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A new genus and a new species of the tribe Similipepsini (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae) from Africa.

Новый род и новый вид трибы Similipepsini (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae) из Африки

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА. бабочки-стеклянницы, таксономия, Демократическая Республика Конго, Гвинейская Республика, Афротропический регион, Sesiidae, Tinthiinae, Similipepsini, новый вид, новая комбинация.

ABSTRACT. The new genus *Similisynagris* **gen.n.** and the new species *Similisynagris kapanga* **sp.n.** are described from the Afrotropical Region. The new genus differs well from all taxa of the tribe Similipepsini in the characteristic colouration of the abdomen and the structure of the male genitalia. *S. kapanga* **sp.n.** is described and illustrated from a series of males collected in the province of Lualaba in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. From the closest relative *S. aureus* (Gaede, 1929), **comb.n.**, which is redescribed in due detail, the new species is well distinguished by the colouration of the abdomen and the details of the structure of the male genitalia. *S. aureus* is reported for the first time for the fauna of the Republic of Guinea.

РЕЗЮМЕ. Новый род *Similisynagris* **gen.n.** и новый вид *Similisynagris kapanga* **sp.n.** описаны из Афротропического региона. Новый род хорошо отличается от всех таксонов трибы Similipepsini характерной окраской брюшка и строением гениталий самца. *S. kapanga* **sp.n.** описан и проиллюстрирован по серии самцов, собранных в провинции Луалаба в Демократической Республике Конго. От ближайшего родственника *S. aureus* (Gaede, 1929), **comb.n.**, который детально переописан, новый вид хорошо отличается окраской брюшка и деталями строения гениталий самца. *S. aureus* впервые приведён для фауны Гвинейской Республики.

Introduction

The tribe Similipepsini was established in the subfamily Tinthiinae for the then only genus *Similipepsis* Le Cerf, 1911 [Špatenka *et al*., 1993]. A little later, East Palearctic and Oriental species were separated from the genus *Similipepsis* into a distinct genus *Milisipepsis* Gorbunov et Arita, 1995 [Gorbunov, Arita, 1995b]. At the beginning of this century, the genus *Gasterostena* Arita et Gorbunov, 2003 was described based on two species from Vietnam [Arita, Gorbunov, 2003]. Thus, before this study, the tribe Similipepsini consisted of three genera with 21 species [Pühringer, Kallies, 2023; Gorbunov, 2023b]. They inhabit East Palearctic, Oriental and Afrotropical realms. Very little is known about the biology of the species of this tribe. The larval host-plants (*Betula platyphylla* subsp. *mandshurica* (Regel) Kitag. and *B. ermanii* Cham.; Betulaceae) and larval biology are known only for *M. takizawai* [Arita, Špatenka, 1989; Arita, 1990]. Males of some species show typical mud-puddling behavior [Sáfián, Pühringer, 2016; Gorbunov, 2022] and usually appear on wet soil early in the day.

In the collection of Sesiidae given to me by Sergei V. Murzin and the late Vladimir A. Ganson (1924–2016), there were two species from the tribe Similipepsini. After a thorough morphological study, it turned out that one species is *Similipepsis aureus* Gaede, 1929, and the second is a new species not yet described. In addition, these two species are very similar in the character of the colouration of the abdomen and the structure of the male genitalia. According to these characters, they are well separated from all other taxa of the tribe and can be distinguished into a distinct genus *Similisynagris* **gen.n.**, which is described below.

Material and methods

The morphological examinations were made using a Leica EZ4 stereomicroscope with LED illumination. All images of the moths were taken with a Sony Alpha DSLR A-450 camera equipped with a Minolta 50 mm f/2.8 Macro lens. The genitalia were photographed using a Keyence BZ-9000 Biorevo fluores-

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cence microscope. Processing of all illustrations was finalized using Adobe Photoshop CC 2020 software.

All labels of the holotype are cited verbatim. The labels with geographical data, data of photos and preparation numbers of the genitalia are printed on white paper, but the type label of the holotype and paratypes are printed on red paper. Each label is separated from other labels by a semicolon (;); lines in a label are separated by a slash (/). All pictures of specimens are labelled with a number consisting of letters and digits: name of the family, two consecutive digits separated by an n-dash and a year following the m-dash (e.g. SESIIDAE pictures Nos 0013-0014–2022). These letter and digit codes correspond to the numbering system of the figured specimens in the author's archive. Each preparation of the genitalia is stored in a microtube with glycerol pinned under the specimen. The dissected genitalia are equipped with the corresponding number placed in the microtube. This number as a label (e.g. genitalia preparation No. OG–007-2022) is pinned under the specimen and listed in the author's archive.

The material studied or mentioned herein is deposited in the following collections abbreviated in the text as follows: the A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia (COGM); Leibniz-Institut für Evolutions- und Biodiversitätsforschung an der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany (ZMHB).

The names of plants were verified with the WFO [2023].

Taxonomic account

Genus ***Similisynagris*** **gen.n.**

Type species: ***Similipepsis aureus*** Gaede, 1929.

