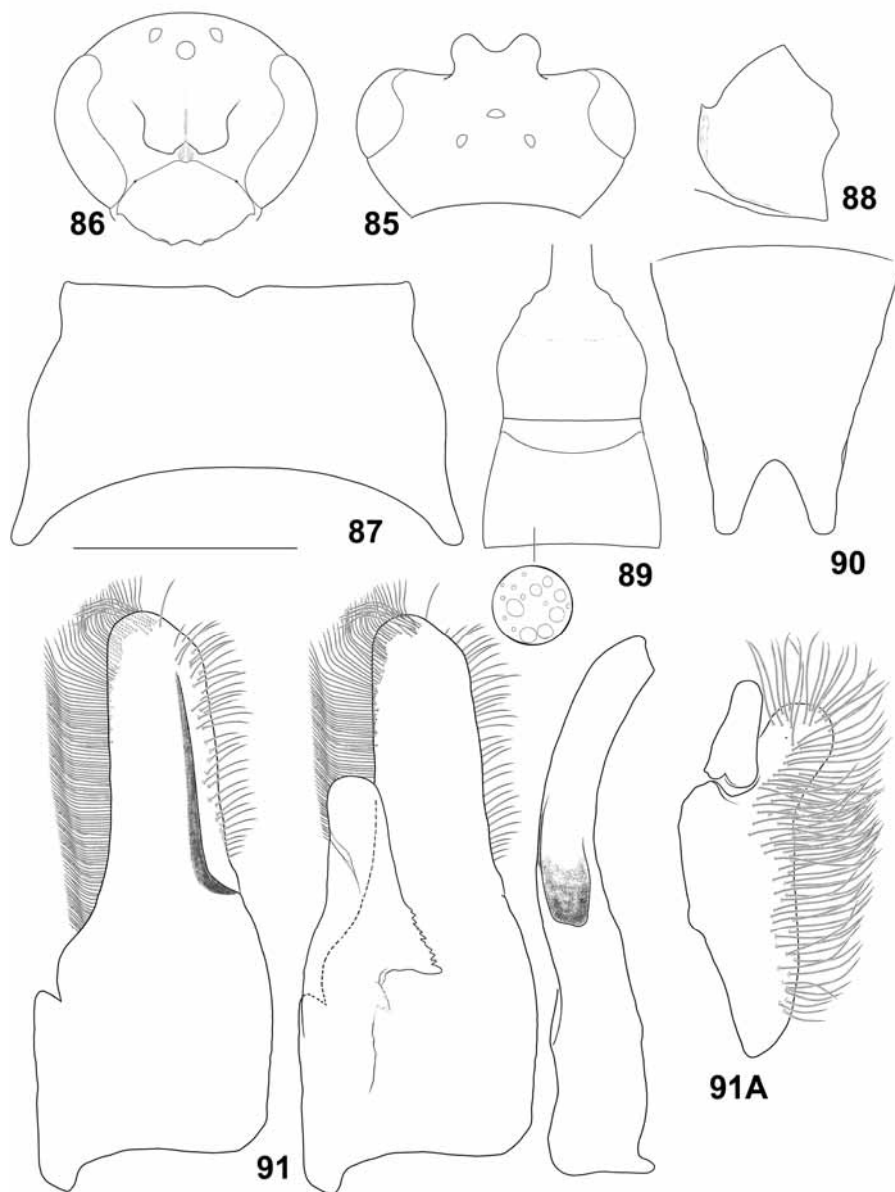
Figs. 65-67: *Meria stenogastra* ♀. **65:** head , frontal aspect; **66:** head, ventral aspect; **66A:** labrum, ventral aspect; **67:** mesosoma and basal metameri, dorsal aspect. **Figs 68-69:** *Meria diapyrogastra* ♀. **68:** head , frontal aspect; **69:** mesosoma and basal metameri, dorsal aspect (65, 66, 68: scale bar = 1 mm) (67, 69: scale bar = 2 mm) (66A: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



