

Three unusually divergent new genera of phorid flies (Diptera: Phoridae) from Costa Rica

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Abstract

Three new genera and species, *Laciniomyia dilata*, *Laishania angustithorax*, and *Tabelliphora teretipenna* are described from female specimens collected in Costa Rica. All are classified in the subfamily Metopininae, amongst which they are among the most structurally unusual forms found in the New World.

Key words: Diptera, Phoridae, new genus, Costa Rica, Neotropical

Introduction

The New World phorid flies are among the most poorly-known in the world. In spite of the lifetime efforts of Thomas Borgmeier (summarized by Borgmeier, 1971), a large fraction of the fauna remains uncollected and undocumented. Recent revisionary work on species-rich groups like *Apocephalus* Coquillett and *Melaloncha* Brues (e.g. Brown, 2002, 2004) has indicated that only 10% of extant Neotropical phorid flies are known.

In material available to us there are numerous taxa that represent potential undescribed genera, but confusion in the classification of the large genus *Megaselia* Rondani makes description of new genera in groups closely related to it problematic. In this paper we describe three new extremely divergent forms that are not closely related to *Megaselia* and that are unlikely to be confused with any other New World phorids.

Methods & Material

Descriptions are written using the structural terms of McAlpine (1981). The frontal ratio is the frontal height divided by the frontal width at midlength. Costal sector ratio is the dis-