



## ***Paramosina*, a new genus of high Andean Limosiniinae (Diptera: Sphaeroceridae)**

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### **Abstract**

*Paramosina*, a new genus of Sphaeroceridae, is described on the basis of one abundant new species, *Paramosina hirsuta* Marshall, from the Ecuadorian Andes.

**Key words:** Neotropical, paramo, new genus, new species

### **Introduction**

Marshall and Buck (2010) provided a key to the Neotropical genera of Sphaeroceridae, including a number of undescribed genera. Males of *Paramosina* **new genus** key out to couplet 68 of Marshall and Buck (2010) on the basis of the distally swollen mid tibia, which has a characteristic ventroapical hair brush and lacks the proximal dorsal bristles found in other Limosiniinae. Female *Paramosina*, which have unmodified tibiae with strong proximal and middle anterodorsal mid tibial bristles, key out at couplet 71. Both sexes are heavily pruinose flies with a broad alula, a broad lunule, and two pairs of very large interfrontal bristles (and, usually, a small pair of anterior interfrontals). The general external appearance of *Paramosina* is similar to *Sclerocoelus* Marshall, but the male sternite 6 and associated genital pouch of *Paramosina* is simple and lacks the elaborate and characteristic modifications that characterize sternite 6 and the genital pouch of *Sclerocoelus* (Marshall 1995). *Paramosina* also lacks other synapomorphies of *Sclerocoelus*, such as the incomplete subanal plate and distinctive associated structures of the male, and the reduced cerci and epiproct of the female; other features of the male terminalia are markedly different from any of the 40–50 undescribed and 11 named species of *Sclerocoelus*. Female *Paramosina* can be easily distinguished from female *Sclerocoelus* by the lack of either a midventral mid tibial bristle or a proximal posterodorsal mid tibial bristle.

This paper is based on over a thousand dry, mounted specimens and several hundred more in alcohol, all collected in Ecuador between 3400 and 4000m.

### **Biology**

*Paramosina* is known only from the Ecuadorian paramo, where it seems to be very common. It occurs at high densities in moist, fresh plant material such as the vegetative debris that accumulates along high-altitude streams and also abounds in the humid, protected microenvironment created where *Polylepis* branches touch the ground.

### **Material and methods**

Male and female terminalia were examined after clearing whole abdomens in hot 10% KOH solution and subsequent neutralization in glacial acetic acid. Cleared structures were preserved in glycerin and pinned below specimens in microvials.

**Terminology.** Morphological terminology follows Marshall and Buck (2010).

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## Literature cited

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