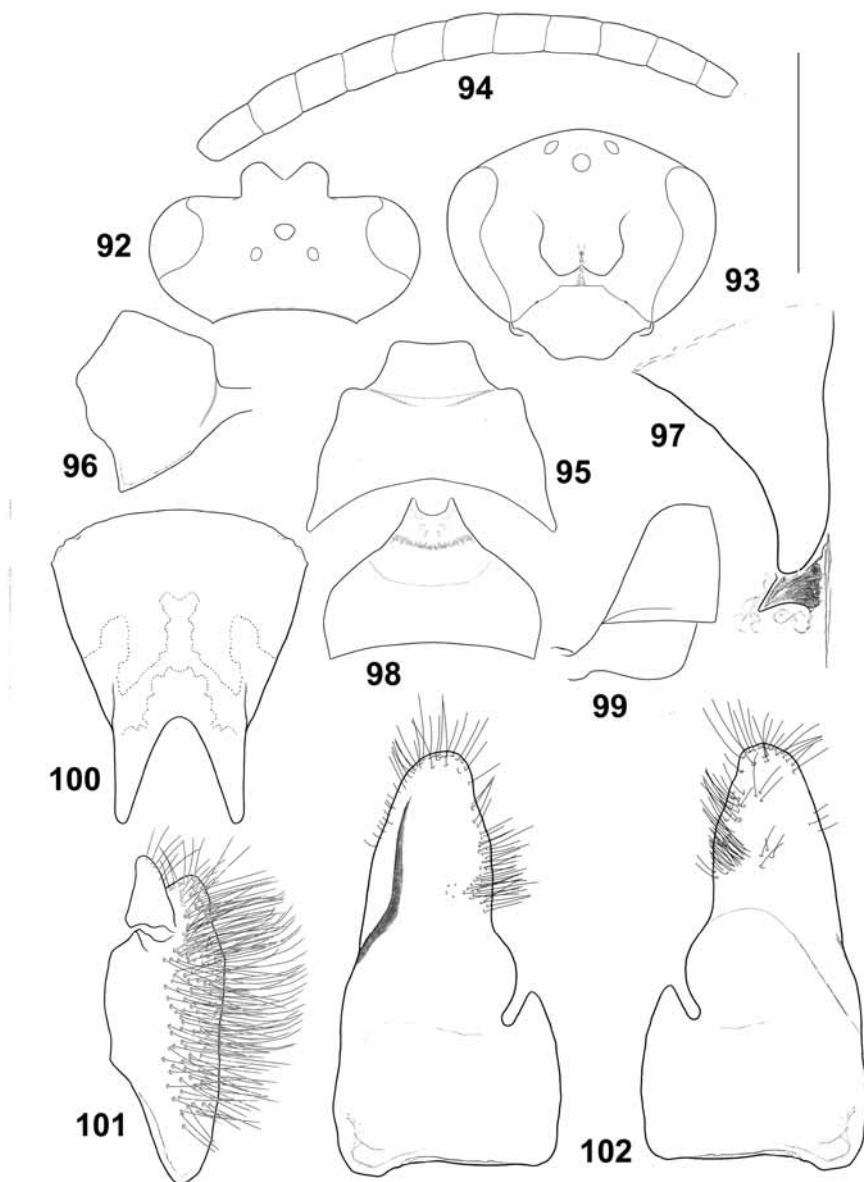
Figs. 70-76: *Meria servillei* ♂. 70: head and pronotal disk, dorsal aspect; 71: head, frontal aspect; 72: pronotal disk, lateral aspect; 73: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 74: 7th tergum, lateral aspect; 75: aedeagus, lateral aspect; 76: volsella and gonostylus (70, 71, 72: scale bar = 2 mm) (73, 74: scale bar = 1 mm) (75, 76: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