DESCRIPTION. **Male**. Middle-sized superficially wasp-like clearwing moths with alar expanse about 21–24 mm. Head with antenna about half as long as forewing, ciliated, but without cilia on 16–21 apical flagellomeres; frons and vertex smooth-scaled; basal palpomere of labial palpus with broad elongate erect scales, mid and apical palpomeres smooth-scaled; proboscis well-developed, long, light brown, functional. Thorax, including both metepimeron and metameron, smooth-scaled. Legs smooth-scaled, of normal length. Forewing with undeveloped external transparent area, anterior transparent area short and narrow or undeveloped; posterior transparent area short and narrow; veins R_1 arising from R-stem at about 2/3 of cell or at level of cross-vein of hindwing; vein R_3 stalked with R_{4+5} in middle of vein R_{4+5}, R_4 and R_5 stalked, vein CuA_2 reduced. Hindwing transparent, but surface between vein CuA_1 and anal margin in distal half sparsely covered with brown scales; discal spot undeveloped or in form of thin line of two rows of scales on cross-vein; veins M_3 and CuA_1 arising slightly basal of lower angle of cell; vein CuP nearly undeveloped, fold-like, vein 1A well-developed, and vein 2A undeveloped. Abdomen wasp-shaped: segment 1 narrowed slightly, segments 2–4 gradually broadened and segments 5–7 gradually narrowed; tergites 2–7 coloured distinctly different than two basal ones..

Male genitalia. Tegumen-uncus complex well-developed, broad; uncus well-sclerotized, sparsely covered with long and short hair-like setae, slightly widened and rounded apically; tuba analis with scaphium undeveloped, subscaphium narrow weakly sclerotized; tegumen broad with long and narrow gnathos-like projection (Figs 7, 12); valva (Figs 8, 13) upturned in distal half, broad in basal half, slightly narrowed and rounded distally and densely covered with hair-like setae of various lengths on inner surface; saculus short undeveloped or narrowly well-sclerotized; saccus (Figs 8, 13) broad, rounded basally; aedeagus (Figs 9, 14) relatively broad and long, about 1.5 as long as length of valva, gradually narrowing distally and slightly curved in distal third; apically with two narrow beak-shaped processes (Figs 10–11, 15–16); vesica with numerous minute spines.

Female. Unknown.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS. This new genus can be easily distinguished from all other taxa of the tribe Similipepsini in the character of the coloration of the abdomen (abdominal segments cingulated by whitish, yellow or orange distal rings or strips in all currently known species of the tribe Similipepsini, *vs*. abdomen without any bright coloured strips or rings, but tergites 2–7 coloured distinctly different than two basal ones in the species of *Similisynagris* **gen.n.**) and in the presence of scales on the hindwing between vein CuA_1 and anal margin in distal half. In addition, *Similisynagris* **gen.n.** differs from genera *Similipepsis* and *Milisipepsis* in the structure of the male genitalia (uncus widened and rounded apically, aedeagus apically with two narrow beak-shaped processes, vesica with numerous minute spines in *Similisynagris* **gen.n.** *vs*. uncus bilobed and pointed apically, aedeagus ringed subapically by a row of strong but small spines or with a strong tooth subdistally, vesica without cornuti in both these genera compared). From *Gasterostena*, *Similisynagris* **gen.n.** is easily separable, apart from the appearance, in the structure of the male genitalia (cf. Figs 7–16 in this article with figs 4 and 5 in Arita, Gorbunov, 2003 or with figs 4 and 5 in Kallies, Arita, 2006).

BIOLOGY. The larval host plant is unknown. Moths on wings in April and October.

COMPOSITION. I currently include only two species in this new genus: *Similisynagris aureus* (Gaede, 1929), **comb.n.** (the type species) and *Similisynagris kapanga* **sp.n.**

RANGE. Known only from western and central parts of the Afrotropical Realm.

ETYMOLOGY. The name of this new genus originates from the Latin simile (to be similar) and the generic name of the Afrotropical large potter wasps *Synagris* Latreille, 1802 and is formed by analogy with the closest related genus *Similipepsis*. The gender is masculine.

Similisynagris aureus (Gaede, 1929), **comb.n.**
Figs 1–2, 7–11.

"S.[*imilipepsis*] *aurea* n. sp." – Gaede, 1929: 536, pl. 77 row k. Type locality: "Cameroon." Holotype: ♂ (ZMHB).

LITERATURE. Heppner, Duckworth, 1981: 44 (*Similipepsis*); Wang, 1984: 85 (*Similipepsis*); Arita, Špatenka, 1989: 66 (*Similipepsis*); Gorbunov, Arita, 1995: 378 (*Similipepsis*); Puhringer, Kallies, 2004: 9 (*Similipepsis*); De Prins, De Prins, 2011–2021 (*Similipepsis*); Bąkowski *et al*., 2008: 790, figs 3, 4, 18a–e (*Similipepsis*); Puhringer, Kallies, 2023 (*Similipepsis*); Gorbunov, 2023b: xx (*Similipepsis*).

