

Nanniella Reuter

Nanniella Reuter, 1904, p. 6.

Nanniella was described by Reuter (1904) for a single species, *N. chalybea* Reuter, from Kinshasa; Poppius (1914a) added *N. reuteri* Poppius from "Nyassa." Both authors placed the genus in the Halticini. *Nanniella* was synonymized with *Falconia* Distant by Carvalho (1952a), but no explanation was given for the action. Comparison of type specimens of *F. poetica* Distant, the type species of the genus, from South America, and *Nanniella* from Africa, indicates that there is indeed a very close superficial resemblance between the two genera. However, a careful examination reveals that in fact they are much less closely related than general facies would indicate. The parempodia in both *Falconia* and *Nanniella* are apically convergent and recurved. The female genitalia, however, are diagnostic for the two genera: in *Falconia* the posterior wall possesses well developed K-structures characteristic of the Orthotylini; in *Nanniella* the posterior wall is a simple sclerotized plate and lacks K-structures, a feature which in combination with the convergent parempodia suggests that the genus belongs to the Halticini. Additional characters supporting this tribal placement for *Nanniella* are: the solid black coloration; the flattened, rather broad, pronotal collar; the club-shaped right clasper; the simple membranous vesica; and the dorsoventrally elongated head. *Nanniella* does not have noticeably enlarged hind femora, which are characteristic of most members of the Halticini.

Nanniella can be recognized by its heavily punctate, shining, black dorsum, vertical head with protuberant eyes removed from the anterior margin of the pronotum, and flattened pronotal collar. It is most closely related to *Acratheus* Distant from India, which is also heavily punctate on the dorsum. *Acratheus* has a light cuneus and membrane whereas in *Nanniella* the entire dorsum is black.

The available material suggests that several closely related species of *Nanniella* are present in Africa. Three specimens are known from South Africa which agree generically with the type series of *N. chalybea* deposited in the Musee Royal de l'Afrique Central, and a specimen identified by Poppius as *chalybea* in the Helsinki Museum which is from Kinshasa. A male from Sarnia, Natal (Fig. 2), deposited in the British Museum (Natural History), and a female from Umkomaas, Natal, deposited in the South African National Collection of Insects, have completely brown antennae and a band of dense wooly hairs immediately posterior to the pro-