

## A new species of *Propebrevitrichia* Kelsey (Diptera: Scenopinidae: Scenopininae) from Botswana

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### Abstract

*Propebrevitrichia* Kelsey is an endemic southern African genus of window-flies with distinct Gondwanan origins. *Propebrevitrichia serowensis* sp. n. is described and figured from Botswana.

**Key words:** Scenopinidae, Botswana, *Propebrevitrichia*, systematics

### Introduction

Window-flies (Scenopinidae) are a cosmopolitan group of lower brachyceran flies. Adults are typically small and dark with a body size rarely greater than 5.0 mm. Although found in a variety of habitats, by far the greatest diversity of this group is in arid regions where the dry sandy soils provide a suitable habitat for the larvae. As larvae, scenopinids are elongate, fossorial predators of arthropods in friable soils, but larvae have also been reared from a variety of habitats including boreholes of timber pests, birds-nests and stored products. Although some adults do not feed, most feed at flowers and are often collected sweeping flowers (Kelsey 1969). Since larvae are predators of pests associated with man's activities adults have been commonly collected at windows, hence leading to their common name as window-flies (Kelsey 1969, 1981).

Scenopinidae are placed in the superfamily Asiloidea, and are widely accepted as the sister group to the stiletto-flies (Therevidae) based on secondary segmentation of the larval abdomen (Woodley 1989, Yeates 2002), although larvae of the closely related Apsilocephalidae are not yet known. Worldwide, there are more than 420 currently valid species of Scenopinidae in 24 genera divided into three subfamilies- Scenopininae, Caenotinae and Proratinae (see Yeates 1992). Winterton & Metz (in press) recently described a new genus of window-fly from Namibia that exhibits characteristics of all three subfamilies, underlining the need for an extensive phylogenetic analysis of the family as a whole. Scenopinids