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A contribution to the systematics of Neotropical *Tanytarsus* van der Wulp: first descriptions from Ecuador (Diptera: Chironomidae: Tanytarsini)

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Abstract

First specific records of *Tanytarsus* van der Wulp from the Ecuadorian mainland based on detailed descriptions are presented. *Tanytarsus cayambe* **sp. nov.** shows an interesting set of characters known from several Neotropical *Tanytarsus* as well as from species of the *recurvatus* group of the northern distribution. *Tanytarsus cotopaxi* **sp. nov.** is placed in the *riopreto* species group; as a result an emended diagnosis for adult males of the group is proposed. The diagnostic description of *Tanytarsus curvicristatus* Contreras-Lichtenberg is also complemented.

Key words: Diptera, Chironomidae, *Tanytarsus*, systematics, new species, Ecuador

Introduction

Tanytarsus van der Wulp is the most species-rich genus in the large tribe Tanytarsini of the family Chironomidae—a worldwide distributed and the most abundant group of water dipterans. Systematic groups of species in *Tanytarsus* are typical for different aquatic habitat types, and the representatives of this diverse genus are thus excellent biological indicators in biomonitoring of freshwater ecosystems. However, among a number of records on chironomids published from the Neotropical region, only scarce information on *Tanytarsus*, including one specific record from Galapagos (Sanseverino 2006), were so far presented from Ecuador. In the recent key to larvae by Prat and Rieradevall (2011) three tanytarsine genera are mentioned from Ecuador (*Tanytarsus*, *Rheotanytarsus* and *Paratanytarsus*), but no specific data/descriptions are reported from this country. In our paper we present first detailed descriptions and discussions on systematics of *Tanytarsus* from the Ecuadorian mainland, including two new species.

Material and methods

The material is a part of a collection of nematoceros flies taken in the commune Mindo in Ecuador (0°03'S 78°46'W), at sites in the mountain area of the cloud forest at an altitude of c. 1400 m. Specimens were sampled with a sweep net, preserved in 70% ethanol, dissected and slide-mounted in a mixture of phenol and Canada balsam using the method by Wirth and Marston (1968). Morphological terminology and abbreviations follow Sæther (1980), wherever possible. Length measurements were rounded off to the nearest full μm (palp) or to the nearest 5 μm (legs); antennal and leg ratios (AR, LR) were calculated to the second digit after the decimal point. Illustrations were prepared using the technique of Gilka (2008); photographs were taken using the Nomarski DIC. The material examined is deposited in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Parasitology, University of Gdańsk, Poland.