

## DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF TABANIDAE (DIPTERA) FROM PAKISTAN

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(Received August 11, 1993 ; revised March 3, 1994)

A new species *Tabanus bashiri* sp. n. is described and illustrated, based on the specimens collected from Chilas, District Diamer, Northern areas of Pakistan.

**Key words:** Tabanidae, New species, Pakistan

**Introduction**

The present survey of dipterous insects was conducted in 1987, as a member of expedition of "Zoogeographical studies on the flies of medically important in Pakistan". The specimens of this undescribed species of Tabanidae were collected from marshy plain area near stream of altitude 1100 m of Chilas.

The specific name is dedicated to Dr. Bashir Ahmed Shaikh, Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation, Islamabad. All the drawings were made to the same scale using Wild Heerbergg International dissecting microscope.

**Description:** *Tabanus bashiri* sp. n. (Figs.1-4). Head large, conspicuously wider than thoracic width; vertex flat, pale pilose; callosity glossy black, broad, subquadrate, narrowly separated from eye margins; subcallus greyish tomentose. Frons (Fig.1) broad, 2.3 times as long as basal width, moderately widened above, grey to dark greyish tomentose, sparsely pale pilose; cheek and clypeus grey, whitish pilose, becoming dark on upper areas.

Antennae yellowish to orange; scape yellow tomentose, as long as broad, widened apically; pedicel yellowish orange, about 1/3 length of scape, dorsal projection distinct; basal plate of flagellum yellowish orange, about 1.4 times as long as width, with blunt dorsal tooth; styles brownish orange, slightly shorter than length of basal plate (Fig. 2).

Palpus (Fig. 3) ivory, basal segment whitish pilose, apical segment rather slender, about 3.5 times as long as maximal width, curved and tapering apically, whitish pilose but with black hairs intermixed apically. Eyes bare, black in dried specimens but revived eye pattern is as follow; 2 narrow green stripes on a purplish background which has some metallic green reflections in some lights. The 2 green stripes are rather faint but clearly discernible; they may be more distinct in fresh specimens.

Thorax grey tomentose dorsally, with markings; pleura and sterna pale greyish, whitish pilose. Wing hyaline, slightly yellowish tinged, veins yellowish, vein R4 without appendix;

halterae pale yellowish. Legs mostly yellowish, predominantly pale pilose; fore tarsi and apical 1/4 of fore tibia blackish, with black hairs; mid and hind tarsi yellowish, with pale hairs basally, but darkened and with black hairs apically. Abdomen slender, greyish tomentose, becoming dark apically pale pilose on terga and sterna 1-6; blackish setose on tergum and sternum 7. (Fig. 4).

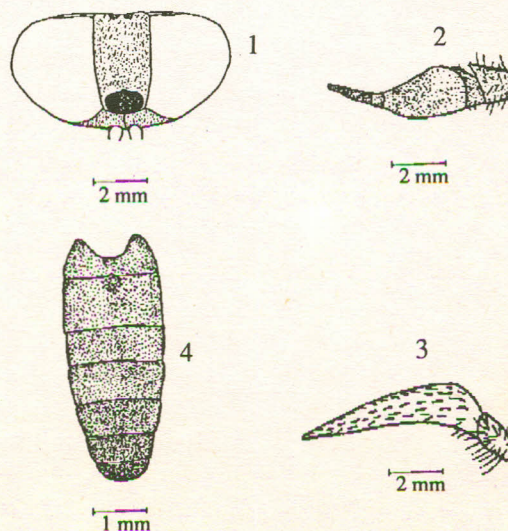
**Body measurement.** Female ♀ length 8.9 mm; wing length 7.8 mm; width 2.7 mm.

**Material examined.** Holotype Female ♀ Pakistan, Chilas, dated: 4.viii. 1987, Coll. Liaqat Ali Abro, deposited in Pakistan Museum of Natural History, Islamabad.

Paratype 1 female ♀ Pakistan Chilas, dated: 4. viii. 1987, Coll. Liaqat Ali Abro deposited in Pakistan Museum of Natural History, Islamabad.

**Results and Discussion**

The new species *T. bashiri* sp. n. is related to *T. leleani*, Austen, 1922a; Abro, 1992; Burger, 1988; Burger, 1994;



Figs. 1-4. *Tabanus bashiri* sp. n. (1) Frontal view of head (2) Antenna (3) Second segment of palpus (4) Dorsal view of abdomen.

Philip, 1960; Ricardo, 1911. On the basis of large frontal callus which is glossy black, subquadrate and narrowly separated from eye margin; subcallus greyish tomentose; basicosta is fully setose, clearly indicate its affinity with *T. leleani*. On the other hand there is no described species of *Tabanus* with the combination of slender greyish body, broad frons and nearly transverse basal callosity without lineal extension. Therefore, this species is unique and distinguishable from the known species of *Tabanus* from the oriental region.

**Acknowledgement.** Dr. Shahzad Ahmed Mufti, Director General, Pakistan Museum of Natural History, Islamabad is

gratefully acknowledged for providing facilities.

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