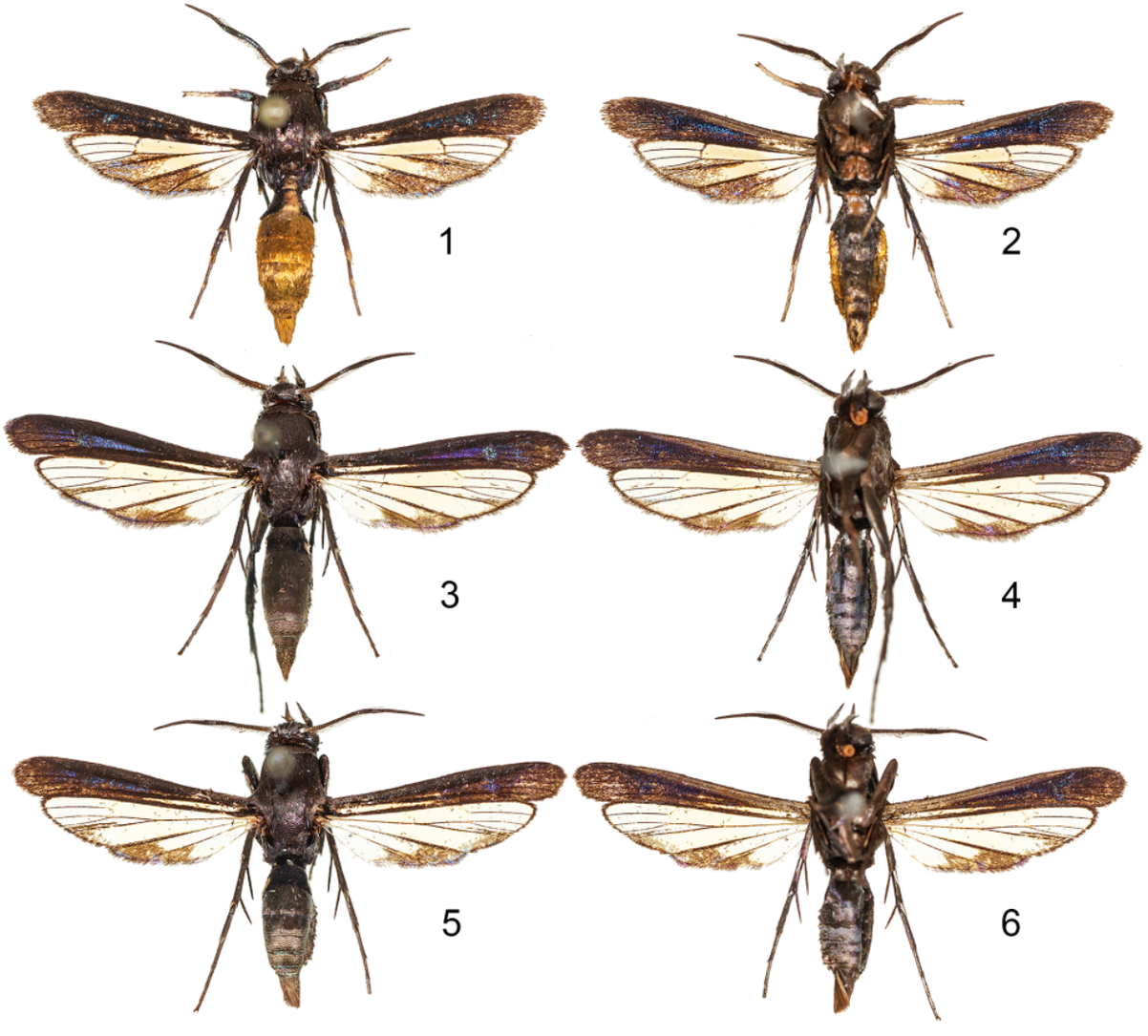
MATERIAL. 2 ♂♂ (Figs 1–2), Guinea, Kindia, environs of Kindia, Pastoria, 10.091890˚ N, 12.841998˚ W, 390 m, 14–16.V.1982, S.V. Murzin leg.; Sesiidae pictures Nos 0013-0016–2022; 1 male with genitalia preparation No. OG–007-2022 (COGM).

REDESCRIPTION. **Male** (Figs 1–2). Wing span 21.6 mm; body length 12.0 mm; forewing length 9.6 mm; length of antenna 4.8 mm.

Head: antenna dorsally dark brown to black with olive-green shine, ventrally light brown, distal 16 flagellomeres brown to light brown; scapus grey-brown with bright olive-green shine dorsally and silvery-white ventrally; frons light sandy; both vertex and occipital fringe dark brown; basal palpomere of labial palpus covered with broad elongate scales,

dark brown; mid and apical palpomeres ventrally white with bright silver shine, dorsally light brown with light blue-violet shine; neck plate dark brown to black with bronze shine.

