

Nicaraguan Pipunculidae (Diptera): new records and description of new species

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Abstract

Six hundred and ten Nicaraguan pipunculid specimens were studied. Twenty-three species and eight genera are reported and geographical distribution presented. One species, *Tomosvaryella subvirescens* (Loew) was previously recorded. Fifteen new distribution records and seven new species are described and illustrated: *Elmohardya nicaraguensis* Rafael, *Eudorylas maesi* Rafael, *E. platyapodemalis* Rafael, *E. subvexus* Rafael, *E. trichosubepandrialis* Rafael, *Dasydorylas vulcanus* Rafael and *Tomosvaryella crassa* Ale-Rocha. Three species of Neotropical *Eudorylas* are transferred to the genus *Dasydorylas* Skevington: *D. eremita* (Hardy), n. comb., *D. nigellus* (Rafael), n. comb., and *D. regalis* (Curran), n. comb.

Key words: Diptera, Nicaragua, Pipunculidae, Taxonomy

Introduction

Pipunculidae, or big-headed flies, are distinctive, but inconspicuous, relatives of the Syrphidae (hover flies). Over 1,300 species have been described worldwide and it is estimated that well over 2,000 species exist (Skevington & De Meyer 2004). The Mexican, Central American and West Indies fauna have been revised by the senior author since 1986 and all papers concerning are referred by Rafael (1996) and Rafael & Menezes (1999). Only one species was represented in the Nicaraguan fauna, *Tomosvaryella subvirescens* (Loew), collected in Chinadega and examined by Ale-Rocha (1996). Nicaraguan fauna certainly presents high diversity as confirmed by this taxonomic study, based upon the pipunculid collection that we received from Dr. Jean-Michel Maes, Museo Entomológico de León (MEL), Nicaragua. The specimens were collected mainly at Mombacho volcano with Malaise trap in the following localities: El Progreso, in a coffee crop that uses agrochemicals; Santa and San Joaquín in an organic coffee crop (no agrochemicals) and El Progreso,