A new distinctive species of the genus *Orthocladius* with hairy eyes from Japan (Diptera: Chironomidae)

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Abstract

*Orthocladius (Euorthocladius) piloculatus* sp. nov. is described from Kanagawa Prefecture, Kanto Area, Japan. A character of hairy eyes found in the new species is discussed, and emendations of the generic and subgeneric diagnoses are proposed.

Key words: Diptera, Chironomidae, *Orthocladius*, *Euorthocladius*, new species, Japan

Introduction

The genus *Orthocladius* van der Wulp is divided into six subgenera, *Eudactylocladius* Thienemann, *Euorthocladius* Thienemann, *Mesorthocladius* Sæther, *Orthocladius* s. str. van der Wulp, *Pogonocladius* Brundin and *Symposiocladius* Cranston (Sæther 2005). Most diagnostic characters given for adults of *Orthocladius* in the past, and found in a species presently described, allow its inclusion in the subgenus *Euorthocladius*. However, in diagnoses or keys to *Orthocladius* eyes have never been described as “hairy”, but either as bare or at most “pubescent”.

In the glossary, Sæther (1980) says “in chironomids eyes are “hairy” when microtichia between ommatidial lenses are longer than height of lens. It is proposed that shorter microtrichia be called pubescent eyes”. Presence or absence of hair on eyes is supposed to be one of the most important generic characters in Chironomidae. According to definitions or keys to adults of the genus *Orthocladius* in the past the eyes always have been described as “bare” or “bare or occasionally pubescent”, never “hairy”; e.g. Brundin (1956: 93), Cranston et al. (1989: 216), Cranston (1999: 274, subgen. *Eudactylocladius*), Edwards (1929: 327, as *Spaniotoma* including *Orthocladius*), Langton & Pinder (2007: 70, as key couplet 27), Makarchenko (2006: 333), Rossaro et al. (2003: 214, *Orthocladius* s. str.), Sæther et al. (2000: 153, key couplet 69’), Sæther (2003: 284, *Symposiocladius*; 2005: 13, 17 in Table 3), Sasa & Kikuchi (1995: 162), Soponis (1977: 13) and Tokunaga (1940: 315, *Spaniotoma* (*Orthocladius*) *kanii*). Descriptions or definitions of *Orthocladius* concerning the bare eyes may often be omitted as a matter of course.


The present species keys to the subgenus *Euorthocladius* based on the key to subgenera by Sæther (2005), and also by Cranston et al. (1989) and Soponis (1977). However, differences between adult males of *Euorthocladius* and *Mesorthocladius* are not significant, thus further studies on immatures may shed new light on their systematic placement (Sæther pers.comm.).