



## Revision of the genus *Ganguilus* Navás (Neuroptera, Myrmeleontidae) with descriptions of three new species

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### Abstract

The genus *Ganguilus* Navás, 1912 is revised. *Ganguilus pallescens* Navás, *G. oblitus* (Navás) (comb. n.), *G. flavipennis* (Navás) (comb. n.), *G. pulchellus* (Banks) (comb. n.) and *G. imperator* (Navás) (comb. n.) are redescribed. Three new species, *G. veniae* sp. n., *G. indicus* sp. n. and *G. rex* sp. n. are described. *Ganguilus flavipennis* stat. n. and *G. oblitus* stat. n., formerly synonymized with *G. pallescens*, are reinstated as valid taxa, while *G. insignis* (Navás) and an unidentified species are mentioned as *incertae sedis*. A key to the species is provided.

**Key words:** Neuroptera, Myrmeleontidae, Myrmeleontinae, Nemoleontini, antlions, West Africa

### Introduction

Africa south of the Sahara, excluding Madagascar, harbours approximately 400 species of antlions, which represents almost 20% of the known world fauna. Of the described taxa, about 80 are Palparinae and 320 Myrmeleontinae (Stange, 2004). Despite this diversity, knowledge of the sub-Saharan fauna is fragmentary and in a confused state. Many species remain undescribed and the status of numerous other taxa is unclear. This situation is the consequence of too few intensive surveys throughout the continent and the small number of entomologists who have carried out systematic studies on the antlions of tropical Africa. Until the middle of the twentieth century most collecting was undertaken by non-specialists and was not intensive, and from the 1970s to the present only two regions, southern and parts of western Africa, have been thoroughly surveyed. That explains why most of the material in Museum collections is relatively old with only a limited number of species being represented by more than five specimens, and why knowledge of the African fauna is so fragmentary. The fauna of southern Africa is now quite well known with revisions of six genera already published (Mansell, 1985, 1987, 1990, 1992, 1996, 2004). An inventory of species of western Africa is still largely incomplete, except for Palparinae and Acanthaclisini (Michel, 1999; Prost, 1991, 1995, 1998) and the genus *Cymothales* Gerstaecker, represented in West Africa by three species, which was revised by Mansell (1987).

A study of the antlions of southern Mali by the first author commenced in 1992 and, complemented by recent collecting in Burkina Faso, resulted in important new material that is fundamental to describing the fauna of this region. A comprehensive description of the antlion communities of the Sudano-Sahelian region is now being undertaken. This study is being conducted within the framework of a more ambitious project designed to use the Myrmeleontidae and Ascalaphidae communities as indicators of climate change in Africa south of the Sahara (Michel & Letourmy, 2007; Michel & Cadet, 2009). This contribution treats the genus *Ganguilus* Navás, 1912 (Tribe Nemoleontini) originally erected to include the single species *G. pallescens* from Nigeria. It includes extralimital species from North Africa, the Middle East, India and Pakistan. *Ganguilus pallescens* Navás, *G. oblitus* (Navás) (comb. n.), *G. flavipennis* (Navás) (comb. n.), *G. pulchellus* (Banks) (comb. n.) and *G. imperator* (Navás) (comb. n.) are redescribed while *G. veniae* sp. n., *G. indicus* sp.