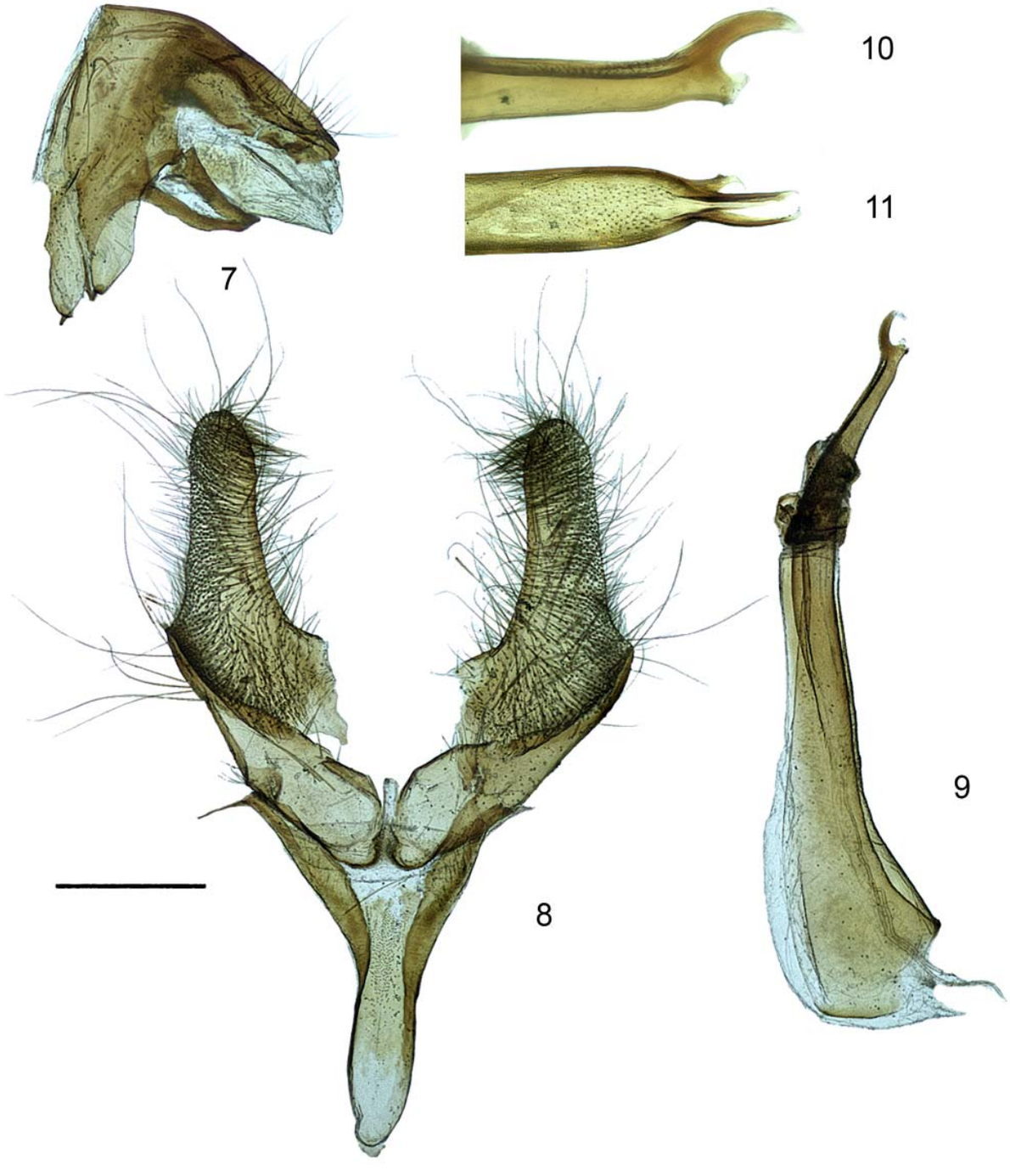
Thorax dorsally completely dark brown with dark greenish-purple shine with a tuft of black and white hair-like scales on metathorax laterally; thorax laterally grey-brown with bright greenish-violet shine; posteriorly both metepimeron and metameron smooth scaled, dark golden-yellow with golden-violet shine. Fore coxa brown with bronze-violet shine and short longitudinal white with golden shine spot internally; fore femur entirely dark brown with violet shine; fore tibia dorsally dark brown to black with blue-violet shine and few dark yellow pointed scales exterior-distally; ventrally brown with bronze-violet shine; fore tarsus dorsally brown with blue-violet shine, ventrally dirty yellow with golden tint. Mid coxa brown with bronze-violet shine; mid femur dark brown with violet shine; mid tibia dark brown to black with greenish-violet shine and few dark yellow pointed scales exterior-distally; spurs brown with bronze-violet shine externally and white with golden tint internally; basal mid tarsomere dark brown to black with greenish-violet shine and few dark yellow pointed scales exterior-distally; remaining tarsomeres dorsally brown with blue-violet shine, ventrally dirty yellow with golden tint. Hind coxa brown with bronze-violet shine; hind femur dark brown with violet shine and small white spot with golden shine anterior-distally; hind tibia dark brown to black with greenish-violet shine and few dark yellow pointed scales both exterior-medially and exterior-distally; spurs brown with bronze-violet shine externally and white with golden tint internally; basal hind tarsomere dark brown to black with greenish-violet shine



Figs 1–6. *Similisynagris* **gen.n.**: 1–2 — *S. aureus* (Gaede, 1929), **comb.n.**, ♂, alar expanse 21.6 mm, Sesiidae pictures Nos 0013-0014–2022; 3–6 — *S. kapanga* **sp.n.**; 3–4 — holotype ♂, alar expanse 23.9 mm, Sesiidae pictures Nos 0011-0012–2022; 5–6, paratype ♂, alar expanse 23.1 mm, Sesiidae pictures Nos 0007-0008–2022. 1, 3, 5 — dorsal view; 2, 4, 6 — ventral view.

