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A new species of the genus *Pygophora* Schiner from Laos (Diptera: Muscidae)

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Abstract

Two species of the genus *Pygophora* Schiner are recognized from Laos. This is the first time the genus is recorded to the country. A new species, *Pygophora laoensis* sp. nov., is described and *P. immaculipennis* Frey is newly recorded. Male and female terminalia of both species are illustrated.

Key words: Coenosiinae, Coenosiini, distributional record, morphology, Oriental region

Introduction

The genus *Pygophora* Schiner belongs to the subfamily Coenosiinae, a group also known as hunter flies. This genus is distinguished from other genera by the following characters: arista with some setulae; 1 presutural and 3 postsutural dorsocentral setae; costa ending close to tip of M; lower calypter longer than upper one; fore tibia with 1 posterior seta near middle; hind tibia with at least 2 anterodorsal and 1 posterodorsal setae near middle. There is little information available on the biology of the genus other than adult flies preying on nematoceros Diptera and other small insects (Crosskey, 1962). Up to the present, 81 species of *Pygophora* are recognized from the Palaearctic, Oriental, Afrotropical and Australasian regions (Pont, 1977, 1980, 1986, 1989, 2012; Xue and Zhang, 2013). However, there was no record of *Pygophora* from Laos because the muscid fauna has been poorly studied in this country (Pont, 1977). We discovered two species of *Pygophora* from Laos during the course of an investigation of Laotian biota in 2013. The purpose of the present paper is to describe a new species and to redescribe *Pygophora immaculipennis* Frey, a new record for Laos.

Material and methods

Dry specimens were examined under a binocular stereoscopic microscope. The abdomen of the specimens was placed in a boiling 10% potassium hydroxide solution for ten minutes, transferred to a 5% solution of acetic acid for neutralization, and then washed with distilled water in order to examine the terminalia. Terminology follows McAlpine (1981) except for male terminalia where Sinclair (2000) is used. Type specimens and other materials are deposited at the Biosystematics Laboratory, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan (BLKU) and Museum Zoologicum Universitatis, Helsinki, Finland (UZMH). Images of male and female adults were taken with a digital microscope camera (Leica IC80 HD) attached to a Leica M205C stereoscopic microscope.

Etymology. Species epithet is taken from the type locality.

Remarks. This new species is thought to be related to *Pygophora argentea* Paramonov, *P. flavida* Crosskey, *P. nitidiventris* Malloch and *P. orbiculata* Cui et Zhang in that they share the following features: third aristomere apically plumose, fronto-orbital plate bearing several setulae, fore tibia lacking anterodorsal seta, and male terminalia possessing short surstylus. Judging from the descriptions and illustrations of the latter four species (Crosskey, 1962; Cui *et al.*, 1995), *P. laoensis* may be distinguished from them based on a first flagellomere approximately 3.0 times as long as pedicel in male and 2.0–2.2 times in female, and male terminalia with distiphallus lacking a ventral process at base (Fig. 13).

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