



Review of the Neotropical species of *Nervijuncta* Marshall, 1896 (Diptera, Ditomyiidae)

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Abstract

Both known Neotropical species of *Nervijuncta* – *N. conjuncta* (Freeman) and *N. laffooni* Lane – are redescribed and the male terminalia illustrated in detail. Specimens of *N. laffooni*, previously known only from the type-locality (São Paulo, Brazil), are reported from Nova Teutônia, and Urubici, both in the State of Santa Catarina, Brazil. The females of both Neotropical species of the genus are described in detail and the genitalia illustrated for the first time. These redescriptions provide further information on the position of these two species within the genus.

Key words: Neotropics, taxonomy, biodiversity

Introduction

Ditomyiids appear to be composed of two main groups of genera. The first clade includes *Ditomyia* Winnertz (exclusively Holarctic), *Asiaditomyia* Saigusa (monotypic from Japan), *Celebesomyia* Saigusa (monotypic from Celebes), *Nervijuncta* Marshall (19 species in New Zealand, two species in New Caledonia, one species in Chile and one species in southern Brazil), *Rhipidita* Edwards (two Neotropical species) and *Calliceratomyia* Lane (with a single Neotropical species). The other clade includes *Symmerus* Walker (with 18 Nearctic species) and *Australosymmerus* Freeman (25 Neotropical species and 14 Australian species), the latter with a number of subgenera, reviewed in detail by Munroe (1974).

Over the last 30 years collections from the Neotropical Region have captured a great number of ditomyiids, including additional specimens of *Nervijuncta*, *Rhipidita*, *Calliceratomyia*, *Australosymmerus* (*Melosymmerus*), as well as species that fit into new genera. This is the first paper of a series revising the family Ditomyiidae in the Neotropical region, including new species descriptions and proposed phylogenetic relationships for the group.

The question of name priority for *Nervijuncta* is slightly complicated. Three genera were proposed by Marshall (1896) in the same paper for three New Zealand species, *Cyrtoneura* (type-species, *C. hudsoni* Marshall), *Nervijuncta* (type-species, *N. nigrescens* Marshall), and *Huttonia* (type-species, *H. tridens* Hutton). Both *Cyrtoneura* and *Huttonia* were preoccupied, replaced by Hutton (1904) as *Arctoneura* and *Casa*, respectively. Tonnoir & Edwards (1927: 750) synonymized all three genera; *Cyrtoneura* would have page precedence (p. 262) in relation to *Nervijuncta* (p. 265), but its replacement name (proposed by Hutton 1904) is more recent, so *Nervijuncta* is the valid name.

Edwards (1921) added one species to the genus, and Tonnoir & Edwards (1927) added an additional 14 (one with two subspecies). Lane (1948) described the first Neotropical species of the genus from southeastern Brazil, but the name was preoccupied and later replaced by *N. laffooni* (Lane 1952). Freeman (1951) described *Ditomyia conjuncta* from Chile and southern Argentina, a species later transferred by Papavero