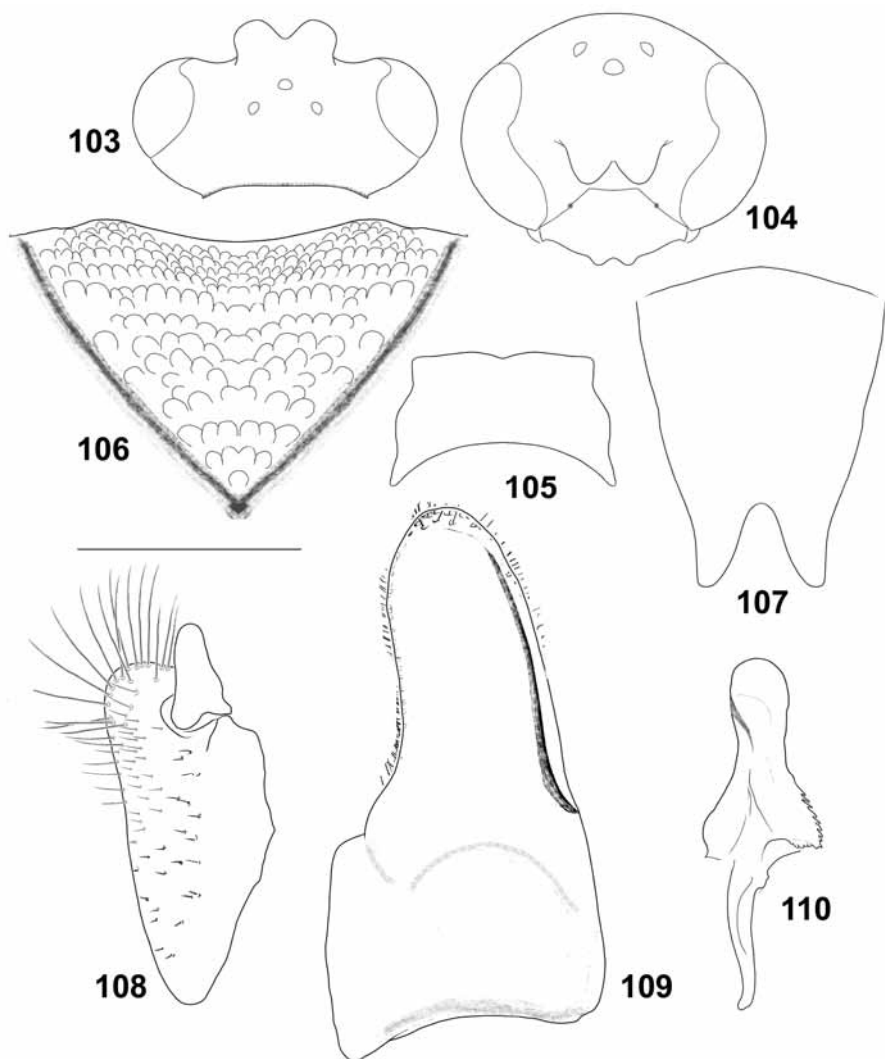
Figs. 77-84: *Meria trachelopsila* ♂. 77: head , dorsal aspect; 78: head, frontal aspect; 79: pronotal disk, dorsal aspect; lateral aspect; 80: pronotal disk, lateral aspect; 81: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 82: volsella; 83: gonostylus and aedeagus, lateral aspect; 84: aedeagus, ventral aspect (77: scale bar = 2 mm) (78, 79, 80, 81: scale bar = 1 mm) (82, 83, 84: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



