

A new genus and species of Ephydriidae (Diptera) from the Oriental Region

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Abstract

A new genus and species of the tribe Dagini (subfamily Ephydrinae), *Sinops sichuanensis*, are described from specimens collected in China (Sichuan: Emeishan Mountain), and three species formerly comprising “the *fluvialis* group” of *Psilephydra* Hendel are transferred to the new genus (*S. fluvialis* (Miyagi), *S. kaskiensis* (Mathis) and *S. nepalensis* (Mathis)) as new combinations. A cladistic analysis of the new genus with related genera in the tribe Dagini is presented and discussed, and keys to the genera of Dagini and to the species of the new genus are presented.

Key words: Diptera, Ephydriidae, *Sinops*, new genus, new species, China

Introduction

We recently studied material collected in the Sichuan Province of China and discovered an undescribed species that belongs to a clade that had been recognized as “the *fluvialis* group” of *Psilephydra* Hendel (Mathis & Zatwarnicki 1988). This group of four species, including a new species described below, is sufficiently distinct morphologically from *Psilephydra* that we are here describing it as a new genus in the tribe Dagini, subfamily Ephydrinae. In addition to its morphological distinctiveness, and as a further indication of its generic status, our preliminary phylogenetic assessment of the group positions it as the sister group to the lineage giving rise to *Physemops* Cresson and *Psilephydra* (Fig. 16). Although describing the genus and species is the primary objective of this paper, we also provide a phylogenetic context for these descriptions as a cladistic analysis of the genus and related genera. To facilitate identification of the genus and its included species, we are also providing a revised key to the genera of Dagini and a key to the species of the new genus.