Рис. 1–6. *Similisynagris* **gen.n.**: 1–2 — *S. aureus* (Gaede, 1929), **comb.n.**, ♂, размах крыльев 21.6 мм. Sesiidae снимки №№ 0013-0014–2022; 3–6 — *S. kapanga* **sp.n.**; 3–4 — голотип ♂, размах крыльев 23.9 mm, Sesiidae снимки №№ 0011-0012–2022; 5–6, paratype ♂, размах крыльев 23.1 mm, Sesiidae снимки №№ 0007-0008–2022. 1, 3, 5 — вид сверху; 2, 4, 6 — вид снизу.

and few dark yellow pointed scales exterior-distally; second hind tarsomere dorsally brown with blue-violet shine and few dark yellow pointed scales exterior-distally, ventrally dirty yellow with golden tint; remaining tarsomeres dorsally brown with blue-violet shine, ventrally dirty yellow with golden tint. Forewing nearly opaque black with bright blue-violet shine dorsally and violet shine ventrally; external transparent area undeveloped, anterior and posterior transparent areas short and



Figs 7–11. Male genitalia of *Similisynagris aureus* (Gaede, 1929), **comb.n.** Genital preparation No. OG–007-2022. 7 — tegumen-uncus complex; 8 — valvae and saccus; 9 — aedeagus; 10 — apex of the aedeagus laterally; 11 — apex of the aedeagus ventrally. Scale bar: 0.5 mm for 7–9 and 0.2 mm for 10–11.

Рис. 7–11. Гениталии самца *Similisynagris aureus* (Gaede, 1929), **comb.n.** Препарат гениталий № OG–007-2022. 7 — тегумен-ункусный комплекс; 8 — вальвы и саккус; 9 — эдеагус; 10 — вершина эдеагуса сбоку; 11 — вершина эдеагуса снизу. Масштаб 0,5 мм для 7–9 и 0,2 мм для 10–11.

narrow at base of wing; cilia dark brown with bronze shine. Hindwing transparent, but surface between veins CuA_1 and CuA_2, CuA_2 and CuP in distal third, CuP and anal margin in distal half sparsely covered with brown scales with bright blue-violet shine; veins black with blue-violet shine; discal spot narrow reaching base of vein M_3; outer margin narrow about as broad as cilia, dark brown with violet shine; cilia dark brown with bronze shine.

Tergites 1 and 2 of abdomen dark brown with dark bronze-violet shine, remaining tergites and anal tuft bright golden-yellow; ventrally abdomen dark brown with bronze-greenish shine and admixture of white scales on sternite 2 basally and golden-yellow scales on sternites 3–7 laterally; anal tuft small, pointed distally.

Male genitalia (genital preparation No. OG–007-2022) (Figs 7–11). Tegumen-uncus complex well-developed, broad; uncus well-sclerotized, sparsely covered with long and short hair-like setae, slightly widened and rounded apically; tuba analis with scaphium undeveloped, subscaphium narrow weakly sclerotized; tegumen broad with long and narrow gnathos-like projection (Fig. 7); valva (Fig. 8) upturned in distal half, broad in basal half, slightly narrowed and rounded distally and densely covered with hair-like setae of various lengths on inner surface; sacculus short, narrowly well-sclerotized; saccus (Fig. 8) short and broad, rounded basally; vinculum short about as long as saccus; aedeagus (Fig. 9) relatively broad and long, about 1.5 as long as valva, gradually narrowing distally and slightly curved in distal third; apically with two narrow beak-shaped processes (Figs 10, 11); vesica with numerous minute spines.

Female. Unknown.

