Mberu, a new neurigonine genus from southeastern Brazil (Diptera: Dolichopodidae)

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Abstract

A new genus of Dolichopodidae with modified wing venation both in males and females is described from the Atlantic Forest in southeastern Brazil, Mberu pepocatu gen. nov. et sp. nov. The species is described and illustrated in detail, including the male and female terminalia. The systematic position of Mberu is considered and the genus is assigned to the tribe Coeloglutini of Neurigoninae, possibly closely related to Coeloglutus Aldrich and Neotonnoiria Robinson.

Key words: Diptera, Dolichopodidae, Neurigoninae, Mberu, new genus, Neotropical Region

Introduction

Neurigoninae is a relatively small subfamily of Dolichopodidae (Diptera), with 223 known species distributed in 15 genera. The genus Neurigona Rondani includes the bulk of the diversity of the subfamily, comprising alone 154 species (Yang et al. 2006; Wang et al. 2006, 2007a, 2010). Bickel (1998) provided the following combination of characters to diagnose the subfamily: dorsal postcranium flat, sub-apical to dorsal arista-like stylus, proepisternum with setae, posterior slope of mesonotum flattened, legs elongate and bare of major setae, male tergites 5 and 6 often with ventral modifications, and pedunculate hypopygium with complex appendages. The monophyly of the subfamily seems to be well supported even considering the diversity of the genera on a global scale (Bickel 2009), but authors diverge about the sister-group of the Neurigoninae: Medeterinae (Robinson 1970), Dolichopodinae (Negrobov 1983, with Coeloglutinae and Neurigoninae in a clade), and Enliniinae plus Antyxinae (Wang et al. 2007b) have been tentatively indicated as the closest relatives to the subfamily.

The Neotropical Neurigoninae currently include 84 described species in ten genera. They were most recently revised by Naglis (2001a,b, 2002a,b, 2003), who erected five new genera, Bickelomyia Naglis, Macrodactylomyia Naglis, Paracoeloglutus Naglis, Systenoides Naglis and Viridigona Naglis, transferred Notobothrus Parent to Peloropeodinae, and questioned the placement of the Afrotropical genus Tenuopus Curran in the subfamily. At that time he also assigned the Neotropical genus of the subfamily to the newly proposed tribes Coeloglutini, Dactyloomini and Neurigonini. Naglis (2002a) accepted the Neurigonini as a likely paraphyletic residue with the establishment of Coeloglutini and Dactyloomini. Anyway, further phylogenetic studies considering the remaining, non-Neotropical genera of Neurigoninae are still pending.

The Coeloglutini (sensu Naglis 2001a) are exclusively Neotropical in distribution. The tribe currently comprises three monotypic genera: Coeloglutus Aldrich (C. concavus Aldrich, known from Guatemala to Bolivia), Neotonnoiria Robinson (N. maculipennis (Van Duzee), known from Costa Rica to Peru and Northern Brazil), and Paracoeloglutus Naglis (P. chilensis Naglis, known only from Chile).

We here describe a new neurigonine genus, Mberu gen. nov., in the tribe Coeloglutini, based on specimens from the Brazilian Atlantic Forest. The male and female terminalia are described and illustrated in detail, and the systematic position of the genus discussed.