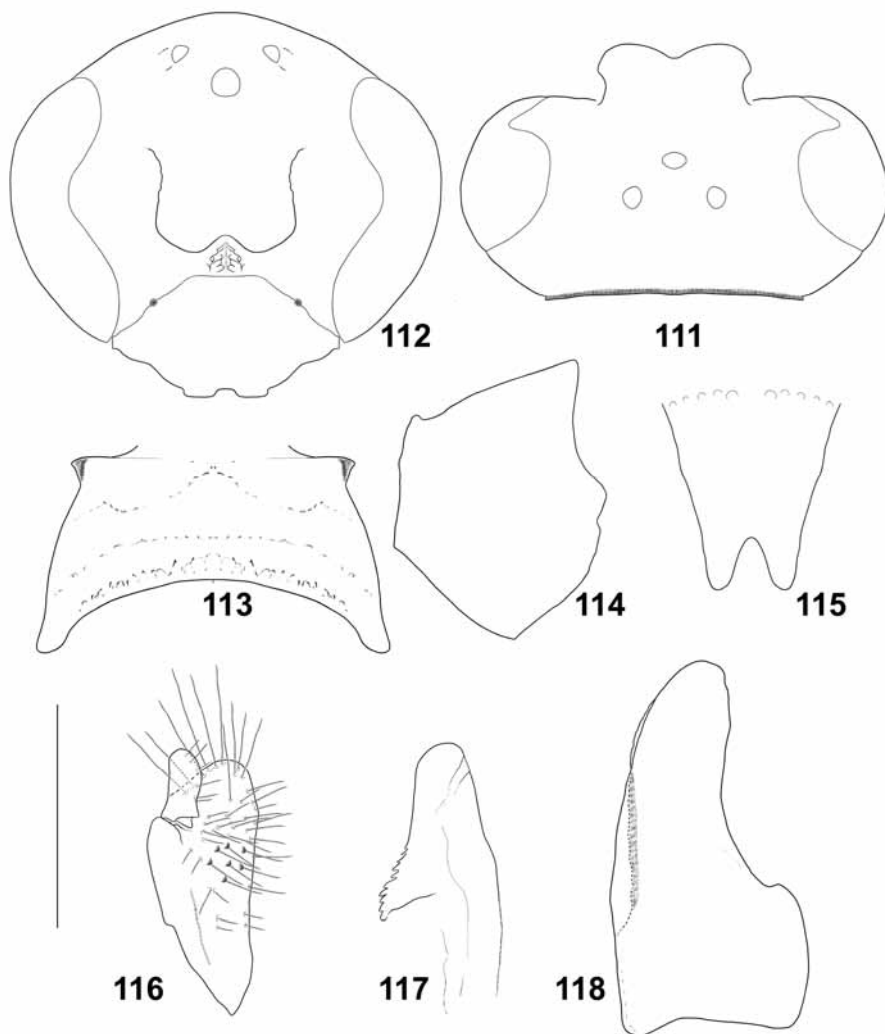
Figs. 85-91A: *Meria leucospila* ♂. **85:** head , dorsal aspect; **86:** head, frontal aspect; **87:** pronotal disk, dorsal aspect; **88:** pronotal disk, lateral aspect; **89:** basal metameri with particular, dorsal aspect; **90:** 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; **91:** gonostylus and aedeagus, lateral and ventral aspect; **91A:** volsella (85, 86, 88, 89: scale bar = 2 mm) (87, 90: scale bar = 1 mm) (91, 91A: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



Figs. 92-102: *Meria leucospila* ♂. 92: head, dorsal aspect; 93: head, frontal aspect; 94: flagellum; 95: pronotal disk, dorsal aspect; 96: pronotal disk, lateral aspect; 97: LaSt₂, ventral aspect; 98: basal metamerus, dorsal aspect; 99: basal metamerus, lateral aspect; 100: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 101: volsella; 102: gonostylus (92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 98, 99: scale bar = 2 mm) (97, 100: scale bar = 1 mm) (101, 102: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



Figs. 103-110: *Meria dasymetopa* ♂. **103:** head , dorsal aspect; **104:** head, frontal aspect; **105:** pronotal disk, dorsal aspect; **106:** 1st sternal surface, sub ventral aspect; **107:** 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; **108:** volsella; **109:** gonostylus; **110:** aedeagus, lateral aspect (103, 104, 105: scale bar = 2 mm) (107: scale bar = 1 mm) (106, 108, 110: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



Figs. 111-118: *Meria masaica* ♂. **111:** head, dorsal aspect; **112:** head, frontal aspect; **113:** pronotal disk, dorsal aspect; **114:** pronotal disk, lateral aspect; **115:** 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; **116:** volsella; **117:** aedeagus; **118:** gonostylus (111, 112, 113, 114, 115 scale bar = 1 mm) (116, 117, 118: scale bar = 0.5 mm).

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Bartalucci Mario Boni

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