INDIVIDUAL VARIABILITY. The specimens slightly vary in the number of brown scales with bright blue-violet shine on the hindwing between vein CuA_1 and anal margin, white scales on the sternite 2 and golden-yellow scales on the sternites 3–7 laterally on the abdomen ventrally. Besides this, this species is slightly variable in individual size: alar expanse: 20.0–21.9 mm; body length 9.0–12.0 mm; forewing 9.0–9.6; antenna 4.5–4.9 mm.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS. *S. aureus* **comb.n.** is clearly separated from *S. kapanga* **sp.n.** in the presence of short anterior transparent area of the forewing (completely undeveloped in *S. kapanga* **sp.n.**; *cf*. Figs 1–2 with Figs 3–6 in this article), in the colouration of the abdomen (dorsally tergites 1 and 2 dark brown with dark bronze-violet shine, remaining tergites and anal tuft bright golden-yellow; ventrally dark brown with bronze-greenish shine and admixture of white scales on sternite 2 basally and golden-yellow scales on sternites 3–7 laterally in *S. aureus* **comb.n.**, *vs*. dorsally tergite 1 black with dark violet shine; tergite 2 black with dark violet shine and small yellow spot posterior-laterally; remaining tergites and anal tuft brown with dark bronze shine; ventrally brown with bronze-violet shine and few white scales on sternite 2 anteriorly in *S. kapanga* **sp.n.**). In addition, these two species are well separated from each other by the shape of the uncus, valva and saccus in the male genitalia; *cf*. Figs 7 and 8 with Figs 12 and 13. From all other species of the tribe Similipepsini, this species can be distinguished in the character of the coloration of the abdomen (segments of the abdomen cingulated by whitish, yellow or orange distal rings or strips in all currently known species of the tribe Similipepsini, *vs*. abdomen without any bright coloured strips or rings, but tergites 2–7 coloured distinctly different than two basal ones in *S. aureus* **comb.n.**; *cf*. Figs 1–6 in this article with figs 1–4 in Arita & Špatenka [1989]; fig 8 in Špatenka & Arita [1992]; fig. 2 in Gorbunov & Arita [1995a]; figs 1, 3 and 4 in Gorbunov & Arita [1995b]; figs 28–30 in Kallies & Arita [2001]; figs 10 and 11 in Arita & Gorbunov [2001]; figs 1 and 2 in Arita & Gorbunov [2003]; figs 1 and 2 in Kallies & Arita [2006]; figs 1, 5, 7 and 9 in Bąkowski *et al*. [2008]; figs 1–6 in Gorbunov [2022]; and corresponding figs in De Prins & De Prins [2011–2021]).

By the opaque forewing and by the coloration of the abdomen, *S. aureus* **comb.n.** looks like Afrotropical *Proaegeria vouauxi* Le Cerf, 1916 (type locality: "Afrique occidentale, Johann-Albrechts-Höhe-Station, Kamerun; …" (Le Cerf, 1916: 14) [= Cameroon: Southwestern Region, vicinity of Kumba, southeast shore of the lake Barombi Mbo]) and *P. murzini* O. Gorbunov, 2023 (type locality: Guinea, Kindia, env. of Kindia, Pastoria, 10.091890°N, 12.841998°W, 390 m (Gorbunov, 2023a: 40), but it differs from these two species in features of the subfamily level, namely, the absence of the apical tuft of hair-like scales on the antenna and the venation of the wings. Moreover, by the colouration of the abdomen, this species is somewhat similar to Afrotropical *Metasphecia vuilleti* Le Cerf, 1917 (type locality: "Koulikoro, Haut-Sénégal et Niger, …" [Le Cerf, 1917: 336] [= Mali: Koulikoro Region, Koulikoro]), *Isocylindra melitosoma* Meyrick, 1930 (type locality: "Uganda; Kampala, …" [Meyrick, 1930: 584]), and *Synanthedon xanthopyga* (Aurivillius, 1905) (type locality: "Adamaua: Petenye." [Aurivillius, 1905: 45] [= Nigeria/Cameroon: Adamawa Plateau]), but they can also be distinguished from each other by the structure of the antenna and the venation of the wings.

BIONOMICS. The larval host plant is unknown. Currently known specimens were collected in May and October.

HABITAT. Unknown.

DISTRIBUTION. Currently, this species is known from Guinea (the first record for the country), Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Similisynagris kapanga **sp.n.**
Figs 3–6, 12–16.

MATERIAL. **Holotype**. ♂ with labels: "DR Congo, Lualaba / Province, / Kapanga Territory, Kapanga, / IV.1933 / F.G. Overlaet leg."; "SESIIDAE / Pictures Nos / 0011-0012–2022 / Photo by O. Gorbunov"; "HOLOTYPUS ♂ / *Similisynagris kapanga* / O. Gorbunov, 2023 / O. Gorbunov des., 2022".

