



New species of *Metatrichia* Coquillett (Diptera: Scenopinidae) from Australia and Venezuela

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Abstract

Two new species of the cosmopolitan genus *Metatrichia* Coquillett are described. *Metatrichia dhimurru* **sp. nov.** is described from Arnhem Land (Northern Territory), Australia and represents the third species of the genus to be described from the Australasian region. *Metatrichia venezuelensis* **sp. nov.** from Venezuela is the third extant species of the genus to be described from the New World.

Key words: *Metatrichia*, Asiloidea, Therevoid clade, Scenopinidae

Introduction

Scenopinidae (window flies) are a small family (*ca.* 420 species in 24 genera) of asiloid flies distributed on all continents except Antarctica. This family is closely related to Therevidae (stiletto flies) based on the characteristic secondarily segmented larval abdomen. Scenopinids are typically very small insects, frequently less than 5 mm in total body length. Adults are known to feed at flowers and honey dew, while larvae are predators in sandy soils and leaf litter, although larvae of some species have been reared from wood boring beetle galleries, bird nests and small mammal burrows (Kelsey 1969).

Metatrichia Coquillett is a cosmopolitan genus comprising 14 extant species with at least one species described from each biogeographic region. The Palaearctic Region is the most species rich with six species described: *M. asiatica* Krivosheina & Krivosheina, 1999, *M. bilituua* Kelsey 1981b, *M. deserticola* Krivosheina & Krivosheina, 1999, *M. friedbergi* Krivosheina & Krivosheina, 1999, *M. mongolica* Kesley, 1981a and *M. palaestinensis* (Kröber, 1937). A single species is described from the Oriental Region (*M. thailandica* Kelsey, 1970), and three species from the Afrotropical Region (*M. lophyrosoma* (Speiser, 1920), *M. nigeriana* Kelsey, 1984 and *M. stevensoni* (Bezzi, 1925)). Two species are known from the Australasian Region, *M. waterhousei* (Paramonov, 1955) from Australia and *M. papuana* Kelsey, 1970 from Papua New Guinea. In the New World there are two extant described species: the Neotropical *M. robusta* Kröber, 1913 and Nearctic *M. bulbosa* (Osten Sacken, 1877). A single fossil species (*M. pria* Yeates & Grimaldi, 1993) is known from several Dominican amber inclusions.

Metatrichia appears closely related to *Pseudomphrale* Kröber, 1913 and *Caenoneura* Kröber, 1923 based on various external and genitalic characters. While *Caenoneura* is highly autapomorphic, the morphological distinction between *Metatrichia* and *Pseudomphrale* is not easily defined. Krivosheina & Krivosheina (1996) questioned the validity of the *Pseudomphrale* with respect to *Metatrichia*, after examining the types of all but