



Notes on South American *Dasyomma*, with the description of a remarkable new species from Chile (Diptera: Athericidae)

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Abstract

A new species of *Dasyomma* Macquart, *D. chrysopilum* sp. nov., is described from Chile (Malleco and Ñuble Provinces). This species differs from all other known species in having dense golden pilosity on the abdominal tergites of both sexes. *Dasyomma basale* Malloch is redescribed, with the female described for the first time.

Key words: Diptera, Athericidae, *Dasyomma*, new species, Chile, Bolivia

Introduction

The genus *Dasyomma* Macquart is south temperate in distribution, occurring in southern South America, with 20 described species (Coscarón & Coscarón (1995), and Australia, with 11 described species (Nagatomi & Evenhuis, 1989). In South America, *Dasyomma* has only been recorded from Argentina and Chile. However, there is a single female in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA (hereafter cited as USNM) from Zongo, Bolivia (16°07'S, 68°02'W) that is near *D. hirticeps* Malloch, the first known specimen from Bolivia. It is possible that *Dasyomma* occurs at high elevation, temperate localities in the Andes farther north than is currently known.

Dasyomma can easily be distinguished from the other New World genera of Athericidae (*Atherix* Meigen, *Suragina* Walker, and *Xeritha* Stuckenberg) by (1) having the eyes densely haired (virtually bare in other genera), (2) the basal part of the antennal flagellum ovoid in lateral view (kidney-shaped in other genera) with the style originating near the apex (dorsal in other genera), (3) the extreme lower margin of the meron above the hind coxa without a deep pit (present in other genera), and (4) the spur on the fore tibia large (minute or absent in other genera). Character states found in *Dasyomma* for characters 3 and 4, and probably 2, are plesiomorphic and provide evidence that *Dasyomma* is the most basal lineage of athericids (Stuckenberg, 1973).

Malloch (1932), ever the insightful dipterist, provided an excellent review of the South American species known at the time, based primarily on USNM material and that collected by F. W. and M. Edwards and R. and E. Shannon in 1926 (Edwards, 1929). Malloch discussed characters of probable phylogenetic significance, and recognized three subgenera within *Dasyomma*. Coscarón & Coscarón (1995) reviewed the South American species again, incorporating new material, much of which is in the USNM, and described five new species and proposed a few new synonyms.

While curating the USNM collection and incorporating unidentified material I discovered the new species described here. Also, material I collected in Chile included the first known females of *D. basale* Malloch, collected in association with males, which in turn provided some insight into sexual dimorphism in the genus. A redescription is provided for that species as well.