

***Simulium (Psaroniocompsa) stellatum* (Diptera: Simuliidae), a new black fly from a high mountain range in southeastern Brazil**

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Abstract

The larva, pupa, female, and male of *Simulium (Psaroniocompsa) stellatum* sp. n. are described and illustrated. The pupa of this new species has four gill filaments, with the dorsal primary branch bifurcating at about half the length of the ventral branch. The adult and immature stages are similar to those of species in the *S. auristriatum* group. Up to date, *Simulium stellatum* sp. n. has been found only in the high mountain range of Itatiaia National Park in southeastern Brazil. It is the second species of the subgenus *S. (Psaroniocompsa)* recorded at elevations above 2000 m.

Key words: *Simulium auristriatum* group, simuliid, morphology, taxonomy, Itatiaia National Park, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro

Introduction

Simulium Latreille is the largest genus of the Simuliidae. It is composed of 1,421 species in 41 subgenera (Crosskey & Howard 2004). Eleven of these subgenera occur in the Neotropics and include 236 species. *Simulium (Psaroniocompsa)* Enderlein is exclusively Neotropical, with 41 species (sensu Crosskey & Howard 2004) distributed from Argentina to Mexico. This subgenus was split by Crosskey & Howard (2004) into five species groups, *S. amazonicum*, *S. auristriatum*, *S. incrustatum*, *S. quadrifidum*, and *S. siolii*. Until now, the *S. auristriatum* species group was represented by four species: *S. anamariae* Vulcano 1962, *S. auristriatum* Lutz 1910, *S. brevifurcatum* Lutz 1910, and *S. schmidtmummi* Wygodzinsky 1973. *Simulium schmidtmummi* is found in the Colombian Andes and the remaining species are typically distributed in southeastern Brazil. In the present work, we describe a new species of *Simulium (Psaroniocompsa)* and discuss its systematic position.