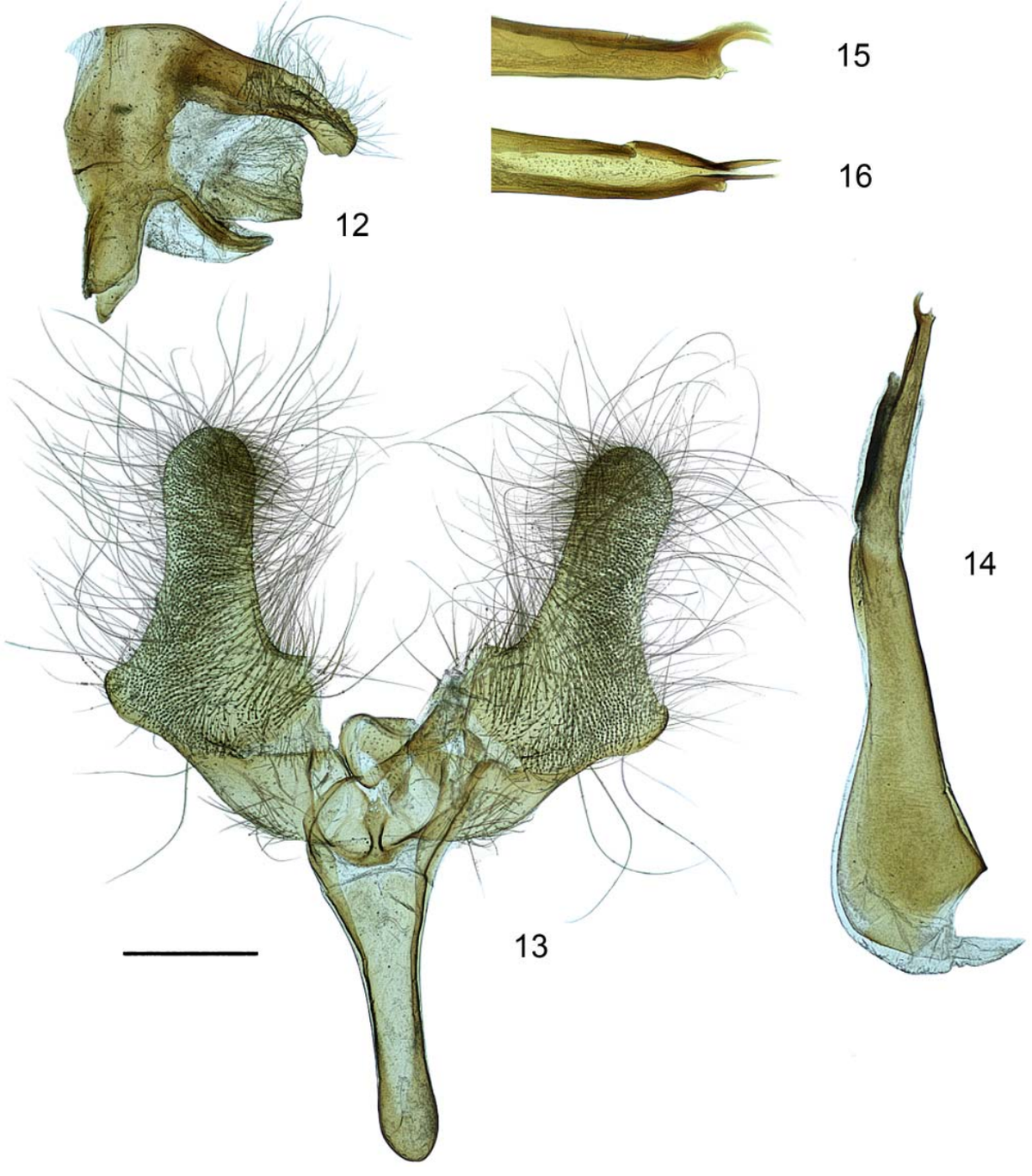
Paratypes. 4 ♂♂ with same locality and date as in the holotype, F.G. Overlaet leg. Sesiidae pictures Nos 0003-0010–2022; 1 male with genitalia preparation No. OG–010-2022.

DESCRIPTION. **Male** (holotype) (Figs 3–4). Wing span 23.9 mm; body length 12.5 mm; forewing length 10.5 mm; length of antenna 5.1 mm.

Head: antenna black with dark greenish shine, narrowly silvery white dorsally in basal half; distal 21 flagellomeres dark brown to black; scapus black with dark greenish shine ventrally and narrowly silvery white dorsally; frons dark brown with greenish shine; vertex dark brown to black with dark blue-violet shine; basal palpomere of labial palpus covered with broad elongate scales, black with dark greenish-violet shine, mid palpomere dark brown with greenish shine dorso-externally and silvery white ventro-internally, apical palpomere completely silvery white; occipital fringe dark brown to black with dark blue-violet shine; neck plate dark brown to black with greenish-violet shine.

Thorax: patagia dark brown with dark violet shine; tegula, meso- and metathorax completely dark brown with very faint purple shine; thorax laterally dark brown with violet shine; posteriorly metepimeron covered with broad elongate dark brown scales with greenish shine, metameron smooth scaled, dark brown with greenish-violet shine and few white scales at

base of metacoxae. Fore coxa dark brown with bronze-violet shine; fore femur entirely dark brown with greenish-bronze shine; fore tibia dorsally black with dark greenish-violet shine, ventrally brown with violet shine; basal fore tarsomere black with dark greenish-violet shine dorsally, remaining tarsomeres dorsally and fore tarsus ventrally brown with violet shine. Both mid coxa and mid femur entirely brown with greenish-violet shine; mid tibia exterior-dorsally black with greenish shine,



Figs 12–16. Male genitalia of *Similisynagris kapanga* **sp.n.** Genital preparation No. OG–010-2022. 12 — tegumen-uncus complex; 13 — valvae and saccus; 14 — aedeagus; 15 — apex of the aedeagus laterally; 16 — apex of the aedeagus ventrally. Scale bar: 0.5 mm for 12–14 and 0.2 mm for 15–16.

