

*Uranotaenia (Uranotaenia) balfouri* Theobald, WRBU specimen URblf, Character descriptions: Edwards, 1941:52

Genus level - Small or very small mosquitoes with cell  $R_2$  shorter than vein  $R_{2+3}$ . Distinguished from all other mosquitoes by the apparent absence of microtrichia on the wing membrane. A small dark species with blue markings on head and thorax and at most with lateral pale spots on abdominal tergites; legs unbanded; no white scales on vein R1.

Thorax. Paratergite (Pa) long and narrow, always bare, though sometimes overlapped by scales on supra-alar area of scutum. Usually only one propleural bristle; 1-2 posterior pronotal (PpS); 1-2 spiracular (PsS); 0 post-spiracular (PS); 2 pre-alar; several upper sternopleural (sometimes numerous); 2-4 upper mesepimeral (MeSU); 1 lower mesepimeral (MeSL), unusually long and strong. Pleurae not very extensively scaled, usually only in one or two patches or stripes. Pre-alar area separated from sternopleura by a distinct furrow or suture (more obvious than in any other Culicine genus).

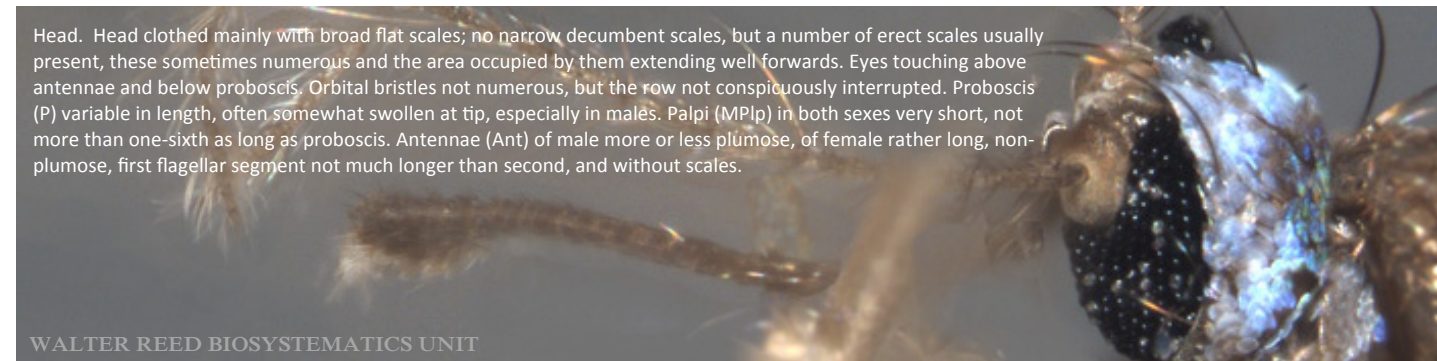


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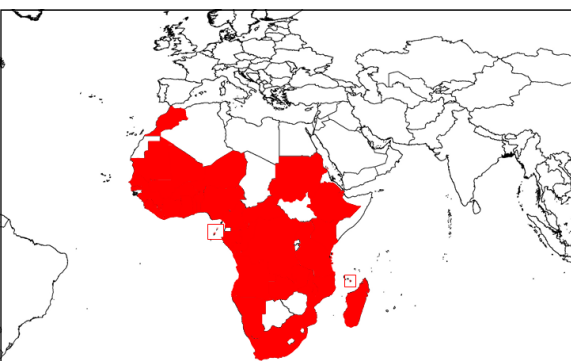


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Head. Head clothed mainly with broad flat scales; no narrow decumbent scales, but a number of erect scales usually present, these sometimes numerous and the area occupied by them extending well forwards. Eyes touching above antennae and below proboscis. Orbital bristles not numerous, but the row not conspicuously interrupted. Proboscis (P) variable in length, often somewhat swollen at tip, especially in males. Palpi (MP|p) in both sexes very short, not more than one-sixth as long as proboscis. Antennae (Ant) of male more or less plumose, of female rather long, non-plumose, first flagellar segment not much longer than second, and without scales.

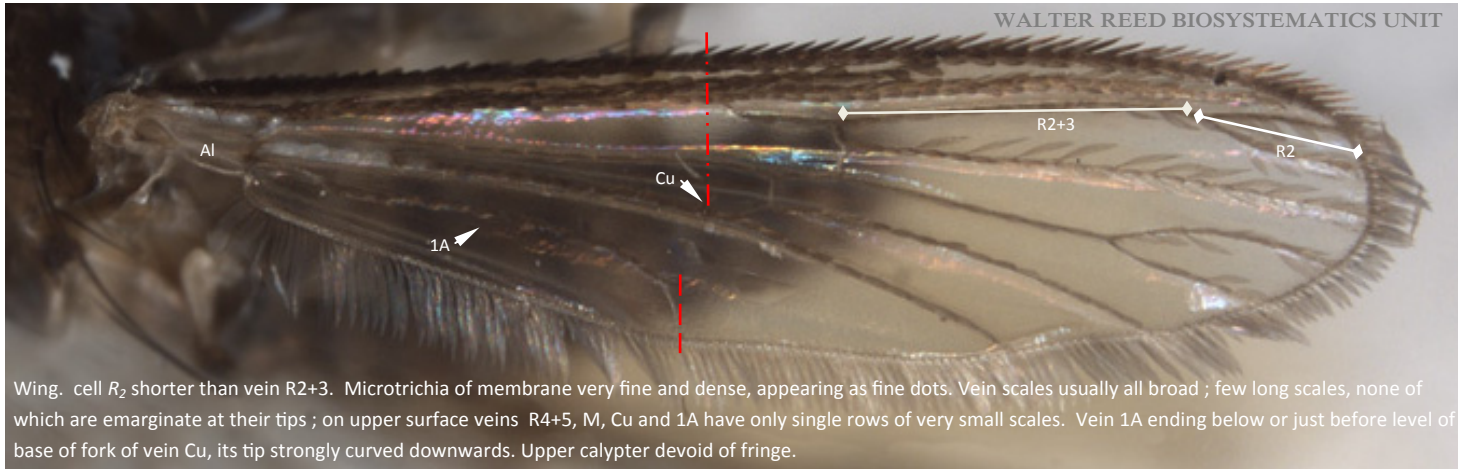


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Male head. Maxillary Palpi as long as Proboscis. Antennae feather like.

Male, Resembles female in ornamentation. A rather peculiar secondary sexual character is the presence of some fine pale curved hairs on the underside of the hind tibia in the middle, the number of these hairs rather variable.

No Photo Available



**Bionomics:** Species of subgenus *Uranotaenia* are found mainly in ground-water habitats, including springs, stream margins, swamps, temporary pools with vegetation, rock holes and crab holes. Some species have been found in tree holes, plant axils and artificial containers. Females of some species are known to feed on frogs, birds and mammals, but are normally not attracted to humans.

**Medical Importance:** None of the African *Uranotaenia* species has been observed to suck human blood. Species of the subgenus are of no medical or economic importance.

