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Considerations on the host-parasite relationship and systematics of the first African Carnus

E. DE CONINCK

Musée royal de l'Afrique centrale, Tervuren, B-1980  
Belgium

A Carnus was found on the nestlings of Halcyon albiventris a resident African kingfisher. This Carnus-species was compared with the only two species already known of the genus.

In the majority of parasitic species, movements ensuring dispersal are local in nature. Dissemination in space is achieved far more often by movements of the host. This may result in very local movements within a restricted area, as many animals remain within a home range or territory.

These considerations are certainly valid in the African Carnus-Halcyon relationship : the fly itself cannot spread widely as the wings break off by the time the adults become mature. On the other hand, Halcyon albiventris shows no migration.

Taken in consideration the morphological differences and the geographical distribution of the three Carnus-species, it is concluded that the Carnus-species in association with Halcyon albiventris is new to science and represents the first record of the family Carnidae on the African continent.

Carnidae , systematics , host-parasite relationships ,  
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