Рис. 12–16. Гениталии самца *Similisynagris kapanga* **sp.n.** Препарат гениталий № OG–010-2022. 12 — тегумен-ункусный комплекс; 13 — вальвы и саккус; 14 — эдеагус; 15 — вершина эдеагуса сбоку; 16 — вершина эдеагуса снизу. Масштаб 0,5 мм для 12–14 и 0,2 мм для 15–16.

small white spot with greenish luster in basal third and small white spot with electric blue luster distally; mid tibia interior-ventrally brown with violet shine; spurs silvery white with narrow black stripe both interior-laterally and exterior-laterally; basal mid tarsomere exterior-dorsally black with dark greenish shine, remaining tarsomeres exterior-dorsally and mid tarsus interior-ventrally brown with violet shine. Hind coxa brown with greenish-violet shine and few white scales medially; hind femur brown with greenish-violet shine and few yellow scales at posterior margin subdistally; hind tibia exterior-dorsally black with dark greenish shine and small white spot both at base of mid spurs and distally; hind tibia interior-ventrally brown with blue-violet shine; exterior spurs white with narrow black stripe with greenish shine, interior spurs black with greenish-violet shine; basal hind tarsomere exterior-dorsally black with dark greenish shine and small white spot distally, remaining tarsomeres exterior-dorsally and hind tarsus interior-ventrally brown with greenish-violet shine. Forewing dorsally with costal and anal margins, CuA-stem and surface distally of discal vein dark brown to black with dark violet shine; anal lobe black with dark blue shine; both anterior and external transparent areas undeveloped, dark brown to black with bright blue shine; posterior transparent area narrow and short, not reaching middle of wing; ventrally costal margin yellowish, other opaque parts dark brown to black with blue-violet shine; cilia dark brown with blue-violet shine. Hindwing transparent; veins, outer margin, opaque parts between veins CuA_1 and CuA_2, and anally of vein CuP, and cilia dark brown with bright violet shine dorsally and bronze-violet shine ventrally; discal spot undeveloped; outer margin extremely narrow, about 0.5 times as broad as cilia.

Dorsally tergite 1 of abdomen black with dark violet shine; tergite 2 black with dark violet shine and small yellow spot posterior-laterally; remaining tergites and anal tuft brown with dark bronze shine; ventrally abdomen brown with bronze-violet shine and few white scales on sternite 2 anteriorly; anal tuft small pointed distally.

Male genitalia (paratype, genital preparation No. OG–010-2022) (Figs 12–16). Tegumen-uncus complex well-developed, broad; uncus well-sclerotized, sparsely covered with long and short hair-like setae, visibly widened and rounded apically; tuba analis with scaphium undeveloped, subscaphium narrow weakly sclerotized; tegumen broad with long and narrow gnathos-like projection (Fig. 12); valva (Fig. 13) upturned in distal half, broad in basal half, visibly narrowed and rounded distally and densely covered with hair-like setae of various lengths on inner surface; sacculus undeveloped but ventral margin well-sclerotized; saccus (Fig. 13) rather long and broad, rounded basally; vinculum short about 0.5 times as long as saccus; aedeagus (Fig. 14) relatively broad and long, about 1.5 as long as valva, gradually narrowing distally and slightly curved in distal third; apically with two narrow beak-shaped processes (Figs 15, 16); vesica with numerous minute spines.

Female. Unknown.

INDIVIDUAL VARIABILITY. The specimens of the type series slightly vary in the number of brown scales with bright violet shine on the hindwing between veins CuA_2 and CuP, yellow scales on the tergite 2 posterior-laterally and white scales on the sternite 2 on the abdomen ventrally. Besides this, this species is slightly variable in individual size: alar expanse: 23.1–24.1 mm; body length 12.0–13.3 mm; forewing length 10.0–10.5 mm; length of antenna 5.2–5.4 mm.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS. From *S. aureus* **comb.n.**, *S. kapanga* **sp.n.** differs in the colouration of the abdomen (dorsally tergite 1 black with dark violet shine; tergite 2 black with dark violet shine and small yellow spot posterior-laterally; remaining tergites and anal tuft brown with dark bronze shine; ventrally brown with bronze-violet shine and few white scales on sternite 2 anteriorly in *S. kapanga* **sp.n.**, *vs*. dorsally tergites 1 and 2 dark brown with dark bronze-violet shine, remaining tergites and anal tuft bright golden-yellow; ventrally dark brown with bronze-greenish shine and admixture of white scales on sternite 2 basally and golden-yellow scales on sternites 3–7 laterally in *S. aureus* **comb.n.)**, by the absence of the anterior transparent area of the forewing; *cf*. Figs 3–6 with Figs 1–2 in this article, and by the conformation of the male genitalia; *cf*. Figs 12–16 with Figs 7–11 in this article. For differences this new species with all other species of the tribe Similipepsini see "Differential diagnosis" for the previous species above.

BIONOMICS. The larval host plant is unknown. The type species was collected in April.

HABITAT. Unknown.

DISTRIBUTION. This new species is only known from the type locality in the territory of Kapanga in the Lualaba Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

ETYMOLOGY. The name of this new species comes from the name of the territory of Kapanga in the Lualaba Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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