



A new species of *Sycorax* Curtis (Diptera, Psychodidae, Sycoracinae) collected on harlequin frogs (Anura: Bufonidae, *Atelopus*) in the Ecuadorian Andes

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Abstract

Sycorax wampukrum **sp. nov.** is described from the Amazonian slopes of the Cordillera Oriental of southern Ecuadorian Andes. This new species constitutes the first record of the genus from Ecuador. Males and females of this new species were found in contact with the dorsal surfaces of head, body and extremities of male individuals of harlequin frogs, thus establishing the second record of species of the genus *Sycorax* feeding on frog blood.

Key words: Diptera, Psychodidae, Sycoracinae, *Sycorax*, new species, Harlequin frogs, *Atelopus*, Neotropical Region, Andes, Ecuador

Resumen

Sycorax wampukrum **sp. nov.** es descrita de la vertiente amazónica de la Cordillera Oriental en el sur de los Andes ecuatorianos. Este es el primer registro de una especie de este género en Ecuador. Los machos y hembras de la nueva especie fueron encontrados sobre la superficie dorsal de la cabeza, el cuerpo y las extremidades de ejemplares macho de ranas arlequín, lo que constituye el segundo registro de una especie de *Sycorax* alimentándose de sangre de anuros.

Palabras clave: Diptera, Psychodidae, Sycoracinae, *Sycorax*, especie nueva, ranas arlequín, *Atelopus*, Región Neotropical, Andes, Ecuador

Introduction

Sycorax Curtis is a small genus of psychodid flies with 33 described species (excluding fossil species) (Ježek 1999, Bravo 2003, 2007; Bejarano *et al.* 2008). At the moment, ten species have been described from the Neotropical region (Barretto 1956, Duckhouse 1972, Young 1979, Bravo 2003, 2007, Bejarano *et al.* 2008), with four of them being from the Andean region (all from Colombia): *S. andicola* Young, *S. colombiensis* Young, *S. fairchildi* Young and *S. trispinosa* Young (Young 1979). The female mouthparts of *Sycorax* include fully-developed toothed mandibles (Duckhouse 1972, Young 1979) that are presumed to help them to obtain blood from vertebrates. However, the feeding habits of the adults of most species of *Sycorax* are still unknown, with exception of *S. silacea* Curtis, specimens of which were collected feeding on frog blood and concomitantly transmitting a filarial worm (Desportes 1942). We describe here a new species of *Sycorax* collected on harlequin frogs (genus *Atelopus*) from the southeastern Ecuadorian Andes. This description constitutes the second documentation of hematophagy by *Sycorax* on anurans, and the first record of this genus for the Ecuadorian entomofauna.