



The Scatopsidae (Diptera) of Sardinia, with description of a new species*

JEAN-PAUL HAENNI

Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Rue des Terreaux 14, CH-2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland. E-mail: jean-paul.haenni@unine.ch

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Abstract

Eleven species of the family Scatopsidae are reported from Sardinia, 10 of which for the first time, from collections made in the Marganai area (Carbonia-Iglesias province) and some additional material. *Swammerdamella spinigera* **sp. nov.**, closely related to *S. pediculata* (Duda, 1928), is described and figured. The state of knowledge of the Sardinian fauna and its affinities are discussed.

Key words: Diptera, Scatopsidae, Italy, Sardinia, faunistics, new species, new records

Introduction

Scatopsidae are minute to small, rather strongly built midges which occur in various habitats. They are more frequent and diverse in open, temperate, fresh and marshy areas. The immature stages of only few genera and species have been described. All known larvae are saprophagous, living in different kinds of decaying organic matter, e.g. rotting plants, dead wood, under bark of dead trees, in fungi, soil, leaf litter, dung, etc. (see Haenni and Vaillant (1994) for a review of the immature stages of the family).

About 350 species of scatopsid midges are known worldwide and about 100 of them have been recorded in Europe (Haenni 2004b). The Italian fauna is still very poorly known with only 16 species recorded from the country as a whole (Haenni 2004b). No Scatopsidae were reported from Sardinia by Dahl *et al.* (1995). Two species are quoted from the island in Fauna Europaea (Haenni 2004b): *Swammerdamella acuta* Cook, 1956 and *S. brevicornis* (Meigen 1830), although the record of the former is based upon a labelling error (see below under *S. acuta*).

Material and methods

Most of the material treated in this paper was collected in the framework of a project carried out by the Centro Nazionale per lo Studio e la Conservazione della Biodiversità Forestale “Bosco Fontana”, Verona (CNBFVR) in the period 2003–2006 (*cf.* Mason *et al.* 2006). Most of the material is preserved in 70° ethanol in the CNBFVR collection, except a small part which is now in the author's collection in Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Neuchâtel (MHNN). A few additional Sardinian specimens and additional Italian material from various collections have been studied. The genitalia of dissected males and females have been cleared in 10% KOH and are preserved in glycerin in a microvial attached to the same pin or put in the same vial as the source specimen. Holotype label data are quoted verbatim, i.e. without interpretation; a slash (/) indicates the end of a line of print or handwriting; significant supplementary or qualifying information is given in square brackets.