



A taxonomic review of *Neogriphoneura* Malloch, 1924 (Diptera: Lauxaniidae), with description of three new species

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Abstract

The status of the Lauxaniidae genus *Rhabdolauxania* Hendel, 1925 is reevaluated and is synonymized under *Neogriphoneura* Malloch, 1924. Three new combinations, *N. immaculata* (Hendel, 1933), **comb. nov.**, *N. laevifrons* (Hendel, 1925), **comb. nov.**, and *N. schnusei* (Hendel, 1925), **comb. nov.** are proposed. Two lectotypes are designated. Three new species of *Neogriphoneura* are described: *N. bispoi* **sp. nov.**, from Santa Catarina, Brazil, *N. pacata* **sp. nov.**, from La Paz, Bolivia, and *N. corrugata* **sp. nov.** from British Virgin Islands. Illustrations of the head, wing, male and female terminalia are provided for the new species. This raises the number of species in the genus from the present five to eleven. A key is provided for the species of the genus.

Key words: Diptera; Lauxaniidae; *Neogriphoneura*; *Rhabdolauxania*; Neotropical Region; new species; new combination

Introduction

The genus *Neogriphoneura* was described by Malloch (in Malloch & McAtee 1924), who designated *Sapromyza sordida* Wiedemann as its type-species. There are currently five New World species in the genus: *N. sordida* (Wiedemann); *N. striatifrons* Hendel; *N. striga* Curran; *N. tertia* Curran and *N. timida* Curran. *N. sordida* is the only Nearctic species in the genus, known from the southern and southeastern United States (Virginia south to Florida, and Texas), as well as in Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Nicaragua and Paraguay (Thompson 2005). All other species are exclusively Neotropical in their distribution.

Hendel (1925) described *Rhabdolauxania* to include *R. schnusei* and *R. laevifrons*, described by him from Peru and Bolivia, designating *R. schnusei* as the type-species. Malloch (1928) briefly mentioned that there were some differences between the two known species of *Rhabdolauxania* at that time. Hendel (1933) described *R. immaculata* from Paraguay. More recently Stuckenberg (1971), in his account of the geographical distribution of the Lauxaniidae, referred to *Rhabdolauxania* in the Neotropics and *Neogriphoneura* in the Nearctic, observing that species of *Neogriphoneura* also existed in the Neotropical Region.

Actually the detailed study of the morphology of the species of *Rhabdolauxania* shows that this genus has no substantial differences with respect to *Neogriphoneura*. All *Rhabdolauxania* species show the diagnostic features of *Neogriphoneura*, most strikingly the median longitudinal depression in the anterior part of the frons and the long anterior orbital setae apically incurved. Hendel's (1925) few distinctions for the genus cannot set its species apart from *Neogriphoneura*. *Rhabdolauxania* is herein considered a subjective junior new synonym of *Neogriphoneura*.