

A new Neotropical species of the genus *Metriocnemus* van der Wulp (Chironomidae: Orthoclaadiinae) from *Eryngium* L. (Apiaceae) phytotelmata

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Abstract

The larva, pupa, male, and female of a new Neotropical species, *Metriocnemus eryngiotelmatus*, are described and illustrated. This species was collected from the leaf axils of *Eryngium pandanifolium* Cham. & Schlecht and *E. cabreræ* Pontiroli (Apiaceae) in Argentina and Uruguay. Based on characters of the male, the new species is closely related to *Metriocnemus costatus* Sublette & Sasa.

Keywords: *Metriocnemus*, *Eryngium*, phytotelmata, Orthoclaadiinae

Introduction

The worldwide genus *Metriocnemus* van der Wulp belongs to the subfamily Orthoclaadiinae and includes about 60 Holarctic species (Cranston *et al.* 1989) and 4 endemic species from the Neotropics (Spies & Reiss 1996). The genus occurs in one of the widest ranges of habitats of any dipteran genus (Saether 1989), including mosses and higher vegetation; pitcher plants and hollow trees; margins of springs, ditches, and streams; damp soil; hygropetric biotopes; and occasionally in lakes and rock pools (Cranston & Judd 1987; Saether 1989, 1995).

Phytotelmata are structures formed by terrestrial plants that hold water, and include modified leaves, leaf axils, flowers, stem holes or depressions, open fruits, and fallen leaves (Fish 1983). Chironomid midges are numerous in most phytotelm communities, with the genus *Metriocnemus* the most frequently encountered in these habitats (e.g., *M.*