

Taxonomy and feeding behaviour of Afrotropical snail-killing flies (Diptera: Sciomyzidae)
(for presentation at the Symposium *Advances in Afrotropical Dipterology*)

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The family Sciomyzidae (Diptera: Acalyptratae), or snail-killing flies, number 542 valid extant species and three subspecies in 61 genera globally. The Afrotropical fauna comprises 68 species in 12 genera, including four that are endemic: *Ethiolimnia* Verbeke, *Sepedonella* Verbeke, *Tetanoptera* Verbeke, and *Verbekaria* Knutson (*Sepedoninus* Verbeke, formally regarded as endemic, is here excluded; an undescribed species is known from the Orient). Included in this total are two species from Nigeria recently described by Knutson & Deeming and one from Madagascar by Vala. J. Verbeke published the most important research on Afrotropical Sciomyzidae during the 1950s and early 1960s, and as part of this project, published literature on Afrotropical Sciomyzidae was reviewed and specimens were examined in various collections, including the two major collections housing Verbeke's type material and other specimens of Afrotropical origin, i.e. Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique, Brussels and Musée royal de l'Afrique centrale, Tervuren (both Belgium). A new illustrated identification key to genera of Afrotropical Sciomyzidae is presented herein, including taxonomic changes as well as additions to recognised genera and species within each genus. Larval development is known for only 12 Afrotropical Sciomyzidae species. The vast majority of Sciomyzidae are malacophagous; larval feeding behaviour of some Afrotropical species that are not malacophagous are outlined and unusual larval morphological characters for two species are described that allow rapid and correct species identifications. This presentation, dedicated to honour L.V. Knutson, extends the chapter on Sciomyzidae that will appear in Volume 3 of the *Manual of Afrotropical Diptera*.